

Cover

Kingdom Builders

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INTRODUCTION

In September 2005, Sudhir Kirby (Global Salvation Ministries) organized a three-day conference for pastors and ministers in Belgaum, Karnataka, India. The Lord placed in his heart 'Kingdom Builders' as the theme for this conference.

As I prepared to minister at the Kingdom Builders Conference, a series of messages were formed in my spirit along with truths and insights that would help us, ministers of the Gospel, become Kingdom Builders. As the teaching was delivered, we began to realize the importance of these truths and the practical implications they had, as we went about our ministries. We began to sense that the Lord was 'birthing' something that needed to be released to a wider audience of ministers and believers alike. Kingdom Builders Conferences are planned for other parts of our nation.

This study manual (Volume One) is a compilation of seven messages intended to equip ministers of Christ to be Kingdom Builders.

The Body of Christ will truly be different if all of us ministers labored as Kingdom Builders.

Be a Kingdom Builder!

(deleted your name)

1

CHRIST—THE KING OF THE KINGDOM

1.1. Introduction

1 Corinthians 3:6,9–11

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

We see several important things here:

- Kingdom Building is about building people "... you are God's building" (Vs 9).
- Kingdom Building is about partnership, about working together (Vs 6,9,10).
- God uses one man to sow, another man to water and yet another man to reap. God uses one man to lay the foundation and another man to build on it, and yet another man to take it further. Each one's work, regardless of what it is, is equally important. Everyone is equally important.
- Kingdom Building is about Christ (Vs 11). Christ is the foundation, the starting point.

1.2. Our Relationship with the King is of Prime Importance

1 Corinthians 3:11

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

In Kingdom Building, we must always remember that Christ is the Foundation, the Head and the Pre-eminent One.

To be a Kingdom Builder—our relationship with the King is absolutely important. Everything begins with Him.

Too many of us ministers have become preoccupied with our relationship with a 'denomination,' a 'network of ministers,' a 'spiritual covering,' a 'ministerial association,' or a 'fellowship of ministers,' while neglecting something of far greater importance—the depth of our personal relationship with the King.

No 'denomination,' 'network of ministers,' 'spiritual covering,' 'ministerial association,' or 'fellowship of ministers' can replace our personal relationship with the King.

While it is important to have a healthy relationship with fellow ministers, what really qualifies us to be a Kingdom Builder is our relationship with the King.

Colossians 1:16–18

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

In Kingdom Building, we must remember that all things are by Him, for Him and through Him. And in all things He must be pre-eminent, the number One.

If Christ is not pre-eminent in what we do, then the work we do cannot be considered building Christ's Kingdom.

If at the end of my preaching, people get more excited about me than with God and His Word, then my preaching has not served in truly building the Kingdom. I have not served as a Kingdom Builder.

1.3 The Kingdom is Neither Mine nor Yours but His

Matthew 6:10

¹⁰ Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

This is His Kingdom. It is not about 'my ministry,' 'my church,' 'your ministry,' or 'your church.' All that we have and all that we do is His! Together we are building His Kingdom.

Our desire should be to see His Kingdom come. Too many of us are so caught up in seeing "my ministry come" and this is absolutely unhealthy!

We are here to do what He wants done on the earth. God in heaven expresses His will. He looks to His people on earth to execute it.

1.4. We Must Seek to Glorify God Alone

Matthew 6:13b

¹³ ...For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

All of the glory belongs to God alone.

As Kingdom Builders our purpose is clear, that is to glorify God alone. We should not desire any glory—not even a small portion of the glory for ourselves.

John 7:18

¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

It is only when we truly seek to glorify God, will our hearts be pure and no unrighteousness be found in us.

Too often, our hearts are tainted with a mixture of giving most of the glory to God, but desiring a part of the glory for ourselves. We need to move away from this to a place where we give all of the glory to the Lord.

Isaiah 42:8

⁸ I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.

God is a Jealous God, in that He will not tolerate His glory being given to anyone else (Exodus 20:5; Exodus 34:14). Why is it then that we, ministers of His, do not hesitate to draw attention to ourselves, as though it was because of our own power, our prayer or our virtue that wonderful things happen? Our words, our slick advertising, our body language, our ministry reports and our testimonies are all geared to having the eyes of people fixed on us. We feel threatened if people look elsewhere even for a moment! This is unlike Peter and John who when the lame man was healed spoke to the crowds and said, "...Why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" (Acts 3:12). They then pointed people to the living God and His Son Jesus Christ.

John 5:41

⁴¹ I do not receive honor from men.

We need to come to a place before God, where we will not desire honor from men. Our heart must be totally void of any desire for praise from man. This is what makes a true Kingdom Builder.

John 8:54a

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, my honor is nothing ...

Honor that is self-bestowed is not true honor and is devoid of any value.

John 5:44

⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

As Kingdom builders we need to come to a place where we no longer desire honor from man, but desire only the honor from God. When we live only for the applause of heaven, not desiring the accolades of men, it is then that we are truly seeking to glorify God.

It was the Pharisees and hypocrites who did their works to be seen of men, thereby receiving the praises of men as their reward. Jesus warned us against such motives, instructing us to choose instead to be seen by God and receiving our reward from God above (Matthew 6:1–6; Matthew 23:5).

John 12:42,43

⁴² Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

The real test of where our heart is **with** regard to the praises of men and commendation from God **lies in** what we choose to do in situations where we risk losing out on acceptance by man and may face rejection instead. Will we, in such situations, still choose the “praise of God” instead of the “praise of men?”

Galatians 1:10

¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

You cannot be a servant of God if you become a pleaser of men.

1 Thessalonians 2:4–6a

⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others . . .

The motivation of our heart as we preach/teach/minister should always be to please God and not men. If what we do is angled in such a way that we get glory from man, then the motivation of our heart is not pure.

Psalms 115:1

¹ Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.

This is a prayer that we can pray often that will help keep our heart pure and set in the right direction.

1.5. Our Authority on the Earth is Dependent on Our Submission to the King

Our authority on the earth is effective only to the extent that we are in submission to the King.

James 4:7

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

There were two trees in the Garden. By eating of one tree, man was empowered to live a long life. By not eating of the other tree, man was empowered to exercise dominion on the earth. The day he ate of the tree that he was not supposed to eat of, he lost his dominion on the earth.

Our obedience and submission to God are keys to Kingdom authority.

1.6. Let Us Not Glory in Man

1 Corinthians 3:21

²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours ...

1 Corinthians 4:6

⁶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

While we must respect and honor those in Christian leadership, we must be careful not to become “puffed up on behalf of one against another.”

It is when we elevate man, or an individual, beyond **his** rightful place that we begin to produce divisions and schisms in the Kingdom. We then cease to be Kingdom Builders and instead become Kingdom Dividers.

When you elevate yourself—thinking that things are happening because of you or what you are doing, you are glorying in man.

When you elevate yourself—thinking that you are more spiritual, more sensitive to God, more prayerful, more anointed than the other, you are glorying in man.

1.7. We are Accountable to the Lord Who Will Judge All Things

1 Corinthians 4:3–5

³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

2 Corinthians 5:9–11

⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

While it is important to be accountable to those whom the Lord has placed around us, it is even more important to be accountable to God. In the end, we are accountable to the Lord who will judge all things.

Accountability is, simply put, being:

- (1) True to God.
- (2) True to ourselves.
- (3) True to our family.
- (4) True to those we serve and
- (5) True to those who watch over our lives.

If we fail in the first two, then it is very likely that we will not hesitate in failing in the other three.

We will be judged, not **by** the magnitude of what we accomplished, but for the motives with which we did them (1 Corinthians 4:5).

We will be judged not for the greatness of the exploits we have done, but for our obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 7:21–23).

We will be judged not by the significance of our calling or gifting, but for the faithfulness with which we carried them out (Matthew 25:21).

Revelation 3:1,2

¹ And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead." ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

It is possible to have a reputation among men that we are "alive," but be found "dead" in God's estimation.

It is possible to be considered 'anointed' among men, but have God disappointed with us.

Our desire should be that our work and ministry be perfect before God.

1.8 The Heart of a Kingdom Builder

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that is totally devoted to Christ the King.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that seeks to glorify Christ alone.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that does not receive honor from man.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that does not glory in man.

The heart of a Kingdom builder is a heart that is pure in its motives.

Pray that God would create in you the heart of a Kingdom builder. This is where all Kingdom building begins. "Lord, give me the heart of a Kingdom builder."

2

THE HOLY SPIRIT—THE DIRECTOR

In Kingdom Building, it is absolutely essential that we submit to the direction and leading of the Holy Spirit.

2.1. Those Who Do the Father's Will—Rewarded in Eternity

It is only those who do the Father's will and not their own, who will be rewarded in eternity.

Matthew 7:21–23

²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

It is possible to do many wonderful things "in His name" and yet be totally devoid of a personal relationship with Him.

It is possible to do many wonderful things "in His name" and yet be called one who practiced lawlessness.

It is possible to do many wonderful things "in His name" and yet fail to do the will of the Father.

Too often we initiate projects, programs, ministries and then tag on the name of the Lord to it, hoping that doing so would make it the will of God.

Our priority should be to know Him, to know His will, to practice righteousness and then proceed to do the works of power **that** He has called us to do in His name.

When we make the tree good, then the fruit will also be good.

2.2. The Holy Spirit Reveals the Father's Will to Us on Earth

John 16:13–15

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

The Holy Spirit speaks to us the very things that the Lord Jesus is speaking. The Father reveals it to Jesus and the Spirit speaks it to our hearts.

Romans 8:14

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

As sons and daughters of God, we have the privilege of being led by the Spirit of God.

Therefore, we can know the heart and mind of God. We can know the Father's will as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.

We must understand the absolute importance of being led by the Spirit and doing things according to the Father's will.

2.3. That Born of the Flesh is Flesh and that of the Spirit is Spirit

John 3:6

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

What is of the flesh cannot be 'converted' into something of the Spirit.

Very often, we give birth to things by the energy of our flesh and hope that somehow they would become works of the Spirit. This cannot be done.

Exodus 30:22–33

²² Moreover the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³ "Also take for yourself quality spices—five hundred shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty shekels), two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling cane, ²⁴ five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. ²⁵ And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. ²⁶ With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony; ²⁷ the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; ²⁸ the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base. ²⁹ You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy. ³⁰ And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests. ³¹ "And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. ³² It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. ³³ Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.'"

The holy anointing oil in the Old Testament is a “type and shadow” of the anointing of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

We learn some important lessons from the Old Testament “type and shadow” of the anointing of the Holy Spirit:

- Whatever is used in the service of God must be anointed by God (Vs 26–28)
- Whatever is anointed by God becomes consecrated unto God (Vs 29,30)
- God will not anoint what is born of the flesh (Vs 32)
- God will not tolerate any imitation of the anointing (Vs 33)

God cannot anoint what is born of the flesh. What is born of the flesh is just an imitation of the true work of God. It will be “cut off” from the life, presence and anointing of God.

Galatians 4:29

²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

The things that we birth of the flesh will be the very things that hinder and attempt to destroy the things that we birth of the Spirit.

Often, the greatest struggles we face are not with the devices of the enemy, but with the very things that we have birthed of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17

¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

What is of the flesh will always oppose what is of the Spirit. The counterfeit will always oppose the genuine. The false will always oppose the true. Therefore we must be careful not to give birth to what is of the flesh.

John 6:63

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

That which is born of the flesh will not benefit people. It does not have the power to produce life.

Psalms 127:1

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

If the Lord does not build it, then what ever I build is in vain. It may look grand, great and may even receive the applause of men. But, these are the kind of buildings that Paul said are works of “wood, hay, straw.” These will not be able to stand the test of fire (1 Corinthians 3:12,13).

As a Kingdom Builder, my one single-minded desire should be to do the Father’s will—to give birth to things of the Spirit alone.

2.4. The Holy Spirit Reveals ‘Where,’ ‘When’ and ‘How’

Acts 8:29

²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

The Holy Spirit leading Philip to meet with the Ethiopian eunuch was so strategic. The Ethiopian was at the point where Philip could minister to Him and lead him to Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:19

¹⁹ While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are seeking you.”

Acts 11:12

¹² Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.

It was the Holy Spirit who directed Peter to go without doubting, to meet Cornelius. This opened the door for the Gospel to be preached to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:2–4

² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

It was the Holy Spirit who called out Barnabas and Saul into the ministry He had for them. They were “sent out by the Holy Spirit!”

Acts 16:6–10

⁶ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

The Lord Jesus had given the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Yet, here we see the Holy Spirit forbidding Paul and his team from going into Asia and Bithynia to preach the Gospel, at that specific time. Instead, they were led into Macedonia.

The Holy Spirit knows exactly when, where and how we must go about doing the work of the Kingdom.

2 Corinthians 1:15–17

¹⁵ And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit— ¹⁶ to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea.

¹⁷ Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No?

We need to follow Spirit-inspired planning. Even the things we plan and purpose, have to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2.5. The Promptings of the Spirit Come in Several Different Ways

- A quickening of the written Word
- The still small inner witness (impression)
- A flash of information in your spirit
- A knowing on the inside
- An idea or pictures that communicate the purpose of God
- Through prophecy
- Dreams and visions
- Physical manifestations
- Other ways

2.6. It is Essential to Establish an Unbreakable Communication with the Holy Spirit

It is important to establish an unbreakable communication channel with the Holy Spirit, i.e., we must know when He has spoken.

2.7. Essential to Discern the Spirit's Timing

It is also important to discern the Spirit's timing for action—whether the action has to be immediate, later, or way ahead in the future.

There are times when He says, “Go near and overtake this chariot” (Acts 8:29). This must be obeyed instantaneously without questioning, otherwise we could miss the plan of God. There are other times when He speaks and we have the time to pray, prepare and then act on His instruction (Acts 13:1–4).

2.8. Praying in the Spirit is Vital

2.8.1. Praying in the Spirit prepares my spirit to understand the purposes of God

1 Corinthians 2:9,10,16

⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

It is the Holy Spirit who reveals to me the things that God has prepared for me. These might initially be a mystery to me—things that my eyes have not seen, my ears have not heard, neither have those things entered my thinking. But, it is the Holy Spirit who reveals these mysteries to me. I therefore have the mind of Christ—I know the thoughts, plans and purposes that He has in mind.

1 Corinthians 14:2

² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

When I pray in the Spirit, I speak mysteries. It will be safe to conclude that part of these mysteries would be the things that God has prepared for me—the thoughts, plans and purposes of God for my life.

2.8.2. Praying in the Spirit aligns my will to God's will

Hebrews 5:7–9

⁷ Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

It is interesting to observe that the Scriptures state that the Lord Jesus "learned obedience" by the things He suffered. He "learned obedience"—there was an aligning of His will to the Father's will.

We know that this happened in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:38,39,42

³⁸ Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." ³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will. ⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

Prayer changes me. Prayer helps align my will to the Father's will. In times of prayer, God works on my heart, bringing my will, desires and dreams **in** alignment to His will, plans and purposes.

Romans 8:26,27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

While I can pray in my own language, God has given **me** a powerful Helper in prayer—**the** Holy Spirit Himself—**who** helps me pray. When I pray in tongues, I pray by the Spirit. I know that prayer originating from the Spirit is always according to the will of God. Therefore, praying in the Spirit becomes an opportune time for my will to become aligned to His will.

2.9. Giving Birth to a Work of the Spirit—Some Lessons from the 'Mary Miracle'

2.9.1. Released into the earth at the appointed time

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Galatians 4:4

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

Although the coming of the "Seed" of the woman was foretold in the Garden of Eden, it was not until about 4000 years later that Christ came into this world.

The work of God is always released into the earth, in the fullness of time.

2.9.2. Released through ordinary people

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

When God wanted to send the Savior of the world, He did not choose a princess or a highly educated woman. Instead, He chose a little, insignificant virgin named Mary.

God is not afraid **of** entrusting ordinary people with the work of His eternal Kingdom.

2.9.3. Must be unadulterated—born purely of His Spirit

Luke 1:35

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Every work that God would release through us, must be born purely of His Spirit, untainted with the work of the flesh.

2.9.4. Might be a cause for embarrassment

Matthew 1:19

¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Although Mary carried in her womb the Son of God – this did bring her embarrassment.

2.9.5. Released through normal natural processes

1 Corinthians 15:10

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Even though the conception was a miracle, Mary had to carry the child **for the full term!**

2.9.6. Might encounter closed doors until you reach God's appointed place

Luke 2:7

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

It is a wonder, that though the Father knew **that** Jesus was going to be born at that particular time, He still did not 'reserve' a room for Him in an inn. Mary and Joseph may have knocked on several inns, before arriving at the manger, where Jesus was to be born.

A closed door is not a denial that what you are about to release is a genuine work of God. A closed door could simply be God directing you to the place where He wants you to release what He is birthing through you.

2.9.7. Has to be protected and nurtured

Luke 2:40

⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Matthew 2:12–16

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Every work of God that we release on the earth has to be nurtured and protected.

3

THE NATURE OF A GOD-GIVEN VISION

This is the hour for visions and dreams.

Acts 2:17,18

¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

God does not give us visions and dreams merely to provide us with 'heavenly entertainment.'

Every vision and dream has a purpose. Very often it is God revealing to us, what He desires for us to execute on the earth.

Many of us have a vision/dream/desire from God to do something for God. We want to live a meaningful life and do something that will make a difference for God's Kingdom. We desire to be Kingdom Builders.

Here are several insights concerning a God-given vision:

3.1. A God-Given Vision Is a Divine Command and an Authorization

A God-given vision is a divine command and divine authorization from God to establish and extend God's kingdom on the earth.

- It is a command to be obeyed.

Acts 26:15–19

¹⁵ So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

- It is an authorization from heaven that makes us bold, fearless and confident.
- You are the vision-bearer.

- When God wants to execute something on the earth, He usually finds or assembles together a people in a certain place (part of the world) through whom He has prepared to fulfill His divine purpose. He also usually raises among these people, a person (a man or woman), whose mission is to fulfill God's divine purpose. God uses this man to proclaim (share) His vision (a message) and gives him a ministry. This man becomes the vision-holder or vision-bearer among these people. God also entrusts to this man, the methods he should execute and the means to carry them out, in order to fulfill God's divine purpose.

Notice the following sets of keywords:

Person, place, proclaim, people, purpose.

Mission, message, ministry, methods, means.

Acts 7:17–36

¹⁷ “But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸ till another king arose who did not know Joseph. ¹⁹ This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. ²⁰ At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months. ²¹ But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. ²² And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. ²³ “Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ²⁵ For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶ And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?’ ²⁷ But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?’ ²⁸ Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?’ ²⁹ Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons. ³⁰ “And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. ³¹ When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, the voice of the Lord came to him, ³² saying, ‘I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses trembled and dared not look. ³³ ‘Then the LORD said to him, “Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. ³⁴ I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.” ³⁵ “This Moses whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶ He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.”

3.2. A God-Given Vision has an Appointed Time for Initiation and Execution

Acts 7:17,20

¹⁷ “But when the time (*chronos*) of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt ²⁰ At this time (*kairos*) Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months.”

‘Chronos’—duration of time, number of days.

'Kairos'—the "fullness of time," is a condition on the earth. The "fullness of time" has to do with the coming together of things—both external and internal.

External factors include

- People
- Places and
- Things surrounding the vision-bearer.

God has to bring these together so that His purpose can be carried out.

Internal factors include conditions concerning the life, preparation and readiness of the vision-bearer.

Conditions like

- Right heart attitudes
- Right relationship with people
- Maturity in all things
- House being in order
- Possessing the heart of a servant
- Faithfulness in little things
- Christ-like character

It takes time for God to prepare you and make you, before He can manifest the vision, calling and gifting through you.

We see several examples of these in the Bible.

Joseph

Moses

- God supernaturally arranged for Moses to be taught and trained in Pharaoh's palace. This was God's 'seed of spiritual destiny' in Moses' life (Acts 7:22). These were Moses' initial preparation and positioning for his heavenly purpose.
- At the age of 40, Moses began to understand his divine purpose. However, he made the mistake of trying to accomplish it through his own methods.
- Every time we attempt to do something in our own ability—we further delay the unfolding of God's plan. Moses attempted to go at it all by himself and it only delayed things by 40 years!
- Moses had to spend 40 long years in the wilderness (Acts 7:29,30; Exodus 2:15,23), simply because he had to wait for the king whom he had angered, to die.
- At the age of 80, Moses resumed his divine mission.
- For the next 40 years, he went about carrying out his life's purpose.

David

- David was anointed to be king while a teenage boy. Let us say he was 17 years of age at this time.
- He had his initial training taking care of his father's sheep. It must have been during this time that he developed his skill in music, killed the lion and bear and gained a good reputation among the people of Israel.
- He had initial success when he killed Goliath and became a national hero.
- The tide turned and David had to run for his life when King Saul decided to kill him.
- The next 5–6 years David lived like a vagabond (1 Samuel 22:1,2). The man who was anointed to be king spent some time in caves!
- However, it was during this time that God sent men who joined David and later became important captains in his mighty army!
- When David was about 23 years old, he became king of Judah (2 Samuel 2:1–4).
- David was 30 years old when he was finally made king over all Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 5:4,5). He then reigned for another 33 (pastor, verse 4 says reigned for 40 yrs... vs 5 says 7 or so years plus 33 years) years as king.
- About 13 years of preparation—from the time of his 'calling' by the prophet Samuel to when he was 'commissioned' to step into his call.

Paul

- Paul must have been about 33 years of age when he had his encounter on the Damascus road with the Lord Jesus. It took that many years to be trained.
- At the time of his encounter, the Lord Jesus revealed his calling to be a light to the Gentiles, an apostle of the faith.
- Paul initially spent 3 years in Damascus and Arabia (Galatians 1:16,17; Acts 9:19–25). People tried to kill him in Damascus and so he fled into Arabia and then returned later. It must have been during this time that he received much of the revelation of the Gospel which he preached.
- After this, he visited Jerusalem for 15 days (Galatians 1:18; Acts 9:26–30) during which time he preached boldly. But once again people tried to kill him and he left for Tarsus.
- He then spent about 13 years in the regions of Tarsus, Syria and Cilicia (Galatians 1:21–24; 2:1).
- Toward the end of these 13 years, Barnabas comes to Tarsus and brought Saul to Antioch (Acts 11:25,26).
- Paul then spent a whole year teaching in the church at Antioch.
- At the end of this year, Paul makes his second trip to Jerusalem along with Barnabas to carry relief to those in the middle of a famine (Acts 11:29,30). So he goes to Jerusalem after a gap of 14 years (Galatians 2:1).
- At this point, about 17 years had elapsed since his meeting with the Lord on the road to Damascus. Paul must have been about 50 years old at this time.

- Nothing much is recorded about the first 17 years of Paul's Christian life and walk with God. Of course we know that Paul preached and taught during this time. We know that he received revelation and understanding of the mysteries of God. However, nothing much is recorded of what he did and preached. These are referred to as the 'silent years' of Paul's life. These, in addition to His prior training under Judaism formed part of his training.
- Finally in Acts 13, after 17 years, Paul is called into his first missionary journey with Barnabas (Acts 13:1–4).
- In Acts 14:14, Paul along with Barnabas is referred to as an apostle for the first time.
- It was about 17 years after his encounter with the Lord that Paul actually stepped into his apostolic ministry. Seventeen years of preparation and training even for Apostle Paul! God is not in a hurry!!

Jeremiah

Jeremiah was given his prophetic call even before he was born. God told him not to allow people to tell him he was too young. Yet, historically, we know that Jeremiah waited at least 16 years from the time of the visitation, in chapter one, to his first prophetic utterance.

Every God-given vision has its appointed time for initiation, execution and fulfillment. Between now and the time our God-given vision is initiated, we should step into someone else's dream and vision and serve faithfully. For in helping someone else fulfill their dream, we are being trained and equipped to fulfill God's dreams for our lives.

3.3. A God-Given Vision Is Often Detected by a Simple Stirring in Our Hearts

The recognition of the heavenly vision could come as a simple stirring in your heart. Consider Moses and Nehemiah.

Acts 7:23

²³ Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.

Nehemiah 1:1–4

¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, ² that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." ⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 2:12

¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

3.4. The 'Kairos' Moment Gets Delayed When Attempted by Self

Every time we attempt to do something in our own ability—we further delay the 'kairos' moment. Moses attempted to go at it all by himself and it only delayed things by 40 years!

Acts 7:29,30

²⁹ Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons. ³⁰ "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai."

Exodus 2:15,23

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. ²³ Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.

3.5. A God-Given Vision May Not Be Understood by Everyone

Acts 7:23–25

²³ "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ²⁵ For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.

Galatians 1:15,16

¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.

3.6. A God-Given Vision Will Face Demonic Opposition

Nehemiah 2:18–20

¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work. ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?" ²⁰ So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

3.7. A God-Given Vision Is Always Bigger than the Individual

Every God-given vision is bigger than the single individual. God never intended for that individual to fulfill that vision alone.

Nehemiah 2:12

¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

Nehemiah 2:17,18

¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." ¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

In the book of Acts and in several places in his Epistles, we read about Paul's coworkers. Paul himself lists many people who were his coworkers. He uses terms such as, 'fellow prisoners,' 'work fellow,' 'partner and fellow helper,' 'yoke fellow,' 'fellow laborers,' fellow servant" (KJV) to refer to these people: Barnabas, Silas, Luke (Lucas), Andronicus, Junia, Timothy (Timotheus), Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, Titus, Clement, Epaphras, Tychicus, Aristarchus, Marcus, Justus, Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, Demas, certain 'other brethren,' those women who labored with him in the Gospel and other fellow laborers whose names are in the Book of Life.

3.8. Other People Find and Fulfill Their Life's Calling by Participating in a God-Given Vision

Many people find and fulfill their life's calling as they step into and become part of a God-given vision.

3.9. Dreams and Visions Given to the Body of Christ are Interlinked

Since we are a Body, the dreams and visions that God gives to His people are interdependent and closely interlinked.

Ephesians 4:4

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling.

You cannot fulfill your calling outside of the Body. We are all called together to the same hope.

Ephesians 4:16

¹⁶ From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Each of us supply to the other, so that we can all together build the Body.

As you step into other people's dreams and help them fulfill their vision—you will in effect carry out and fulfill God's vision for your own life.

3.10. Ask God to Give You a Big Heart

Many of us have a big vision, but a small heart. There is room only for one person, that is, 'self.'

My heart must have room for more than just 'me.'

A big vision requires a big heart!

We must have a heart that is big enough to provide room for everyone God has intended to be a part of the vision He has given to us.

Conclusion: Position yourself to hear from God.

Habakkuk 2:1

I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected.

4

BUILDING PEOPLE BY THE SPIRIT

4.1. Kingdom Building is About Building People

1 Corinthians 3:9

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

1 Corinthians 9:1

¹ Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

Ephesians 2:22

²² In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5

⁵ You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Working with "living stones" is different from working with "dead stones!"

4.2. Kingdom Builders Must Have People in Their Hearts

2 Corinthians 7:3

³ I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.

1 Thessalonians 2:19,20

¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

2 Corinthians 3:1-3

¹ Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? ² You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³ clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

It is only when we allow God to 'write' people on our hearts, does He give us the ability to write into their hearts. All other ministry, apart from this, is merely an outward form without the power to transform lives.

4.3. We Build People by the Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:1–3

¹ Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? ² You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³ clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

John 6:63

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

4.4. God Uses Imperfect People to Perfect Imperfect People

Proverbs 27:17

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Just because God uses me to perfect someone else, does not mean that I am perfect!

4.5. Practical Keys to Building People by the Spirit

4.5.1. Recognize God's purpose for the individual

- Do not find yourself fighting God's plans and purposes, by building the individual into something God did not design him/her to be.
- Discern their God-appointed place.

1 Corinthians 12:18

¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

- Discern their God-appointed function.

Romans 12:4–6

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.

This is an awesome responsibility that you have—to help people discover their God-appointed purpose and help them move towards fulfilling that. You must be extremely sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit in this.

Jesus was able to discern people by the Spirit.

(a) In the case of Peter

John 1:41,42

⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

(b) In the case of Nathanael

John 1:47

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit."

By the Spirit, see and understand the individual's future, train them for it and release them into it, at the right time.

4.5.2. Position people to release divine potential

People need to be positioned—set in their God-appointed place, season by season, so that they can be developed into what God wants them to become.

(a) In the case of Moses and Joshua

Deuteronomy 1:38

³⁸ Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

Deuteronomy 3:28

²⁸ But command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.

(b) In the case of Barnabas and Saul

Acts 11:25,26

²⁵ Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

(c) Paul, Barnabas and John Mark

Sometimes, you could make mistakes in discerning God's potential in an individual, as Paul did initially for John Mark and later had to change.

Acts 13:13

¹³ Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:36–41

³⁶ Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” ³⁷ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Colossians 4:10

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him).

2 Timothy 4:11

¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

4.5.3. Discover and develop their gifting

You need to encourage people in their areas of grace and gifting.

You may need to restrain people from going into areas that are not their areas of grace and gifting. As humans, we have a natural tendency to desire things that someone else has. (The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence!)

1 Timothy 4:14

¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

2 Timothy 1:6,7

⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

4.5.4. Lead by example

Philippians 4:9

⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

1 Corinthians 4:16

¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

1 Corinthians 11:1

¹ Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

The greatest message you will ever preach is the life you live.

Matthew 5:19

¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

You have to be doing it before you begin teaching it.

Matthew 15:14

¹⁴ Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

You cannot lead people into revelation that you have not received yourself. If you attempt to do so, it would be like the blind leading the blind. Both end up in the ditch!

You cannot give something you do not have.

You cannot take others to places where you have not gone yourself.

You cannot enable people to mature in Christ-likeness, if you are not maturing into Christ-likeness yourself.

You cannot administer liberty in areas where you are held in bondage yourself.

4.5.5. Avoid Insecurities

Some of the biggest problems **that** leaders have in relating to people are born out of insecurity. Insecure leaders become jealous of other people, control other people, become over-involved in people's lives, authoritative/dictatorial and so on. Guard yourself from these pitfalls.

(a) Avoid jealousy

The examples of Saul and David

1 Samuel 18:6–11

⁶ Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷ So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." ⁸ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹ So Saul eyed David from that day forward. ¹⁰ And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. ¹¹ And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

1 John 4:20,21

²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

A pure heart is a heart that is not only right toward God, but also toward people.

(b) Avoid being overprotective/being controlling

2 Corinthians 11:1–4

¹ Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. ² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

2 Corinthians 1:24

²⁴ Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

There is a balance between being “jealous over people with a godly jealousy”—which is a healthy thing and, learning not to dominate their faith and walk with God.

(c) Avoid over-involvement

Teach people what is right and what is wrong and allow them to make their decisions. Don't make decisions for people, otherwise they will never grow up and learn to make decisions on their own.

Don't become a crutch, that people must lean on. Teach people to stand on their own. They must be able to live life, discipline themselves, manage things, without you being around!

(d) Avoid being authoritative

1 Peter 5:1–4

¹ The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

1 Corinthians 9:18

¹⁸ What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

2 Corinthians 10:8

⁸ For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed.

2 Corinthians 12:18,19

¹⁸ I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps? ¹⁹ Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But we do all things, beloved, for your edification.

(e) Avoid 'Soulish' Attachments

Some times we get attached emotionally with those we are raising up in the Lord. Then, when the time comes to release them, we are unwilling to let them go, because of 'soulish' attachments. This is a dangerous thing.

1 Samuel 18:1 shows that David and Jonathan had a special friendship. Yet, when it came time to send him away, Jonathan did so (1 Samuel 20:13).

4.5.6. Bring correction when required

1 Corinthians 4:21

²¹ What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

2 Corinthians 7:11,12

¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. ¹² Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you.

2 Corinthians 13:10

¹⁰ Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction.

Too often, we avoid confrontation because we do not want to risk the possibility of hurting a relationship.

Proverbs 27:6

⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

You must have the inner strength to bring correction in a loving manner. Understand that in bringing correction into an individual's life, you are doing more good than harm. The problem that you may decide to ignore could become the very thing that could destroy that person or become a problem to us.

Once you speak correction, allow the person the liberty of responding to God. You are not responsible for the pain of those who have ignored your counsel.

Proverbs 17:9

⁹ He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

Once you bring correction, remember not to keep talking about the other person's mistake.

When bringing correction, do it for the individual's edification and not destruction.

(a) Bring correction with gentleness

Bringing correction in a loving way is not always easy because of all the emotions (being upset, angered, agitated and so on) that is usually part of the whole situation. However, we must allow the Holy Spirit to help us flow in gentleness, kindness and goodness even in a difficult situation.

Galatians 5:22

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...

2 Corinthians 6:6

⁶ ...by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love...

1 Thessalonians 2:7

⁷ But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children.

2 Timothy 2:24

²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient...

Titus 3:2

² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

James 3:17

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Psalms 18:35

³⁵ You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.

(b) Beseeching versus commanding

Beseech

[There are about 24 references in all, in the Epistles where Paul and other ministers "beseech" their listeners to follow a certain instruction: Romans 12:1; Romans 15:30; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 16:15; 2 Corinthians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 6:1,2; Corinthians 10:1,2; Galatians 4:12; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; Philemon 1:9,10; Hebrews 13:19; Hebrews 13:22; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 John 1:5]

Greek words for "beseech"

Gr. *parakaleo* = to call near, that is, invite, invoke, exhort, intreat, pray.

Gr. *erotao* = to interrogate, to request, ask, beseech, desire, intreat, pray.

Some examples:

Romans 16:17

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Philippians 4:2

² I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

Philemon 1:9,10

⁹ Yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains...

Command

As a minister of God there are times when you will have to 'command and teach' people.

1 Timothy 4:11

¹¹ These things command and teach.

command Gr. *paraggello* = to transmit a message, that is to enjoin, to charge, to command.

However, in the Epistles, Paul uses "command"ing very sparingly (4 times), when compared to "beseech"ing people (about 20 times). This tells us that the normal way to instruct, guide and correct people is through gently beseeching them. On rare occasions, you "command" them.

1 Corinthians 7:10,

¹⁰ Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.

2 Thessalonians 3:4,6,12

⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

⁶ But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. ¹² Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

(c) Handling immature responses

Typically, when you do bring correction, some people may receive it well. Some may not receive it well. They may respond negatively. Receiving negative responses from the very ones you love, from the ones whom you are building by the Spirit could be one of the most painful moments of your life as a minister of God. You are doing your best for them, holding their future in your heart, and yet they respond negatively because of the pain of the correction that has been brought.

Here are some **kinds** of negative responses you may receive:

(a) Complaining—All of a sudden, the world becomes totally different to the individual who has received correction. What was so wonderful and beautiful, suddenly becomes a wilderness **or** a desert place. The individual begins to complain about every little thing. Little incidents of the past are 'resurrected' and become big issues. Everything you do seems to be directed towards putting them down, restricting them, controlling them or hurting them.

(b) Withdrawal—The individual who was corrected withdraws, disconnects and hides away in a shell. There is no longer freedom in interaction and communication. You have to tiptoe around the person, to make sure you say or do nothing to hurt that individual. They are no longer able to receive anything from you spiritually.

(c) Retaliation—The individual begins to blame you for their problems, disappointments or dissatisfactions. All of a sudden, the respect and honor they had for you becomes a thing of the past.

Matthew 13:57

⁵⁷ So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

Psalms 41:9

⁹ Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

(d) Departure—The individual suddenly disappears and vanishes with no prior notification. They carry their problems to another ministry where they can be pampered for a season until the whole baggage of unresolved issues opens up again.

What should we do in such situations?

(a) Do not take it personal

Someone else's inability to receive correction is just that. They are unable to receive correction and hence are reacting. It is no indication of you—who you are or your ability as a minister of God.

(b) Take no offense. Guard your heart.

Galatians 4:11,12

¹¹ I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain. ¹² Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I *became* like you. You have not injured me at all.

Paul was in a situation where after he had labored much among the Galatians, it appeared that his labor was going to go in vain. He had preached the Gospel to them. After his departure, some others had come in and wanted the Galatians to go back **into** bondage, **by** keeping the law. Paul's handling of the situation is exemplary—something we can follow.

[The following are comments taken from Barnes commentary:

“It is not a personal matter. I have no cause of complaint. You have done me no personal wrong. There is no variance between us; no unkind feeling; no injury done as individuals. I may, therefore, with the more freedom, ask you to yield this point, when I assure you that I do not feel personally injured. I have no wrong to complain of, and I ask it on higher grounds than would be an individual request: it is for your good, and the good of the great cause.” When Christians turn away from the truth, and disregard the instructions and exhortations of pastors, and become conformed to the world, it is not a personal matter, or a matter of personal offense to them, painful as it may be to them. They have no special reason to say that they are personally injured. It is a higher matter. The cause suffers. The interests of religion are injured. The church at large is offended, and the Savior is “wounded in the house of his friends.” Conformity to the world, or a lapse into some sin, is a public offence, and should be regarded as an injury done to the cause of the Redeemer. It shows the magnanimity of Paul, that though they had abandoned his doctrines, and forgotten his love and his toils in their welfare, he did not regard it as a personal offense, and did not consider himself personally injured. An ambitious man or an impostor would have made that the main, if not the only thing.]

(c) Give time for people to change

People need time to come to terms with things that need to be dealt with.

(d) Allow them to move on in peace

Release them into God’s hands. After all, it is only God who can work in them to bring about growth and maturity.

4.5.7. Bring maturity in all areas

Your goal is to help develop maturity in all areas of Christian living.

Ephesians 4:13–15

¹³ Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

God has given us His Word—“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32) and His Spirit—“And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure” (1 Corinthians 14:12) to help accomplish this.

Too often, we make the mistake of emphasizing maturity in gifts and callings and forget about character issues and all the other practical aspects—relating to people, managing time and money, being a good spouse, balancing work and rest, and so on.

Three stages in our development in the call of God:

Calling—Real short. This is the time you have a revelation/realization of God’s call on your life.

Preparation—Where we spend most of our time. This is preparation time. God deals with character issues. Most people don’t make it past this stage.

Commissioning—this is when you step into your true place and function in the Body.

Dealing with character issues:

- Learn to relate to people apart from their gift.
Don’t always talk about the person’s calling and gift. People tend to hide behind their gift and calling, and hence neglect more important character issues.
- Deal with heart issues
Example: rejection, insecurities, emotional hurts, inward rebellion (sometimes people may not necessarily be outwardly rebellious, but they are inwardly rebellious), and so on.
- Deal with personality issues
Example: short temper, not able to relate to people, independence, and so on.
- Deal with lifestyle and habits
Example: importance of maintaining a good testimony, managing time, money, and so on.
- Identify and break limitations that they have put on themselves
- Identify and break cycles of failure (leaving churches and ministries periodically)

4.5.8. Release them into their calling

As people grow and mature, we must have the grace to release them into their calling.

1 Timothy 1:3

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

Titus 1:4,5

⁴ To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.

They must have the liberty to fly on their own.

4.5.9. Continue to be their support

When we release people, we do not abandon them—rather we continue to be available for their support and encouragement.

2 Corinthians 12:14,15

¹⁴ Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. ¹⁵ And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

4.5.10. Restoring those who fall

Galatians 6:1

¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

1 John 5:14–16

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. ¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

Too often we end up killing our wounded. Instead, we must learn to lovingly restore those who make mistakes and fall.

4.5.11. Handling those who fall away

Some may fall away from the call of God.

Philemon 1:24

²⁴ ... as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

2 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰ ... for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

Some may make shipwreck of their faith and become your most eminent opposers.

1 Timothy 1:19,20

¹⁹ ...having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, ²⁰ of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 4:14,15

¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. ¹⁵ You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

5

KINGDOM BUILDERS' LIFESTYLE

5.1. Christ-Likeness Is Our Goal

Ephesians 4:13–15

¹³ Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

5.2. Character Is Important

5.2.1. What is character?

- Nature, quality, temperament, personality, disposition, spirit, moral fiber and make-up.
- My character is who I really am as a person.
- It is not what I assume to be before others. It is not what others assume me to be.
- It is who I really am as a person. It is revealed through my conduct.
- My actions or reactions in difficult and unexpected circumstances reveal my character.
- My secret choices reveal my character.
- My words, attitudes and decisions reveal my character.
- It is my value-system that influences the choices I make.

Joseph:

Genesis 39:1–13

¹ Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. ² The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. ⁵ So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. ⁶ Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷ And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." ⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. ⁹ There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this

great wickedness, and sin against God?" ¹⁰ So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. ¹¹ But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, ¹² that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. ¹³ And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside.

The power to say, "No" comes from a strong moral character (Vs 8).
Your conscience will keep you accountable to God even when no one is watching (Vs 9).
A strong character cannot be weakened and will not give into continual temptation (Vs 10).

The ability to say, "No" when temptation persists is possible only when you have a godly character.

5.2.2. How is character developed?

What influences or shapes the development of an individual's character?

Daniel:

Another great example of a man with strong moral character.

- Began to be developed from an early age.
- A man's companions influence his character.

Daniel 2:17

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions.

1 Corinthians 15:33

³³ Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

- Strong moral character is built over time through discipline and practice.

Daniel 6:10

¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

- Strong moral character is strengthened through adversity.

Romans 5:3,4

³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

5.2.3. Why is character important?

(a) Godly character is a prerequisite for ministry

1 Timothy 3:1–15

¹ This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. ⁸ Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰ But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. ¹¹ Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Titus 1:5–9

⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— ⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

1 Peter 5:1–4

¹ The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

The foundation for ministry—The true strength of your ministry is not your anointing but your character.

Matthew 9:17

¹⁷ Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Your anointing is the wine; your character is the wineskin. If the wineskin is weak and breaks (or even leaks) the anointing will be wasted.

Your gift can take you where your character cannot keep you.

(b) Your moral character is your true strength

A man's real strength is his moral character.

Your inner strength—your moral character—determines your ability to withstand temptations, accusations, persecutions, seductions, lies and other pressures.

(c) You character will shape the most important message you will ever preach

1 Thessalonians 1:5,6

⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 2:1–10

¹ For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. ³ For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. ⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷ But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. ⁸ So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe.

Your life speaks.

The greatest message you will ever preach is the life you live.

“The man is more than the message. Your message is credible because you are credible. When a man is no longer credible, his message is suspect” (Dr. Ed Cole).

(d) Character determines your durability

“Fame can come in a moment, but true greatness comes with longevity” (Dr. Ed Cole).

“Great men are those who sustain their achievements over years, regardless of what the years bring” (Dr. Ed Cole).

- Guarding our lives from deceitful lusts (money, immorality and fame).

5.3. Focus on Spiritual Maturity Rather Than Spirituality

What is spiritual maturity? What does it mean to be spiritually mature? How do we assess if we are truly maturing spiritually?

Three Greek words are used often in the New Testament in the context of spiritual maturity:

'teleios' = Complete—of full-age, mature, a perfect man.

It literally means full-age or to grow up, to be an adult. It is used often in the context of maturity. A person of full-age or perfect or complete man. It refers to grow in both mental and moral character.

'pleero' = to fill up, to be full off, diffuse, to be under the influence of.

It is also translated as complete but it literally means to fill up.

'katartizo' = to complete thoroughly, thorough equipping.

It is often translated as complete but its literal meaning is thoroughly equipped.

Matthew 5:48

⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

'teleios'

Jesus challenges us to be full-grown people, people who are mature and of full-age (adults) because that is how God is! God is not childish!

Colossians 1:28,29

²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

'teleios'

Our goal is to present every person perfect (“teleios”) of full-age.

5.3.1. Seven characteristics of spiritual maturity

(a) Christ-likeness

Ephesians 4:13

¹³ Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

'teleios'

We must grow up into Him in all things (Ephesians 4:15).

This is the goal of Christian Ministry—to present each person of full-age (mature, adult) in Christ.

(b) Being perfect and complete in all the will of God for your life

In every area you are fully aligned to the will of God.

Colossians 4:12

¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Here two words are used, perfect = *teleios*; complete = *pleero*.

(c) You are thoroughly equipped for every good work to do what God has ordained for your life

2 Corinthians 13:9,11 *'katartizo'*

⁹ For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.

¹¹ Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Hebrews 13:20, 21 *'katartizo'*

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 6:40 *'katartizo'*

⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

Ephesians 4:11,12

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Vs 12 perfecting = *'katartismos'*

(d) You are able to receive solid meat

Hebrews 5:11–14

¹¹ Of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Vs 14 of full-age *'teleios'*

Hebrews 6:1–3

¹ Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.

Vs 1 perfection, completeness *'teleiotes'*

1 Corinthians 2:6,7 *'teleios'*

⁶ However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.

(e) Your senses have been trained to discern good and evil

Hebrews 5:14

¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

(f) You are putting away childish behavior

You put away childish way of understanding thinking and speaking.

1 Corinthians 13:11

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

1 Corinthians 3:1–4

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³ for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

We cannot remain childish in our thoughts, understanding and words.

To be carnal is being childish. Envy, division, strife, competition and selfish-ambition are all various forms of childish behavior.

(g) *You have your whole body and tongue in control*

James 3:2 (*teleios*).

² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Spiritual maturity is a process. It does not happen instantly.

It takes time. However, we have to do our part, it does not happen automatically.

As a minister of God you must constantly progress in spiritual maturity.

5.4. We Are Stewards

1 Corinthians 4:1,2

¹ Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

We are stewards of the mysteries of God. We are stewards of the gifts and grace given to us by God.

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Titus 1:7

⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money.

5.4.1. *What does it mean to be a steward of God?*

Steward (Gr.) *Oikonomos* = the manager of a household or estate, governor, treasurer.

Someone made responsible for something that is not their own.

Someone entrusted with the responsibility to manage.

Stewardship (Gr.) *Oikonomia* = the management of a household.

Oikos = house, *nomos* = a law.

Used in Luke 16:2,3,4; 1 Corinthians 9:17; Colossians 1:25; Ephesians 3:2,9; Ephesians 1:10 and 1 Timothy 1:4

A steward is a manager, overseer, or caretaker—someone who has been put in charge of another person's goods.

He must ensure that:

- Things are functioning as appropriate.
- Things are profitable.
- Everything is accounted for (Romans 16:23).
- He must protect/safeguard what is in his care.
- He must ensure continuity, i.e., train up a successor (Galatians 4:1,2)

5.4.2. *As a minister of God, what am I a steward of?*

- The gifts of grace that are given to you (1 Peter 4:10,11).
- The Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16,17).
- The grace of God given to you for a specific mission (Ephesians 3:1,2).
- The mysteries of God (Ephesians 3:9; 1 Corinthians 4:1; Colossians 1:26–29; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:1,2).

As a steward of the ministry given to you, you are responsible for:

- Proper functioning of your ministry—Everything has to be in order and beyond reproach (2 Corinthians 6:3,4).
- Profitability—you have to be fruitful (John 15:8).
- Accountability (2 Corinthians 5:9,10).
- Protection—guard your ministry.
- Continuity—pass on what God has given you.

5.4.3. *Characteristics of a good steward*

Luke 12:41–48

⁴¹ Then Peter said to Him, “Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?” ⁴² And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. ⁴⁵ But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Vs **42**: Faithful and wise

1 Timothy 1:12

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.

Luke 16:1–12

¹ He also said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. ² So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’ ³ “Then the steward said within himself, ‘What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵ “So he called every one of his master’s debtors to him, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ So he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ So he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ And he said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸ So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. ⁹ “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. ¹⁰ He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?

- Be faithful in little things—God will set you over many things.
- Be faithful in money—God will entrust you with true riches.
- Be faithful in what is another man’s—God will give you your own.

We are required to be faithful and wise stewards of what God has given to us.

Be a good steward.

6

PARTNERSHIP—LEARNING TO BE COWORKERS IN THE KINGDOM

A whole lot more can be accomplished around the world, for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, through partnership.

6.1. A Kingdom That Is Divided Is Weak and Powerless

Mark 3:24

²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

A lot is being left undone because of our unwillingness to partner with each other.

Our unwillingness to partner becomes a hindrance to Kingdom advancement.

6.2. We Are Called to Maintain Unity in the Spirit

Ephesians 4:3

³ Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Philippians 2:1

¹ Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy.

Luke 9:49,50

⁴⁹ Now John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us." ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side."

Just because someone is not part of 'our group' it does not mean that they are not doing Kingdom work!

6.3. Being Kingdom-Minded

Deuteronomy 22:10

¹⁰ You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

Amos 3:3

³ Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

1 Corinthians 1:10

¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

What can we all agree about? We can all have this one mind—that whatever we do, we seek the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

We can all become Kingdom-minded.

There is a tremendous need for a change in our mindset, a change in our perspective of things. It is not about your ministry or my ministry—but it is about the Kingdom of God.

6.4. We Must Learn to Connect and Work with Each Other

6.4.1. Designed for partnership

1 Corinthians 12:18

¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

The Body of Christ has been designed for people to work in partnership.

Ephesians 4:16

¹⁶ From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Every joint must supply its share.

Partnership is complementing each other not competing with each other. We have been designed to complement each other.

We are all needed and gifted for the forthcoming moves of God. We must all come into our rightful place in the family of God. God is raising the five-fold ministry to strengthen the Church, and to properly position the saints in their gift and call, whether it is in the local church or the extended Body of Christ, worldwide. As each one is positioned, we will have a Body functioning perfectly and effectively.

John 4:37,38

³⁷ For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.

1 Corinthians 3:6

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

This is the way God works. God often, sends one man to sow, another man to water and yet another man to reap.

We must know where God wants us to be positioned, when He wants us to do and what He wants us to do.

2 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

God has determined each one's "sphere of influence." We must discern the sphere of influence that God has appointed for us and stay within it. God extends our sphere of influence as He sees fit. As God does so, we must move with Him to touch the lives of people He desires for us to minister to.

6.4.2. Paul's coworkers

Romans 16:7

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Romans 16:21

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

2 Corinthians 8:23

²³ If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

Philippians 4:3

³ And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

Colossians 1:7

⁷ As you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf.

Colossians 4:7,10,11

⁷ Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

1 Thessalonians 3:2

² And sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith.

Philemon 1:1,2,23,24

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, ² to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, ²⁴ as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

In the Book of Acts and in several places in his Epistles, Paul himself lists many people who were his coworkers. He uses terms such as “fellow prisoners, workfellow, partner and fellow helper, yoke fellow, fellow laborers, fellow servant” (KJV) to refer to these people.

Barnabas, Silas, Luke (Lucas), Andronicus, Junia, Timothy (Timotheus), Lucius, Jason, Sospater, Titus, Clement, Epaphras, Tychicus, Aristarchus, Marcus, Justus, Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, Demas, certain “other brethren” “those women who labored with me in the gospel,” “other fellow laborers whose names are in the Book of life.”

6.5. We Are Not to Judge Others

Avoid comparing yourself with other ministers.

Avoid judging other ministers, trying to determine their reward.

Matthew 20:1–16

¹ For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’ ⁸ “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ ⁹ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. ¹¹ And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ ¹³ But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.

Romans 14:4

⁴ Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

1 Corinthians 4: 5

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

6.6. Each One Is Gifted Differently

Understand that each one is gifted differently. Respect the way God works through each one.

1 Corinthians 12:5–7

⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

Do not raise up walls of division because of such differences.

6.7. Do not Major on the Minors

Romans 14:1–5

¹ Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. ² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. ³ Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. ⁴ Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

There are some things that are not worth debating about. We must not allow such insignificant issues to divide us.

6.8. The Value of Partnership in the Kingdom

6.8.1. Partnership is unity in practice

Psalm 133:1–3

¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

Unity is the place of anointing and blessing. Partnership, working together for the kingdom, is a practical way to live out our unity.

6.8.2. Partnership brings strength

Ecclesiastes 4:12

¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

6.8.3. Partnership produces kingdom advancement

A whole lot more than what is currently being accomplished can be achieved through partnership.

6.9. Things That Hinder Partnership in the Kingdom

6.9.1. Me and mine mentality

6.9.2. “What is in it for me?”-mentality

6.9.3. Comparing and competing

6.9.4. Promoting discord—intentionally or unintentionally

Proverbs 6:16–19

¹⁶ These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

7

RAISING THE NEXT GENERATION FOR KINGDOM SERVICE

God has given us the ability to procreate—both in the natural and in the spiritual.

1 Corinthians 4:14,15

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. ¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

However, when we reproduce, we DO NOT produce 'Xerox copies' or exact replicas. Those we give birth to, have their own individuality and identity.

Your success in ministry is incomplete if you do not raise successors.

The day you begin (any ministry) is the day you should start planning your departure.

Isaiah 59:21

²¹ As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore.

God desires that the anointing and revelation given to one generation must be passed on to the next. He will add on a fresh anointing and fresh revelation to that, to empower the next generation to do what they have to do in their time.

1 Corinthians 4:17

¹⁷ For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

- The foundation that is being laid in the present will lie in ruins, if there are no 'Timothys' to continue the work.
- The 'Timothys' of today, will become the 'Pauls' of tomorrow.

- We need to raise the next generation, otherwise there will be no one to continue the work after the present generation passes away.
- Very often, in the church, the present generation wants all the attention, and the next generation is neglected.
- Each generation must pass on to the next, the things it has received.
- The next generation should receive everything that has been given to the present generation.

HOW TO RAISE UP 'TIMOTHYS': LESSONS FROM THE 'PAUL-TIMOTHY' RELATIONSHIP

2 Timothy 1:2

² To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

7.1. The Divine Connection

Acts 16:1–3

¹Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

Be sensitive to the 'divine connections' God sets up in your life. God may send **Timothys' into** your life or send you as a 'Paul' into other peoples' lives.

Make sure that you begin by doing things that will help your Timothy's future.

Get your Timothy to come alongside you and work with you. Timothy had the privilege of traveling along with Paul in the ministry.

Acts 17:14,15

¹⁴ Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.

¹⁵ So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

Acts 18:5

⁵ When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 20:1–4

¹After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. ²Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece ³ and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.

Philippians 2:22

²² But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.

2 Timothy 2:2

² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- Select your 'Timothy' carefully.
- Faithfulness is more important than ability.
- The condition of the heart is more important than the gifts.

7.2. A Special Bond

1 Timothy 1:2

² To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2

² To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 4:17

¹⁷ For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

There was a special bond—a special relationship between Paul and Timothy. Paul considered Timothy as his spiritual son and Timothy looked up to Paul as his spiritual father.

7.3. A Special Closeness and Transparency

2 Timothy 3:10,11

¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,
¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

There was a closeness and transparency on the part of Apostle Paul that allowed Timothy to see and know Paul for who he really was. Timothy responded by following or patterning himself after what he saw in Paul.

7.4. Communication of Specific Instructions

1 Timothy 1:18

¹⁸ This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

1 Timothy 6:20

²⁰ O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.

Paul instructed Timothy, teaching him what to do, what not to do, what pitfalls to avoid and so on (1 and 2 Timothy).

7.5. Communication of Encouragement, Exhortation and Correction

Paul gave Timothy positive encouragement.

1 Timothy 6:12

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

One of the toughest things in ministry is to administer correction. But you have to learn to do it in a loving, positive and uplifting way. If you do not correct your Timothy, then the very thing that you allow will become a 'cancer' that will eat into his life and destroy him. Correction is like doing 'spiritual surgery'—it hurts, but it has a positive result.

7.6. Communication of Genuine Costs

There was communication of genuine costs, the price that must be paid to serve God. Paul did not 'smooth talk' Timothy. He laid things out as they were. He invited Timothy to share in his sufferings.

2 Timothy 1:8

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God.

2 Timothy 2:3–5

³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

7.7. Communication with Regard

1 Timothy 6:11

¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

2 Corinthians 1:1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia.

Philemon 1:1

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer.

Romans 16:21

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

Paul communicated with a high sense of regard for Timothy. He called Timothy “a man of God.” He recognized Timothy’s true worth, his calling, gifting and anointing.

7.8. Delegation

Paul sent Timothy on specific missions. Paul had enough trust and confidence in Timothy to give him these responsibilities.

1 Corinthians 4:17

¹⁷ For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

Philippians 2:19

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

1 Thessalonians 3:1,2

¹Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, ²and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith.

7.9. Positive Recommendation

1 Corinthians 16:10

¹⁰ And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.

Philippians 2:19–23

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰ For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

Paul recommended him enthusiastically and positively when he sent him out. Paul recommended Timothy as a coworker and coequal in the ministry.

7.10. Released into His Calling

Paul finally left Timothy to take care of the church at Ephesus.

1 Timothy 1:3

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

Through practical training, Timothy was groomed into a man of God.

Problems arise when the son fails to grow up or when the father desires the son to always remain a 'son,' instead of becoming a 'joint-heir.'

WHEN YOU ARE OLD AND GRAY-HEADED

Psalm 71:17,18

¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. ¹⁸ Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

Keep demonstrating God's strength. God's anointing does not diminish with age!

Isaiah 46:4

⁴ Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

(a) Share of the wisdom of God

(b) Keep your anointing fresh. 'Re-fire', do not retire!

Psalm 92:10

¹⁰ But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.

(c) Keep bearing fruit

Psalm 92:14

¹⁴ They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.

(d) Depart with Grace

1 Chronicles 29:28

²⁸ So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place.

Host a Kingdom Builders Conference

Dear Pastor/Fellow Minister:

It is our sincere desire to communicate the truths presented in this manual to as many ministers of God as we possibly can. Please feel free to teach and preach the things you have learnt through this publication.

We also believe that personally attending a Kingdom Builders Conference can transform you powerfully. We encourage you to attend a KBC.

We would also encourage you to get together with other pastors and ministers in your area and jointly host a Kingdom Builders Conference. Invite as many ministers to the KBC so their hearts and minds can be transformed. We will be happy to bring a team to minister at the conference.

If you would like to host a KBC please get in touch with us using the information given on the inside front cover. In most cases, our host pastors/ministers will cover all expenses of organizing the KBC. We will take care of all our personal travel and accommodation expenses.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ashish Raichur

Do You Know the GOD Who Loves You?

About 2000 years ago, God came into this world as a man. His name is Jesus. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Since Jesus was God in flesh, everything He said and did revealed God to us. The words He spoke were the very words of God. The things He did were the actions of God. Jesus performed many miracles on the Earth. He healed the sick and suffering. He opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame walk and healed every kind of sickness and disease. He fed the hungry by miraculously multiplying a few loaves of bread, calmed the storm and did many other wonderful things.

All of these actions reveal to us that God is a good God who wants people to be well, whole, healthy and happy. God wants to meet the needs of people.

So why then would God decide to become a man and step into our world? Why did Jesus come?

All of us have sinned and done things that are unacceptable before the God who created us. Sin has its consequences. Sin is like a great unsurpassable wall between God and us. Sin separates us from God. It prevents us from knowing and having a meaningful relationship with the One who created us. Therefore, many of us try to fill this void with other things.

Another consequence of our sins is eternal separation from God. In God's court, the penalty for sin is death. Death is eternal separation from God in hell.

But, the good news is that we can be free from sin and be restored to God. The Bible says, "For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world, when He died on the cross. Then three days later He rose again, showed Himself alive to many and went back to heaven.

God is a God of love and mercy. He does not wish that any person be lost in hell. And so He came, to provide a way for the entire human race to be free from sin and its lasting consequences. He came to save sinners—to rescue people like you and me from sin and eternal death.

To receive this free forgiveness of sins, the Bible tells us that we have to do just one thing—accept what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross and to believe in Him whole-heartedly.

"Through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 10:43).

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

You too can receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins if you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is a simple prayer to help you make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. This prayer will help you express your acceptance of what Jesus has done for you and receive forgiveness and cleansing for your sins. This prayer is only a guideline. You can also pray in your own words.

Dear Lord Jesus, today, I have understood what You did for me on the cross. You died for me, You shed Your precious blood and paid the penalty for my sins, so that I could be forgiven. The Bible tells me that whoever believes in You will receive forgiveness for their sins.

Today, I make a decision to believe in You and to accept what You did for me, by dying for me on the cross and rising again from the dead. I know I cannot save myself by my own good works, neither can any other human save me. I cannot earn forgiveness for my sins.

Today, I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that You died for me, You paid the penalty for my sins, You rose again from the dead, and by faith in You, I receive forgiveness and cleansing for my sins.

Thank You Jesus. Help me to love You, to know You more and to be faithful to You. Amen.

Publications from All Peoples Church

Teaching

A Time for Every Purpose
Breaking Personal and Generational Bondages
Divine Order in the Citywide Church
Fulfilling the Purposes of God
God's Word
Jesus Christ—Vol. 1
Kingdom Builders—Vol.1
Our Redemption
The LORD is a Warrior
Understanding the Prophetic
Who We Are in Christ

Motivational

A Real Place Called Heaven
Being Spiritually Minded and Earthly Wise
Biblical Attitude Towards Work
Change
Don't Compromise Your Calling
Don't Lose Hope
Giving Birth to the Purposes of God
The Night Seasons of Life
The Power of Commitment
The Refiner's Fire

Gospel Booklets

He is Here
Love That is Deeper Than Love Itself
What Can Wash Away My Sins?

All Peoples Church & World Outreach, Bangalore, India, has extended its ministry by launching its Bible College & Ministry Training Center (APC-BC&MTC) in August 2005. APC-BC&MTC equips, trains and releases faithful men and women to impact villages, towns and cities in India and other nations, for Jesus Christ.

APC-BC&MTC is a member institution and accredited by the Apostolic Council for Educational Accountability, Colorado Springs, USA, (www.acea-schools.org).

ACEA logo

APC-BC&MTC offers 3 programs:



- § The two-year Bible College program is for full-time students and provides spiritual and practical ministry training along with academic excellence. The program is designed to equip and empower students to successfully fulfill the call of God upon their lives. Students will receive a Diploma in Theology & Christian Ministry upon successful completion.
- § The two-year School of Ministry program is for working professionals. Students will receive a Diploma in Christian Ministry upon successful completion.
- § The Practical Ministry Training is for graduates from the Bible College who desire to undergo this training. Those completing one or more years will receive a Certificate in Practical Ministry indicating the duration of involvement.

Classes will be conducted in English. The faculty comprises of both trained and anointed teachers of the Word. All faculty and students will have access to APC's Study Centre and Library (SC&L). The SC&L contains books, teaching tapes, videos, VCD's/DVD's and music CD's.

For more information please see the page overleaf.

About All Peoples Church

At All Peoples Church, our vision is to be the salt and light in the city of Bangalore and a voice to the nation of India and to the nations of the world.

This is a gift from us to you! It's FREE!

We trust you were blessed reading this book.

Thousands of copies are distributed free to many others like you. We would like to have you partner with us financially to help share God's Word with many people. Your regular financial contributions can help us take God's Word to others. As the Lord leads, become a partner with All Peoples Church. You may send your contributions by Cheque/Demand Draft/ Money Order to "All Peoples Church, Bangalore."

When you write, please request for other publications. Also tell us how this book has ministered to you and include your prayer requests and comments. You can contact us at:

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Back Cover)

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Ashish Raichur



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>