

A STUDY OF TITUS; THE CHRISTIAN CALL INTO LEADERSHIP



—Paul preaching at Athens.

PASTOR RICK BETTEZ

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OF
TITUS;
THE CHRISTIAN CALL
INTO LEADERSHIP

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authorHOUSE®

AuthorHouse™
1663 Liberty Drive
Bloomington, IN 47403
www.authorhouse.com
Phone: 833-262-8899

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A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

I would like to open this book with an acknowledgement of not only my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, first and foremost as always. I would like to add in several people who have made a difference in P.R.B. Ministry because of their willingness to stand firm in their relationship with GOD. I want to give a tribute to them, to their boldness and leadership skills in stepping up and stepping out to host bible conferences. Which in turn touch the lives of many and open a doorway for books like this. Books like this, that will multiple, go forth into a lost and dying world for years to come. Those who truly take their time, talent, treasure, and lay it on the line, not in simple words only but in their actions. The list could be several dozen, yet for the purpose of this book, I want to focus on those who brought the Royal Family together for fellowship and conferences. Matt and Kimberly, Chad and Jessica, Trista, Nancy and Tylee, as well as Rob and Marla. I am grateful and humbled by your donations and efforts in many areas, especially for the bible conferences. You all laid it on the line with effort, finances and time, for that we all owe you a personal THANK YOU!

Heb 16:13 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Mat 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Jhn 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

In order to carry on a true relationship with our Triune God, the lost soul must first accept the person and work of Jesus Christ as the only avenue to eternal security. The narrow gate, which leads to life, is through faith alone in Christ alone. There is no other way for a person to be born again in a new spirit, into a new, resurrected life. A life which can enter heaven, only because of the righteousness of Christ, it is through a true faith in Jesus Christ as your savior. For the lost Believer, who has fallen into religious nonsense or denominational dogma, they must recognize the need to wash sin from their life habitually and accept the mind of Christ (bible) as the true authority in life. Fellowship with God is not related to a consistent emotional sensation, it is found only in the mechanics of the filling power of God the Holy Spirit. That is what ignites your Christ-like nature, that nature was given to you, at the moment of salvation. Learn truth at prbministry.org starting today!

Jhn 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Jhn 13:10 Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet; otherwise he is completely clean. And you are clean—but not all of you.”

1Jhn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I N D E X O F A C R O N Y M S

TLJC	The Lord Jesus Christ
PPOG	Pre-Designed plan of God
GOD HS	God the Holy Spirit
OSN	Old Sin Nature
SM	Spiritual Maturity
MAS	Mental Attitude Sins
Unbel	Unbeliever
Bel	Believer
CA	Church Age
10 PSD	Ten Problem Solving Devices
OT	Old Testament
NT	New Testament
40 GG	40 Grace Gifts
PT	Pastor-teacher

CHAPTER ONE



SEEKING TRUTH WILL BRING OUT THE LEADER IN YOU!

We are going to open up this chapter by looking at 1John chapter one. This will help to put an emphasis on the importance of the WORD. There is no greater calling nor anything of more significant than understanding the mind of Christ, Bible Doctrine (BD). Truth itself, is singular and of the utmost importance. It can never be compromised or altered in the slightest; otherwise, it no longer remains TRUTH! Historic context, accuracy in categorical theology, along with any subtlety in the original language matters. Some terms or words used in the ancient Hebrew, Aramaic or the koine Greek, vary from how we may use them today, therefore it all needs to be interpreted into the right context. Now in 1John, right from the opening statement points us to Believers (Bels). This is directed at Christians, more specifically Bels that John knew, had witnessed the death, burial and resurrection of The Lord Jesus Christ (TLJC). He was not only teaching those Bels, but many who would come to believe upon The Lord Jesus Christ throughout the Church Age dispensation (CA). This letter was written and completed around 95 A.D. It was written from Ephesus and addressed to local churches in the Roman province of Asia, the same churches to whom Paul wrote Ephesians and Colossians.

1Jo 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

WAS from the beginning - tells us since the beginning of time and prior to time as we know it (eternal).

The Apostle John says we have heard and seen and touched the WORD of Life. The same WORD of Life that has been around since before the beginning of time as we know it! TLJC is the *logos of LIFE*. That Greek word *logos* does not simply mean, words on a page. It is related to knowledge or wisdom which is a skill set. It is related to deep thinking, it also means instruction, commands and moral precepts, it is connected to the highest form of intellect.

1Jo 1:2 and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us—

1Jo 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have (echo') fellowship (koinonia) with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

The Christian should habitually make a choice to have spiritual fellowship and can only continue to do so, within the union of fellowship of the Trinity. The Greek words *echo' koinonia* have importance in how they are used, may have, is written in the present, active subjunctive, verb showing us the Bel makes the choice. The Bel brings forth the action of that verb. The present tense, means they keep on doing this, but notice there is a choice! Fellowship speaks of being of the same mind- THE WORD (BD). It is an intimate connection. It actual means intimacy in the arena of intellectual, intercourse of mind, the word and conscience. It is beyond a worldly friendship or casual conversation, it is spiritually connected as a divine union. Think about fellowship when studying the Bible, you are spiritually connected and receiving divine guidance. This is only true if your fellowship is aligned with the power and plan of God. Many Christians are unaware just how the Holy Spirit works for them.

1Jo 1:4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

1Jo 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

1Jo 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

IF (3rd class condition) looking into the future it is probable but still uncertain in the moment. Looking at the contrast, how do we say we are walking forward in fellowship yet our lifestyle is in darkness? Pointing us to free will choices we make. That means we can practice a lie as related to our fellowship. This also means we either are actively making choices for the plan of God or living in the cosmic system, there is no middle ground. At any given moment a Bel can be in the NEW NATURE or the OLD SIN NATURE (OSN). There is no middle ground within these two natures. Many Christians who do not understand the filling power of God the Holy Spirit (HS) and the intake of the word (2 power options) actually walk in that lie, they don't lose their salvation. They talk about Christianity, yet they walk in the plan of Satan. Folks, there are only two camps in this battle, one belongs to God and the other is satanic. The illusion of being a good and independent person is just that, an illusion. Satan promotes independence from God and by true historical facts, that was the first sin committed by him. Then the man and woman in the garden were tempted by Satan to peel away from God's plan. It is the subtle action of a spark leading to rebellion. They were tempted away from God to become little gods themselves, which is all Satan wanted as well. Satan's rebellious battle cry is, *I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH!* Isaiah chapter fourteen makes clear about the 5 'I WILL'S' of Satan.

It is the perilous attitude amongst large portions of humanity throughout history.

1Jo 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

There again is the Greek 3rd class condition; *IF* we go forward and it seems possible, but we don't know until we get there. *IF* we keep going forward in the LIGHT (nature of Christ) we have the right fellowship. Notice Bels, if we keep marching forward in a positive fashion we know when we do fail or sin we are covered by the work of Jesus Christ. This

is where we get a term like - covered by the blood of Jesus – it is related to HIS person and finished work on the cross. Not literal blood, that is a bad interpretation of the term.

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Matter of fact statement for Christians, *IF* (1st class condition) it is true! Verse 6 already points out that many Bels will sin and walk in darkness and therefore, we DO SIN after salvation. Shock and awe, all Christians fail and sin after salvation. Sinless perfection will not be achieved until we are face to face with TLJC. All of these principles we are with opening up in this chapter are imperative for the Christian walk and the call to leadership in life. Our battle is to make more positive steps inside the plan of God then negative steps inside the devil's world. Spiritual maturity is our goal, not Christian activism, good works or any other nonsense from our flesh.

When you grow up, spiritually, you will naturally become a better person and the fruit of the Spirit will come forth in your life and naturally you will produce divine works from right motivation. Filled by the Spirit which opens that Christ-like nature. You cannot force it and you cannot fake it. It takes the two power options working in unison.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The *IF* is dependent upon us going forward and recognizing the need for cleansing, another 3rd class condition. Confess is the Greek verb *homologeō*, it means to agree and acknowledge. It is not related to emotions, in fact it takes a clear head to acknowledge or agree to something. Emotions cannot think! It was used in legal standings within the ancient world. It can mean an open confession or to profess something to be true. Also, it can mean to concede to something, which is to concede to the fact that the justice system of GOD is the only righteous system. Name and cite any known sin and when you do, you are simply acknowledging God's justice system and looking to that Cross at Calvary, where legal precedent was not only established but completely fulfilled. The present tense, tells us HIS work and HIS faithfulness and righteousness are always available, it will be right now and in the future it is there as well.

1Jo 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

Again, this is written in the present tense with a look into the future and a conditional statement meaning - *IF* we keep on believing that we never sin, we make God a liar and HIS word, the mind of Christ is not active in our life. Sadly, this is the case for many Christians. Then notice how chapter two opens up, again, obviously all addressed to Bels.

1Jo 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

So that, you may not sin - because as I am teaching you, says the Apostle John, you can sin after salvation! WOW! What a concept; Christians actually sin after salvation...get over it.

1Jo 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

The sins of the whole world were dealt with once and for all time. The doctrine of propitiation is a legal standing that GOD is completely satisfied with the person and work of Christ on the Cross. God's justice system has certain standards that we cannot ignore or run from and so we turn to it as our only means of truth and justice. When we do, we are simply agreeing and acknowledging HIS plan and HIS system is accurate. Also, our union with Christ is more than sufficient to deal with personal sins that pull us out of fellowship. The legal penalty was paid by The Lord Jesus Christ, we are covered by HIM, in union with HIM.

Remember to stay in fellowship habitually, keeping short accounts with the OSN. Once you recognize EVERYTHING, was filtered through the justice system of God in eternity past, you name and cite any known sins and keep pressing forward. God so loved the whole world, yet the whole world is not saved, because love was not the issue. A judicial process from HIS justice and righteousness was the saving issue from HIS grace. Christ died for the sins of the entire world and yet many reject HIM, because free will matters. Those who end up in the Lake of Fire are there because they wanted to stand on their own merits and their own righteousness, God

finally gives them what they demanded, separation from HIM. For the negative Bel, who ends up a loser in heaven, they never can lose salvation, that is eternal security. They made choices against the plan of God and God, once again, as the perfect gentlemen gives us what we keep demanding by our own words and actions.

Leadership is a calling for all Christians in one realm or another. Leadership demands higher levels of spiritual maturity, otherwise it will be a colossal challenge that can bring great misery and frustration. Each person with a normal I.Q. who reaches an age of accountability, becomes responsible for their life. Only God knows what every person has concerning a threshold of responsibility. Your age of accountability was probably different than mine. Most people reach an age of accountability on or before the age of eighteen. Because most people begin to formulate a true understanding of the world around them, as well as becoming an individual with a unique set of thoughts or opinions between the ages of ten and fourteen.

God the Holy Spirit in common grace, will ensure the gospel is presented many times, before and then certainly after the age of accountability. Not only available but understandable. At some point, usually after many avenues or opportunities to hear and see who the person and work of Jesus Christ truly is, God will then hold that person accountable.

Knowing this becomes a reality that every one of us has a leadership role over our own soul structure. God is the General over mankind, yet we are the Captain of our own vessel. Simply put, leadership starts with YOU! There is a military order or rhythm, to life, which means a chain of command and authority, play a huge role in this temporal life. Whether it relates to the Unbeliever (Unbel) or the Believer (Bel), this is a simple fact of the world we live in. Those who reject and kick against it are often the same ones who struggle with drama or adversity consistently in their life. Usually, the same ones who eventually have psychological complications and in some cases, breakdowns as well as criminal or malicious behaviors riddled within their lives. The person who claims leadership is nothing they are interested in, have one of two beliefs about the subject matter. One is the person who has decided that the path of least resistance is the way to an adversity free lifestyle. That is a myth, it does not exist for a Bel or Unbel, we live in a fallen world which is highly influenced by fallen angels. Satan is called the prince and power of the atmosphere, as well as a ruler right now in time.

Eph 2:2 in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

1Jhn 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Jhn 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

No one escapes the stumbling blocks and temptations of the devil's world. The one who claims no interest in leadership skills from their divine Creator, because they love the path of least resistance, is requesting a life of weakness and defeat. Resistance and challenges are how we grow, physically, mentally and spiritually. The path of least resistance is a pathway into slavery under the authority of whomever has strength, or wealth and influence within that day. In fact, the path of least resistance guarantees a life of fear, anxiety or uncertainty, not strength and true confidence which leads to freedom.

Now the second belief system, behind the rejection of leadership skills, is because they look at leadership from a position of human viewpoint, of cosmic system ideology. Once the Christian understands, GOD wants you in a position of true strength and freedom. By becoming a mature Bel who has taken full responsibility over their life, then it begins to resonate in time. God wants you independent of the world and of human viewpoint, becoming dependent upon the mind of Christ (BD). This naturally leads to maturity in the spiritual realm which is true leadership in your life. These types of Bels become leaders within their own circle of family and friends, because that set of leadership skills came from a life dependent upon biblical principles. A life that understood the chain of command in scripture and the authority of God. You can ignore all this or write it off as out dated and of no consequence. Yet I tell you that you can say the very same about the sun, the stars and the moon, but it will not stop them from appearing in the skies overhead. Truth marches forward at its own

slow pace, because it is far superior in crushing and sustaining a forward motion, then the great Sherman tank, on the battlefields within American history. Just because mankind ignores, denies and even covers up biblical truth, it never stops rolling forward to prove itself time and time again. Science, history and human knowledge always plays catch with the Bible in the end.

Now let us introduce a man named Titus; Titus, often called - A True Son in the Faith within many Christian circles. What I gathered about the history of Titus is spotty. Although, I trust most of what I finally discovered about him because, it aligns with historical events and it is taken from historians and theologians. Titus was born in Greece, the island of Crete. The fifth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, which is only about 100 miles south of the mainland of the island of Greece. It has always been very cultured and popular in Greek history and it is believed Titus studied philosophy and poetry as a young boy on Crete. By the time he was about 19 yrs. old he had gotten a copy of a copy of the writings of the prophet Isaiah and this intrigued him deeply. Shortly after this the rumors reached the Greek mainland that a prophet was in Palestine performing miracles, that it was the Messiah of the Jews. God's perfect timing! This news reached the island of Crete quickly, because boats went back and forth regularly from mainland out to the other Greek islands. Titus was now probably about 20 years old and a very intense and curious young man. He was like a pit-bull once something was in his sights. He seemed to be a seeker of truth and higher knowledge and he sought to meet the Messiah.

The governor of the island of Crete (possibly an uncle of Titus) sent him on a ship headed east, toward Israel. Most likely because of a family connection he had in Antioch. It is believed by some historians, that Titus had family in Antioch possibly a brother, or an older cousin named Luke. This had been a Greek stronghold under Alexander the Great, so it was a mix of Hellenistic-Roman culture at this historic point. Antioch was a Hellenistic city on the eastern side of the Orontes River of the Roman province known as Syria. About 300 miles north of Jerusalem in the region, we call Turkey today. Antioch was a busy and prosperous city probably in the top, two or three, most cultured and wealthy cities under Roman rule in that region. Titus having great tenacity and a drive for truth, made the seaward travel over to Antioch. Where some scholars and historians believe his relative Luke had been studying science and medicine...yes, medicine, as in Doctor Luke. The same Dr. Luke who later travelled with

the Apostle Paul and also wrote a gospel and the book of Acts. Sir William Ramsay, a British classical scholar from the 1800's, who many consider a sound theologian, is one of at least 3 trusted men who connect Luke and Titus as blood relatives.

So young Titus probably arrived in Antioch most likely by the age of at least 21. Antioch did have a reputation as a very busy city and a slightly wild city in the scope of what many call 'loose living'. It is believed that Titus was employed along the Orontes River, loading and unloading boats and working for sea merchants. This was known as stomping grounds, for a rough and tumble group of men. Prostitution, gambling and what was known as travelling circuses (entertainment groups) were regularly streaming in and around the city. The Greek men in that area were known for two things; one was the pursuit of wisdom and studying philosophy. The other was for physical prowess, military combat skills or abilities to take into an arena such as grappling or sword fighting. There are many aspects of raising a young man, or young woman in the ancient world that are sorely missing in the modern world. For most ancient cultures, the age of 14, was seen as a young man's coming of age. Which meant greater responsibility, physical and intellectual challenges were pressed upon them, to the point, that most 17-year young men back then were as tough, skilled and intelligent as most 25- or 30-year-old men today. The Greek culture, for all its flaws within sexual perversions, false gods and stubborn attributes. Began to develop men at the age of 14 or 15 that were well prepared to be leaders, politicians, poets and warriors by the age of eighteen. Titus was no exception of that ancient standard.

Titus at the young age of 21 or 22 years old travelled across the sea in pursuit of truth, seeking this prophet that could be the true Messiah. He ends up in a region and on a job that was not exactly a cushy position. He would have to be involved in physical labor and also in an environment that you may have to defend yourself from time to time because of some unsavory characters. Titus seems to be a strong individual with great drive and a thirst for truth. He was fearless in the realm of travel and stepping out into new environments. His independence and self-discipline seem to be a large part of his nature. Titus will become a Bel who GOD can use in many scenarios because of these strong qualities within his nature. At some point, Titus would travel hundreds of miles by caravan or horseback to go into Jerusalem and seek the Christ.

C H A P T E R T W O



THE LEADER WITHIN THE BELIEVER

Leadership, was a quality young Titus was being groomed for. Opening up this study on Titus, one of the glaring principles that stood out for me is the emphasis on leadership. The misconception that only a chosen few, should be concerned about leadership skills, is a satanic lie designed to keep Christians in positions inactivity and weakness. All Bels are called to be leaders and have leadership skills in their life. Ambassador, witness, priest, soldier, Royal family member - these Christian titles we inherit (along with others), at salvation all scream for strong leadership skills. We are all called to leadership, soldiers in spiritual or natural combat become leaders on the battle field. They have to make split second decisions and they have to operate with great focus and sometimes actions that are completely dependent upon their own volition and training. You can never apply that which you have not fully learned and practiced repetitively. We are ambassadors, which also speaks to a certain level of authority or leadership skills. Ambassadors travel to foreign lands and represent their Kingdom or culture all by themselves. They attend intense meetings and present difficult terms related to war and peace. God is able to use you or I, with our own unique personalities and quirks to become leaders in our life and touch others around us. As long as we always realize we answer to a higher power above our own desires and beyond the details life.

Also not allowing the viewpoint of the cosmic system, human

standards, to lead us astray, carrying us too far into arrogance, or off into the shadow of doubt.

Eph 6:18 With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints, 19 and pray in behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.

The Apostle Paul knew he was no longer affiliated with the world but a representative for Christ. The Apostle Paul was the lead apostle for teaching the Mystery Doctrine of the Church Age (CA), there is a reason he was chosen to written early half of the New Testament. The Apostle Paul travelled with certain men, yet many times, Paul stood alone in his ambassadorship.

Eph 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Even while imprisoned the Apostle Paul knew his mission, he knew his authority and his role. The Apostle Paul was not a physical specimen who was strong and attractive. In fact, he may well have been short and ugly by all accounts. He was never a gifted public speaker but his strength was in his mental capacity and writing skills.

The battle we are called into does not always appear in front of us but it is all around us and soldiers need to be ready for combat at any moment. Some of the most heroic soldiers in battle are the ones you least suspect will be the brave ones who step forward under pressure.

1Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

This concept was taught as well in 1Timothy 1:18 and also 2Timothy 4:7; Soldiers or combat, are terms used and often how the Apostle Paul would speak to his fellow Christians and his congregations. The apostles gave a clear message; we are all in this together! The early church leaders

had the same viewpoint, their attitudes were, it won't be just a challenge or call to arms for us in leadership – it is a call to anyone in union with Christ.

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

There are 3 key witnesses related to CA mystery doctrine that need to be understood. These 3 witnesses may also have applied to the Old Testament saints, perhaps in a differing manner, yet so much more so in our dispensation today. The CA dispensation is where it became extremely apparent. The first and most important witness is; The Lord Jesus Christ (the person & finished work), the second witness in spiritual warfare is, the invisible hero (Christian pressing upward to maturity), the third is a Christian marriage (two Bels moving forward in God's plan). These three witnesses speak loudly against the fallen, angelic rebellion and put Satan's lies on full display in the divine courtroom of heaven. In 1Corinthians 4:9, the Apostle Paul reveals that Believers are on the stage of life. This means we all need to be mature enough to display our leadership abilities, you cannot cower behind someone else at every turn in life.

1Cor 4:9 For I think, God has exhibited us, the apostles, last of all as men condemned to death, because we have become a spectacle (theatron) to the world, both to angels and to mankind.

This is where we get our English word theater from – an open stage for all to see! Here we have the Greek word theatron meaning, for public show, or performing on the “stage of life”, with angels observing how the Church glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 3:10, is another passage that tells us that the angels need to be taught this mystery. Angels even observe the Bels in the Church-age receiving commands, digesting the word of GOD and applying it, angels are observing you right now;

Eph 3:10 so that the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

We are called into leadership roles in our daily lives whether we choose to believe it or not, that is what is thrust upon us at the moment of salvation.

1TI 5:21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

Let us look at this principle as revealed by the Apostle Peter;

1Pet 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

Two words you find in scripture, suffering and glory – two words that make complete sense inside the plan of God flowing together.

1Pet 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things into which angels long to look.

As a born-again Bel in Jesus Christ, you have the capacity in your church, your marriage, family, on your job, you have the most phenomenal, magnificent privilege and potential and opportunity. But without a skill set that requires leadership and authority over your own life you will not have any great success touching other people's lives. So, don't assume a letter written to a church leader or the principles related to deacons or pastors won't apply to your life. All scriptures God breathed, said to be profitable for teaching and learning and really, anything in this temporal life (2Tim 3:16)! The lessons we can note in the life of Titus, speak to boldness, tenacity and combat readiness, problem solving and compassion. Which are all leadership qualities we each have, **IF** we make the choice to grow inside the plan of GOD and allow HIM to influence and guide us, using our own unique strengths and personalities enlightened by God the HS and the mind of Christ.

This introduction to Titus begins on the Island of Crete and that is where Titus was born as well, though he was well travelled. Since the day

of Pentecost, there were Bels on the Greek island of Crete. These Bels had never been organized into local churches. They had no leadership such as a pastor-teacher. The Apostle Paul became aware of this situation so he stopped at Crete on his way to Rome — (Acts 27:7-13). He wasn't there long enough to do anything but get some idea of the situation. On Paul's release from his first Roman imprisonment, he took a fourth missionary journey. Toward the end of his fourth journey, he went to Crete, accompanied by Titus. Since Titus was a strong Bel and teacher as well as a trouble-shooter, Paul left him there. Because there were some stubborn and troublesome Greek men in that group of Bels. In fact, the Greek men were known to be tough and disrespectful to authority figures who they deemed to be weak. Arrogance and pride always struggle under authority and often times, that type of person seeks a weakness in the authority so as to discredit and find reasons to undermine that authority.

Titus was sent by the Apostle Paul to straighten out problems in Corinth after Timothy struggled to stand his ground as authority (2 Cor 12). He dealt with that and then joined Paul in Macedonia to turn Paul's depression into happiness —

2Cor 7:5 For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts on the outside, fears inside. 6 But God, who comforts the discouraged, comforted us by the arrival of Titus;

Between the first and second Roman imprisonment the Apostle Paul and Titus visited Crete which is related to this study in the letter to Titus. Then Titus was sent to Dalmatia —

2Tim 4:10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

Prior to all of this Titus was in Jerusalem and this is where he came under the influence of the teaching of the Apostle Paul. Titus may have been at the crucifixion of Christ and some scholars believe he was among the 70 disciples who were sent out across the land to evangelize. It is believed the original language speaks of 70 disciples sent out in pairs of two and that is why it was written 72.

Luk 10:1 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. 2 And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

The harvest was plentiful because perhaps at this point in TLJC ministry HE was now slowly opening up toward the Gentiles. Remember the original 12 Apostles were sent to awaken the Jews, the lost sheep of Israel. This may have been during the last 8 to 12 months of the Lord's ministry before the cross and Titus may well have been there at this historic moment. We simply do not know every exact detail. But it is intriguing to think that Titus may have been in Jerusalem during that last year or the last six months of Jesus's ministry on earth. What we do know is the Apostle Paul was Titus's spiritual father, because he guided Titus in respect to leadership and understanding mystery doctrine. All Christians fall under the authority of the WORD. The head is Christ, we are the body and Christ assigned leaders and teachers to establish HIS church body. The Bel does not grow outside of a deep relationship with Christ (WORD) and within that relationship is a chain of command. Titus understood this concept and followed the authority of Paul. This is the calling for all CA Bels to blossom under the teaching of a pastor who accurately submits to the authority of the WORD.

Titus became a great problem solver and a peace maker, because he submitted to the chain of command. The worst authority figures are those who have never fully understood or respected authority. All of us have had periods of rebellion or bucking against authority. Yet, it is the person who never grows into maturity in life and becomes oriented to authority that makes a horrible leader. Titus became one of the most travelled pastor-teachers outside of the Apostles in all of early Christianity. Titus traveled to Corinth more than once, to Galatia and Dalmatia, through Macedonia then back to the Greek islands. The Apostle Paul plugged Titus in everywhere there was a problem or lack of solid Bible teaching. Titus had frequent sailing miles on his credit card! Though, we don't see his failures or flaws he had them like all of us. In fact, it is believed during his first trip over to Antioch when he began working on the Orontes River as a long shoreman that he was entangled in several rowdy brawls and may have indulged in the party lifestyle and the night life of the city. It may have been that trouble that woke him up and put him back on track to his original mission of going to see the

Jewish Messiah he had heard about. The research I have uncovered about Titus shows me a young man of great curiosity, tenacity and strength. In his early years under Paul, he became a travelling pastor who solved church conflicts and brought truth and calm into many congregations. Titus would finish the latter half of his life back on the Greek Island of Crete running his own church, where he died of old age at 94 in the year of 105 AD. The background of the epistle to Titus is believed to be written somewhere between 66 and 67 AD from Rome, where the Apostle Paul had been once again taken prisoner. The epistle is further instructions to Titus regarding the formation of churches in Crete, and also to advise Titus that he is sending him some help — Zenas and Apollos. It was also to warn Titus that there were a lot of gypsy scholars and false teachers crossing over to Crete. Men who would roam the land and settle in areas to spread their teaching and turn a profit at the same time. They would filter into an area and spread false teaching for months then gather up their profit and move along. These men were counterfeit apostles spreading religion.

Tit 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge (epignōsis) of the truth which is according to godliness (eusebeia).

Knowledge comes from hearing Bible Doctrine (BD), it translates to wisdom (application) by the filling power of God the HS. The Greek word ***epignōsis***, means it is fulfilled, knowledge which turned to wisdom. It has become a skill set. The word, ***eusebeia***, points us to the godly life which is completely dependent upon the New Nature in control and applying the mind of Christ.

Titus 1:1 - ***for the faith of those chosen of God;***

All members of the human race are elected (eternity past) to the plan of God because of the doctrine of Unlimited Atonement. Free will is always a key component before and after salvation. Free will is the deciding factor for your salvation and your spiritual growth. The work was complete upon the cross, all sins were paid for. Yet without at least a mustard seed of faith toward the person and work of Christ, you cannot enter into eternal security. Without free will decisions toward the plan of God after salvation, true growth will elude the Believer. At any point a young man named Titus, could have rejected

the plan of God. He could have bucked against the authority of the Apostle Paul and refused to be moved about like a pawn on a chess board. Titus understood the calling on his life, he submitted to the plan of God. Therefore, he led a godly life - which does not mean sinless perfection. A godly life means subjection to the word and the filling power of God the HS. Most of you, may live a godly life and you don't recognize it! Do you subject yourself to the power of the WORD and the filling power of the Spirit habitually? If so, you live a godly life most of the time. Legalistic, religious zealots, never grasp this concept and so they work for godliness from the flesh.

Tit 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge (epignōsis) of the truth which is according to godliness (eusebeia)

Tit 1:2 in the hope (elpis) of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

This is confidence or inner strength which is attached to your union with Christ and knowing the truth of eternal security. We see the Greek word, *elpis*, this is not a weak, trembling system of hoping God will come through for you. It is a firm confidence because you are educated and believe upon the core doctrines of salvation. This type of confidence is a reoccurring theme within the letter to Titus.

Tit 1:3 but at the proper time revealed His word in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior;

The emphasis is upon the WORD but the word is useless if it is not under the authority of the power God the HS. Meaning your fellowship needs to be in order so that your intake of the word is not a waste of time.

Tit 1:4 To Titus, my true son in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

If you know the nature of God and the truth of your salvation you will obtain a confidence that leads to greater strength and living a godly life. None of that occurs by sitting on the couch wishing and praying about becoming a stronger Bel. The Apostle Paul knows the character of Titus. He

knows that the mission of establishing a solid foundation on Crete, so that the true Church of Jesus Christ gains roots will be dependent on leadership that is obedient to Bible Doctrine. Titus will have to ordain leaders, that will go forth teaching truth and establish true faith and adhere to Bible Doctrine in the face of religious adversity. There is a difference between someone who manages and someone who leads. A manager does not always make a good leader, certainly for a pastor-teacher. A manager will maintain a standard and conduct techniques to control or move an agenda forward.

A leader lays it on the line and leads by example. A leader willingly takes steps that place themselves in positions of vulnerability for the greater good of those under their charge. A leader will lead because they believe in what God is doing in their life and they trust in HIS power to press them forward during challenges and struggles. Leaders do not get caught up in the numbers game and power struggles. They rarely care what outside sources say about them. Leaders have a laser focus on what they believe God is calling them to do. Titus at age nineteen, heard the call of God and he began a journey toward a serious relationship with God. He encountered cosmic distractions and obstacles along the way yet never fully lost his pathway toward maturity. His leadership skills became sharpened by stepping out and stepping up each time GOD pressed him further. Seeking the avenue of least resistance each time a challenge arises diminishes our leadership skills and gives birth to a false sense of security. Many times, in life, the path of least resistance is the journey that leads into weakness. Every Bel must reach a stage where the basic principles of salvation and the gospel of TLJC have solidified and now they move forward toward greater knowledge and absorb mystery doctrine.

A true leader has to be well informed and willing to remain a student at heart. The know-it-all, is steeped in arrogance. They make horrible leaders, usually they become tyrannical. For the Bel having accurate doctrinal interpretation, is a key to that formula of growth leading into leadership. Accurately handling the word was given to church leaders, specifically pastor-teachers (2Tim 2:15, Eph 4:11, 1Cor 12:28, Rom 10:14-15). Therefore, principles in theology are extremely important, yet it comes down to the right theology. All pastors are called to examine historical context, understand subtleties of the original languages, as well as align scripture that interprets scripture. Many debate the process of studying and teaching, yet it comes down to first having the God-ordained gift, degrees do not guarantee accuracy. Many are fooled by smooth speech, collegiate

backgrounds, fluffy stories or large buildings. Just as denominations were not involved in the origins of the church of Jesus Christ, none of that was found within the foundation of the church of Jesus Christ. Once the Bel finds a solid teacher and they themselves engage in studies of accurate scripture, the spiritual growth will certainly increase. Debates revolving around denominational dogma, about studying or teaching in relation to certain theology, is nothing more than satanic distractions and man-made bravado. Christians need to be aware of the counterfeits on the landscape.

The interesting debate about one scripture as an example is seen in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, which throws many denominations and teachers into heated arguments. It is easily resolved if you take the whole chapter into context. Instead of hanging one or two scriptures out and focusing just on the exegesis of that, you have to ask the age-old questions; – Who is the writer (Paul) speaking to and about what subject matter, also what is the historical background? You can tell this is a lesson on such gifts as the gift of tongues and prophecy, which some Bels at Corinth had made an issue out of. The problem was that some Bels thought they were gifted in certain areas and that is what would prove superior over other Bels less gifted. The Apostle Paul is emphasizing spiritual maturity. Because as the Bel grows, they develop impersonal, unconditional love that resolves most of our struggles in life. What we call godly love when it is perfected and developed at a higher level, it is the greatest and most powerful gift and unique problem-solving device.

1Co 13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with.

Written in a command form, future tense, it will happen, matter of fact. Prophecy was only used to help complete the canon of scripture - it was only legitimate for a select few. Those who could interpret what the Rapture and 2nd Advent were all about. Those who fully understood mystery doctrine for the CA. They were given a gift of prophetic visions or dreams. The whole purpose of the gift of tongues was given in Isaiah 28:9-11. The sign of the 5th cycle of discipline for the Nation of Israel, was to be seen within the gift of tongues at the start of the Church Age. The big disagreement over this section of scriptures is that this was all teaching related to the future 1,000 years of reign of Christ on earth (2nd Advent). Yet it was pointing to a time in the near future when the completed canon of scripture would be

available to the whole world. This is written around 57 AD, many gifts and healings were still being used at this early point.

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and prophesy in part;

1Co 13:10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away with.

The PERFECT - speaking to the completion of the canon of scripture. This has to mean one of two things – either the 2nd Advent or the completed canon of scripture. Taking the whole chapter in, as a full study of the letter written by the Apostle Paul it clarifies the completed canon of scripture.

1Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

The Apostle Paul is teaching in the moment, speaking of the here and now related To spiritual growth in time. The Apostle Paul is clearly teaching on gifts that will no longer be available and we as CA Bels, need to grow up and focus on the WORD exclusively.

1Co 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I also have been fully known.

This is a very symbolic message related to spiritual growth and how we begin to see clearly as we grow closer to becoming more Christ like.

The time when we are face to face with the LORD all things become abundantly clear. At that historic point, they were moving toward the whole and when the New Testament canon was completed, they would go from the partial to the whole. Once we are face to face with the LORD all things will come into crystal clear focus – all questions you have and all confusion you may have, will be answered.

1Co 13:13 But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This speaks to the temporal and into the near future. The CA is not built on prophecy, tongues and miracles. BUT NOW – the Apostle Paul

writes, now that these other things are about to be done away with, what we lean upon in the CA are these three spiritual skills which are rooted in BD. CA Bels cannot be searching for miracles, signs and wonders. If they are, they are going to become emotionally driven Bels who are useless in the plan of God. These 3 spiritual skills which are really inner strengths and a part of your norms and standards, these three are what CA Bels seek out and learn to apply in life; *Pistis* (faith)- Moral and spiritual truth that you rely upon. Foundational strength rooted in who Jesus Christ is and what HE did. This is the core of your spiritual compass and that which you continually live in and apply each day. Faith has a target it is not a blind, fumbling faith – our target for faith is TLJC! *Elpis* (hope)- Confident expectations, not merely wishing but having a certainty of conviction. *Agape* (love)- Impersonal, unconditional love that comes from Spiritual Maturity. The love which Jesus (humanity) displayed for everyone.

LOVE – godly love, carries the greatest power. You cannot achieve application of this love outside having the hope and faith entrenched into your relationship with Christ. The greatest example of impersonal, unconditional love was on display within the humanity of TLJC during HIS earthly ministry. It is the highest and most powerful of the three. You as an active CA Bel, need these three, spiritual skills and attitudes to become the leader in your own life and therefore touching others around you. What the Apostle Paul is teaching is what he always taught his leaders - and looking deeper into Titus we can see the qualifications. If the word of GOD is not recognized and upheld, as the mind of Christ (1Cor 2:16), you are floundering in Christianity. In order to thrive and grow your relationship with the WORD has to be real and have depth. How can you have an intimate and lasting relationship, with someone whom you spend little or no time getting to truly know? How would you expect a marriage to survive if only once or twice a month you slept with your spouse? If you only had brief contact a few times a month, no in-depth conversation and rarely understanding how they think or what they want. How could you maintain a healthy relationship in that marriage? I hate to be the bearer of bad news; but the attitude of, *I have my own relationship with GOD,* is a complete farce if it is not backed by a lifestyle in the word, accurately handling the truth.

Jhn 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CHAPTER THREE



GOD DID NOT CALL US INTO TIMIDITY

Every Christian is given the equality of opportunities and spiritual power to excel in the temporal life. Equality truly exists only at salvation! After that point each Bel will take their own free will and their own time, talent and treasure and either forge ahead or lag behind. Many Bels simply lose steam and become stagnate at some point. In the plan of GOD there are two gears forward or reverse so becoming apathetic and stagnant is backward motion. Either way, equality is given at salvation and nowhere else, even in the heavens of eternity, equality will not be seen. There are winners and loser in the spiritual life that will translate to crowns, blessings and rewards. This is not our current study, but the simple fact is, how you run the race now, determines your rewards in time and especially in eternity

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.

Prov 11:18 A wicked person earns deceptive wages, But one who sows righteousness gets a true reward.

Mat 6:2 “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, so that they will be praised by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Prov 8:17 “I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

1Cor 3:12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each one’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each one’s work. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet only so as through fire.

What a person does with their level of intellect and time or talent and treasure, ensures equality is impossible to achieve. All we can do in the temporal is offer a fair starting point and the same opportunities. Everyone has different attitudes, intellect and talents therefore, equality is really nothing more than a meaningless distraction that Satan has used to bring strife between people of many societies and cultures. God gives every Christian a set of spiritual gifts (40 that we can account for in scripture) and the same opportunities to grow in HIS grace and knowledge. What that new Bel does after salvation concerning their own volition and efforts is on them! Titus is a great example; it is almost certain, he was not the only Greek young man, to hear about the Messiah or read some passages from the OT scrolls. Yet Titus went on to pursue his faith and dig deeper into his relationship with the LORD. Titus ended up becoming a pastor-teacher, also an intricate part of Christian history, truthfully, human history! Let’s face it, we all hear the same gospel and many do not respond. God the HS does the exact work from HIS ministry for every human being and yet many simply reject the gospel. That is equal opportunity and equal privilege and that is all we can ask for.

Looking deeper into the letter from the Apostle Paul to Titus we begin to get a

More vibrant picture of this man Titus.

Tit 1:4 To Titus, my true son in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Qualifications of elders is what the Apostle Paul begins to emphasize. For the CA Bel, they need to understand that they are called to be leaders or elders within this temporal life. We are each given authority over our own soul structure. It is foolish to assume the skill set for a pastor or any church leader, is nothing that you should concern yourself with. If that is your attitude your spiritual walk will never gain true momentum.

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what (epidiorthōō) remains and appoint elders (presbyteros) in every city as I directed you,

The Apostle Paul is pointing out to Titus to set things in order. To correct, or take hold firmly of a situation. Appoint mature men, leaders with integrity. Do not be fooled by the term elders, because it was used for a person of a mature stature of mind and not only age. Unfortunately, we can have men and women who are over the age of 50 and still be immature or irresponsible. Just as you can have a man or woman at the age of twenty-five, who has a level of maturity that is notable.

The Greek term - ***epidiorthōō***, means to straighten out, taken from a root word in the Greek that meant to be upright. The title for elder is the noun - ***presbyteros***, meaning an elder, yet more specifically, a man who is spiritually mature. The call here is for Pastor-teachers of a sound, doctrinal mind. Not an age issue – a spiritual mature issue! By the way, the leadership roles of deacon, pastor or evangelist are designed as male roles and masculine offices. Those who kick against this fact, are standing against the mind of Christ, not against my personal teaching standards. Not one apostle was a woman, nor were any of the teachers or church leaders, established under the apostles' women. There are warnings against women in leadership roles in certain realms, that I do not want to get sidetracked into, yet it remains factual in scripture. Woman make great leaders in many aspects of life, but in the church and in the marriage there are clear guidelines. This is also not the topic of the book so we will move forward. What we see is that Titus is being given a ministry and with that ministry comes a very detailed set of instructions. This was his ministry for the time being.

Tit 1:6 namely, if any man is beyond reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of indecent behavior or rebellion.

Contrary to popular belief this does not exclude a man who has been divorced nor does it imply sinless perfection. It is a list that references a man who has his life in order. If you seek a superior candidate, based upon lack of sins and failure from their past, NO ONE would ever fit the bill! There are certain qualifications that make for a superior church leader. He is not distracted by outside forces and he is organized and is not a - *lady's man*. Family and marriage can be a great blessing or a huge distraction, certainly for a church leader. For all of us that are married if that divine institution is not in order and under the power of Christ – everything else will be out of order. Any candidate who is in a state of disarray, financially, personally and certainly spiritually, is not qualified for leadership. They may qualify at a later date, but there needs to be great caution when choosing leaders. Men or women who have a habit of being flirtatious or promiscuous make weak leaders at any station in life.

Tit 1:7 For the overseer must be beyond reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not overindulging in wine, not a bully, not greedy for money,

It is the abundance of issues and lust patterns that is the greater question here. This is teaching Christians about having our life in order, having balance and control over our life. That is a sign of solid maturity that signals qualities of a good leader. Many leaders fail miserably after a period of time of having their life in order, the reality is, those times can fall upon all of us. Yet to choose a leader already in the throws of personal problems is complete irrationality. When a leader has a proven track record, then falls into sin and failure, they need to operate in integrity and character, take responsibility and turn it around. By the same token, a congregation has to allot for human failure or weakness from time to time. This does not mean turning a blind eye to habitual problems or sins from leadership. There is a balance within every calling of our life.

Church leadership is not about sinless perfection – if it were, no man could stand behind the pulpit. If sinless perfection were the standard to hold authority as a pastor, deacon or leader in a church every church would lack leadership. The bottom line is, if a man does not have his life in order, then he is not prepared for church leadership. The call is for men of character and integrity who are reaching levels of SM, they have a spiritual consistency within their walk.

Tit 1:8 but hospitable, loving what is good, self-controlled, righteous, holy, disciplined,

Tit 1:9 holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort (parakaleō) in sound doctrine (hygiainō didaskalia) and to refute those who contradict it.

This speaks to walking in and understanding instruction and encouragement of solid doctrine, accurate Bible Doctrine. A man or woman who struggles to obey instruction and they willfully, kick against authority, is a person who is truly ill-prepared to ever be a leader. The Greek word, parakaleō, means to guide and comfort, to be able to teach in a manner that leads one to truth. It is from a root word, used to describe the COMFORTER (God the HS), who Jesus promised would come upon the early church. Sound doctrine, hygiainō didaskalia, highlighting a wholesome approach and revealing the whole truth of BD. Accurate doctrine, not bits and pieces or speculation, solid and full doctrine.

This is not simply the call for pastor-teachers, though it is used in this context and is certainly factual. All Bels need to slowly become stronger and mature in the study of BD. So that they begin to have greater control and a sense of spiritual discernment in their lives. They will begin to develop leadership qualities that slowly initiates a process of putting their own life in order first. Then it will spill over into the lives of people in their immediate periphery. Every Bel has a ministry in their life. A ministry can be temporary or permanent and it can be flexible and growing. All Bels are called at various points for different ministries. Yet many, rarely reach a point where they can find it and manage it, because their personal life is still unmanageable. My personal experience, though it differs from Christian to Christian, was one of slowly becoming a serious student over the course of about 8 years before finally stepping into a ministry. During those eight years I ran hot and cold in my walk with God. In fact, even in my first ministry as a church Usher, I had many times of apathy and distractions. I was one of about five ushers, whose duties were church maintenance, serving the Lord's Supper, emptying trash, cleaning tables as well as toilets and locking the building up after service. I was in that ministry nearly another 8 years give or take a few years. As an usher you were under the authority of the deacons and there was always a lead Deacon who laid down the rules coming directly from the Pastor's office. I had

many good days and bad ones as a church usher, yet I stayed the course and eventually I was chosen for a Deacon position. It would be a new ministry and one with great challenges! As our Lead Deacon had passed away and I became his replacement, it quickly stacked, great responsibility upon my shoulders. I also became a prep-school teacher and held authority in that office for a period of time.

My point being, is that I did not step into a role as Pastor-Teacher overnight. God used many years and steps to prepare me. I failed as much as I succeeded along the way. Many Christians never even attempt to step up or step out when God calls them into ministries that are not glamorous or viewed by the congregation as front and center. Some Christians are afraid of failure, or on the other end of the spectrum, they assume they are to be placed in authority or positions of visibility and most of the time they are ill-prepared. This happens because it is simply not their calling or done so outside of God's timing. Yet they force the square peg in the round hole and others suffer because they do not belong in that ministry. Most of the time they are unprepared because they have never stayed steadfast in the WORD.

Titus was given different missions and ministries because he was a prepared Bel. His leadership skills had reached a higher level and he could step into roles inside the plan of God that both glorified God and brought forth blessings for himself. Your personal ministry may be one calling for years or it may evolve and change over the years. You won't recognize it and get in it, until you have sound doctrine anchored in your life. Some ministries are simply temporary and it assists other and brings forth the WORD to a lost and dying world. If your life is a hot mess ...GOD can't use you! There is a legitimate doctrine related to ministry. The use of the word, "ministry" is usually related to one of three avenues in the Bible. It has a political or government type of use, as in, holding an office. It obviously points to a church and the gift of pastor-teacher. Yet it also touches into the life of every born-again Believer who is prepared. The word is a translation of the word diakonos, which is a term where we get the word DEACON from. One who is in service to another – offering a service to someone or a group of people. It speaks to giving oneself over to service for the sake of GOD. Any form of ministry takes leadership skills. I don't care if you are running a Bible study for three women at your house once a month, you have to be organized and prepared. I don't care if your ministry is donating financial support to the homeless a few times a year – you need leadership

skills and an organized financial plan. These types of ministries pop up in our lives from time to time and they have eternal value. Sometimes it is a long-term commitment. Even if it was something you were thrust into for a few weeks and it was over, or you moved onto another role you will touch people's lives! You simply do not know what God has prepared for you next month or next year. Ministry has a general use for all Believers in full time Christian service. There are levels to spiritual maturity, which means there are levels to your Christian-walk. Where you are today and what God calls you to do may be different then where you are next year at this time.

When the Apostle Paul was teaching the followers in Corinth that they are a part of the foundational Christians of the new CA doctrines, he mentioned the calling for a ministry. They were called into a ministry of spreading the word and building the early church. As all early congregations and even leading us into the church today, we are all called into a mission and ministry. There is always a general calling for all Bels and then there are personal callings as well.

2Cor 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves so as to consider anything as having come from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, 6 who also made us adequate as servants (diakonos) of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Notice it always goes back to the ultimate authority and power not reliant on the flesh. The word for servants (*diakonos*), means you understand your own level of authority while serving under another authority. It actually was a term used to reference a person - in service of the KING. We are all in service of the KING!

2Cor 4:1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,

2Cor 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

This points us to duty – Christian service. God wants us to grow up to a point we can take on a ministry, step up to a calling. We are given the ability to become reconcilers ourselves within the framework of our own lives. One of the titles for Titus in Christian history is a peace-maker. He

became a problem solver not a problem maker. Titus could reconcile strife and difficulties within a congregation. A good question to ask yourself is; are you someone who can bring people to Christ? Also, can you bring a lost Christian back to truth or do you drive people away? Are you a problem solver or a problem maker?

Look at this principle seen in Romans 13, the Apostle Paul is pointing to not only the importance of respecting the authority of those in leadership. But, also that those in leadership understand the ministry GOD has called them into.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;

Rom 13:4 for it is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

This speaks to a depth of authority that GOD hands over to prepared Christians. This is a government role and it is a ministry under the authority of God. True, doctrinal Christians, can make great government or local community leaders. They understand the authority of God and the ministry of service they are called into. This verse (4) actually points to capital punishment, where it speaks to the sword of real justice. Societies that are weak from criminal activity running rampant, have their government leaders to blame for not adhering to strict laws. Contrary to what many false teachers, behind liberal pulpits teach, capital punishment and a strong military presence, alongside strict, yet fair law enforcement stabilizes a nation. True nationalism, upheld in the proper manner is a key component for a nations long term survival.

Rom 13:5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing

Anyone who has held a government office or even a community leadership role, and I don't care if it is a president or a local sheriff. Or

even a high school principal, they were expected by GOD to operate under integrity and divine establishment laws. We all answer in some form or fashion for what we have done unto others. The roles of leadership are called to a higher standard, the biblical standard is always more stringent for leaders.

Christian parents are given a ministry of being teachers and leaders under the authority of God. You were never called into parenthood to be your child's best friend, that may come much later in life once they fly from the nest into adulthood. Parents, you are responsible for the Christian values that your child absorbs while growing up. The Christian boss on the job, is given a ministry of being organized and capable of managing those under their watch to unify toward the goal of success. The higher the authority you are given the greater the calling for spiritual maturity. No Christian is exempt from leadership skills and having a ministry; Every Bel is responsible for their own soul structure! You are responsible for what goes in and what comes out of that soul, the norms and standards, the ideologies that change and grow inside that soul structure, that GOD so graciously gave you. How you manage your opportunities for evangelism and how you support the promotion of God's word to a lost and dying world. Are you a good steward of the time, talent and treasure God gives you every day? We often get distracted by looking around at family and friends and evaluating their spiritual walk. Yet we never take consistent and deep looks at where we stand in our own Christian-walk. Spiritual police officers, are often the modern-day Pharisees and Sadducees of the church of Jesus Christ. They are good at taking inventory and accounts on others while rarely look into the mirror of SELF! That goes double for the pastors, priests and church leadership who have a tendency toward legalism and becoming the ignition point of the busybodies within the congregation.

Don't tell me words like leadership and ministry do not concern you because, *'you are just part of a congregation'*. That's a lazy attitude that will eventually catch up with you someday. Titus had no idea when he first heard the truth about the Messiah and read certain OT scriptures as a teenager, that he would be cemented into history as a great church leader and pastor-teacher. His curiosity and faith was strong enough, that he stepped up and truly stepped out in a big way! He travelled across the Agena Sea into the Mediterranean Sea. Titus ended up several years later after some difficulties and personal adventure, as a student under the greatest Bible Teacher, the Apostle Paul. We simply do not know if young Titus was there in the crowd,

when our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. Talk about stepping up and out, into a calling for a historic ministry under God, this was incredible. Titus could be a man we knew nothing about, a life of service and comfort under the umbrella of Greek politics, instead of multiple sets of ministries all for the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ! I am certain the number of lives Titus touched and those whom he brought to Christ were probably into the thousands. We do not know what impact and what a dynamic life we can have until we fully embrace the plan of God.

Looking back into the letter from the Apostle Paul to Titus, you will notice the call for leadership handled and portrayed in the right fashion.

Tit 1:9 holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

Tit 1:10 For there are many rebellious people (anypotaktos), empty talkers (mataiologos) and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

These were Jewish scholars who spoke eloquently yet were completely opposed to the apostles teaching. Vanity was at the core of their teaching; this is nothing new under the sun, even within our day and age, we see many who claim to be experts and scholars who oppose accurate Bible teaching. The rebellious ones called anypotaktos, which means a stubborn rebellion that will not accept another opinion other than their own, is very prevalent today in many intellectual circles. The empty talkers, mataiologos, were the ones whose own intellect is their worst enemy. Because they teach on principles not back by BD, yet they sound very wise. It is senseless teaching yet wrapped in great intellect. I would argue many today, within positions of denominational leadership fit the bill for either of these characteristics. The geniuses of the secular and religious movements often aren't too far removed in the arena of arrogance and bluster.

Tit 1:11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of dishonest gain.

The reason many men get into ministry is because they seek approbation, attention or authority and ultimately if you peel back the onion you find a lust for money – GREED!

Tit 1:12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

The Apostle Paul is saying there have been Greek philosophers and teachers that have made these exact statements about their own people. These Greek men had reputations as stubborn, arrogant men with habitual mental attitude sins. It is written in the Greek present tense. This was a norm and standard going back centuries concerning the population of the Greek Islands. Look what the Apostle Paul writes and keep in mind - Titus is Greek.

Tit 1:13 This testimony is true. For this reason reprimand them severely (elegchō apotomōs) so that they may be sound in the faith,

Stubborn arrogance is never broken by secular wisdom. It is only broken by Bible Doctrine washing over the arrogance of a hardened soul. The Apostle Paul is clearly telling Titus to rebuke or scold, elegchō, written in the present, active, imperative of the Greek language. This is written in command form, the imperative mood means it was a serious statement. The present tense, tells us this scolding and rebuking needed to be a consistent attitude that Titus would need to have. Severely, apotomōs, means very sharp or very hard, this is not a gentle reprimand. Titus is told to be like a drill sergeant for these Bels who rebel or find interest in false teaching. The word of God is designed for guidance, spiritual growth, divine knowledge and to rebuke and reprove, which means to discipline the BEL! Like the Apostle Paul told Timothy (2Tim 4:2) The word is taught to correct and rebuke sometimes. Any form of leadership will demand strength and grit from time to time. In fact, the higher the calling, the stronger you will have to become.

Tit 1:14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

Titus was plugged into many different situations by the Apostle Paul. Each new ministry he was placed in demanded strength mixed with compassion. All Bels need to learn to accept the victory with the loss and also the compassion needs to flow with the strength in their lives. In the temporal warfare of this cosmic system there is never a consistent period of victory and relaxation. There are times we fumble and fail and

we need the wake up and shake up in this battle! The road to perfection is only approachable and acceptable, if the Christian on that road recognizes they have flaws, weakness, strength and talents just as everyone else does. Jesus Christ was the only perfect human being, the intelligent and humble Believer accepts this, along with their own limitations. This does not mean we easily give up or accept defeat and mediocracy as our goal. It simply means we learn who we are in Christ and we become comfortable within our own soul in this temporal walk. Striving for greatness has its advantages and disadvantages, it comes down to the level of humility we have. There is a fine line between confidence and cockiness. The CA Bel who wants to be valuable and useful inside the plan of God should become a TITUS style of Christian. This takes a solid journey of learning, growing and moving forward - which means you will fail and succeed, win and lose. You will taste victory and have rest, then adversity and struggles will fall in your path. If you can take the bull by the horns so to speak, and learn, even in the face of adversity or discipline, you will become a Titus in your life.

Rev 3:19 ‘Those whom I love (phileō), I rebuke and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

This speaks to intimacy – personal love. Do not keep dwelling on the loss and failure and don’t dwell too long in the glow of victory! Keep a sight just a few steps ahead and stay hungry for God. It may be testing or discipline, or attacks, but you cannot dwell in failure and doubt and expect forward progress. Titus was being called to tap into his masculine side and really dig into the disciplinary aspect of being a pastor-teacher. Not only was he going to have to face the attack of false teachers and doctrines of demons, he would have to deal with the Greek men who were combative and stubborn. Getting to this point, does not happen overnight so you learn to start out small in your spiritual challenges and tests. Most of our greatest victories come after we have repetitively stayed focused in one area for a period of time. Learn to be faithful in the little things and GOD will build upon that.

Luke 16:10 “The one who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much; and the one who is unrighteous in a very little thing is also unrighteous in much. 11“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true wealth to you?

This holds true for your grocery budget as much as it holds true with your time, talent and treasure you expend in the plan of God for your life. God recognizes our little achievements done in the power of the HS that are motivated and backed by BD. This is why you often hear a pastor teach about - the right thing done in the right way.

Luke 19:16 “The first slave appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ 17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave; since you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to have authority over ten cities.’

The slave who hid the coin in his handkerchief because he was afraid had that taken away in the end. Now the story is related to salvation and those who grow up to apply BD but the concept itself holds true for what I am touching in this lesson. People get so caught up in not failing and the big picture, that they never truly take the time to make the first steps and preparation that will later lead to greater things. It is the same story we see at the beginning of the New Year, when everyone goes on a crash diet and gets a new gym membership. Only to approach the month of April and all the motivation and excitement has faded and the gym empties out as the diet slips into oblivion. Sometimes, the best changes we make that are truly lasting, begin with a few committed steps in the right direction. Rarely is there Success found in large, overwhelming commitments that become extremely daunting to fulfill. God doesn't expect sinless perfection and a victory around every corner. HE does expect responsibility and growth to increase as we grow closer toward HIM. The Bel who can organize their gas and grocery money every week, is a Bel who is respecting what God has blessed them with. That type of Bel will learn to do the same with all their time, talent and treasure related to their Christian walk. This is the type of Bel that places several hours aside every week to study the word of God. This is the type of Bel that realizes applying BD is a key to gaining spiritual wisdom and discernment. It becomes a series of small building blocks that lead to healthy, godly habits in the future. This leads to greater and greater blessings and opportunities.

This reminds me of one of several men who came into the church I was ordained at. It was under Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministry, Grace Bible Church of Somerset, Massachusetts that I studied and became a serious follower of Christ. Several men had come and gone over the years and

they all laid claim to having great spiritual gifts, such as pastor-teachers or evangelists. During my time under the ministry, about 7 men did get ordained, myself included, that was during nearly a 30-year span of time. Several men popped in and out of the church and never amounted to anything as far as church leadership. Yet many of them claimed to have a gift, several were highly educated and intimately acquainted with scripture. One story really sums it all up, it revolves around one man who had been at the church for less than two years. He was certain of his calling to be a teacher and even began a small, home study group and some folks were impressed by his skill set. Unfortunately for this man, the authority of the church, Pastor Bob, was not moved easily to ordain anyone. This man began to insist on his gift and had spoken to congregation members, more specifically, some of the deacons, of which I was newly ordained as a deacon. This went on for a few months with several people approaching church leadership and even a private conversation between Pastor Bob and this man. As a deacon and at that point, I was becoming an assistant, very close to Pastor Bob. I was told to just ignore any further requests as this man was told to sit, learn and wait on God's timing. Long story short, this man, slowly peeled away from attendance and after about two more months he was only visible in the church on Sunday mornings. One Sunday he approached me and asked for a meeting with Pastor Bob concerning the written exam and certain qualifications needed for the office of pastor-teacher. Pastor Bob waited another Sunday and had me go out before service and speak to this man. Explaining the pastor had an important meeting he wanted this man to attend with some deacons after service. This man was very excited and immediately after Sunday service, he came into the back office where, at that time Pastor Bob was seated with two deacons, myself being one of them. This man was told to wait as Pastor Bob went over church business and building maintenance for about 15 minutes. Finally, Pastor Bob looked up at the man standing in the doorway and said I have a leadership role I need you to fulfill. This man jumped at the chance, then he was told we needed an usher to clean table tops and break down certain tables for weekly events and Bible studies. This was a cleaning position and he would need to fill this ever Sunday after service. Needless to say, this man made up an excuse as to why he was unable to fill the roll consistently. I never saw this man again after that Sunday afternoon. The point being with true humility you will be in a position for GOD to teach you and use

you. It may not be exactly what you thought and over time it may change, or perhaps even become what you initially wanted it to be at first.

If you are not willing to make the small commitments and take the smaller measured steps, it is often a sign you will not be prepared for the larger more prominent positions. Great athletes, powerful leaders or pastors and experts in any field, it is never a 50-meter dash into that role. Neither is there a quick fix or magic pill or powder for a healthy body. David vs Goliath, was a shining example of what it means to be prepared and humble when the moment does arise. David loved the Lord and grew up spiritually at a very young age. David also took care of the sheep business for his family, this occurred many years prior to standing in front of the nine foot, Nephilim, who was screaming for a battle. David spent years walking difficult terrain while defending the flock against wolves, bears and even lions. He was physically and mentally prepared over time and had reached an expert status with the slingshot, by the time he faced Goliath. God honored HIS man David, because David had spent years learning and toiling, as well as preparing for whatever GOD was going to call him to do. More often than not the path of least resistance, eventually leads to a path of weakness and doubts.

CHAPTER FOUR



GROWING INTO YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

There are those who are born with certain traits or personality qualities that may make them better leaders than others. Yet it is through GOD we can do all things, not in our flesh but in the SPIRIT, applying HIS word. Every Christian is called to become a leader amongst their own circle of family and friends. That starts with becoming mature within your soul structure first. Learn to lead your own spiritual life and eventually you will touch many around you. That is how we combat evil and that is how the Bel makes a difference in this lost and dying world.

Tit 1:13 This testimony is true. For this reason reprimand them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

Tit 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Tit 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

According to the Apostle Paul, church leaders must live godly lifestyles, to be good husbands who have their house in order with children who are

also Christians, and to be both generous and hospitable. They must not only teach sound doctrine but also oppose false teaching. To be prepared to correct mistakes being made by others under their authority, as well as be accountable and academically honest with themselves. Titus is being called to do this in several churches or small groups on the island of Crete. This was not an easy task. If you are going to successfully touch the lives of others around you (Bels or Unbel) this takes solid leadership skills. Every Bel needs to accept challenges and discipline with humility and application of BD. Compassion blended with strength, fierce honesty, blended with caution, integrity mixed with a keen self-awareness, a sense of humor and a hunger to achieve spiritual maturity are all part of the recipe. These qualities are blended and a part of the fruit of the Spirit which will eventually begin to manifest in the positive Believers life. The KEY term is – a positive Believer. Which really points us to Titus 1:5;

Tit 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Tit 1:15 – The pure- is related to a Bel walking in the new nature. Pure related to godliness (spiritual maturity). The mind (nous) and their conscience (syneidēsis) are defiled. The intellectual faculty, the understanding center or seat of knowledge, also, the portion of the soul for norms and standards. Both of these point to the soul structure and your conscience, is the seat of your norms and standards. Your morality, good or bad decisions all come from the conscience. That which passes through the nous (mind), your right lobe of your brain, matters. Because it is then tossed between the left and right lobe of your brain, until you either digest it or neglect it. The left side of the brain filters it in and eventually it will become metabolized, accepted by the right lobe as firm knowledge. That is what will determine your norms and standards, which sets the stage for ideologies, your mind is where you gather knowledge. This is truly who you are, not a decaying body, that is simply a vessel. As you can see from Titus 1:15 our soul structure can be compromised and corrupted. There is an old saying, that the man who thinks and processes information the same way at 40 years old, as he did at 20 years old, has wasted twenty years of his life.

Many people, including Christians, lay claim to know God, they know the things of God, or they have a real relationship with GOD. They usually

say things like – ‘*yeah I know about Jesus. I have my own relationship with God*’, the majority have no real depth of knowledge concerning the mind of Christ (BD). The Apostle Paul is teaching Titus that he will have to deal with Bels and other teachers, or so-called leaders, who may be born again, but have no idea about the Christian way of life.

Tit 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

The word for “profess” is a present, active indicative – *homologeō*. The word means to confess, to cite, to specify. It means, to specify or make a public point about something. It is also used elsewhere to point out the confession of sin after salvation (1Jhn 1:9 – to confess our sin). The call of GOD for the Bel after salvation is to produce divine good instead of human good (flesh). The word for “profess” – is used to confess, to cite, to specify, nothing to do with emotional guilt, simply a call of personal responsibility. The word we use as specify is the best fit here. These people actually say they know God and they do. The word for “know” here actually means that they know intimately, that they do have a relationship with God. So, we are talking about Believers. Yet it tells us, “but in works they deny Him” — which means Christian production. Every Bel is called to produce some divine works throughout their life. In their divine good production, they deny Him because they simply do not produce divine good. It all begins with the two power options; filled with God the HS and the consistent intake of the WORD. Once you are born again you are designed to produce divine good. So, it tells us, “but in production they deny or renounce or contradict Him.” “Him” is not found in the original language; they simply contradict their own profession. They are not contradicting or denying God, it points back to their own lifestyle, personal choices are made which deny GOD, the meaning is to contradict yourself. They contradict their own lifestyle and their chosen profession. They do know God, in only the sense that they are saved, but they have no production.

A large portion of popular Christianity is saved with no real intimacy or divine knowledge of the LORD. They base their relationship with God on false teaching and emotions. This means simply, that the contradiction will exist at any time when the Believer is not accurately handling the Word and walking in the new nature habitually. Every Bel under the right training and right attitude, will come into a slow and consistent, change

of heart which includes norms and standards and a higher level of Biblical understanding. There are several types of Bels, actually, in the book of Revelation in chapter one, it highlights the seven churches. Those seven churches display the different types of Bels, it is called a typology. Two types are the ones highlighted here in the false teachers and arrogant Bels in Crete. Someone like Titus represents the mature Bel who has the leadership skills to deal with this situation. The ones the Apostle Paul was pointing out, have no divine production. Their production contradicts their acknowledgement of God. Instead, their production is said to be, detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. Which means “detestable” & “disobedient” from the standpoint of God’s plan and God’s grace. This is what living in emotions and mental attitude sins will do to the Believer. The Amplified Bible has a nice definition related to the original translation of this scripture;

Titus 1:16 (amp) They profess to know God- to recognize, perceive and be acquainted with Him – but deny and disown and renounce Him by what they do; they are detestable and loathsome unbelieving and disobedient and disloyal and rebellious, and (they are) unfit and worthless for good work (deed or enterprise) of any kind.

This is what the Apostle Paul is handing over to Titus, teachers and men that lived up to this type of a description. The Bel can be unbelieving, in the sense that they will not accept the accuracy of the word after salvation. They reject grace and they reject the power of God the Holy Spirit. They embrace religion or ritual and emphasize works programs or even a ‘new age’ attitude. Many Christians, live their Christian-walk in the Cherry field, picking what suits them best. The new age movement accepts pretty much everything the cosmic system promotes. They creatively try and blend Biblical principles into every type of lifestyle and cosmic ideology. The popular attitude is that Jesus loves everyone, therefore out of HIS love any lifestyle and ideology is acceptable. This is the satanic trickery of lies woven with some truth to deceive the masses. Of course, Jesus is LOVE, yet He is GOD, meaning HE can never fellowship with sin and evil. HE can never lie and the whole of the Bible points us to specific, wicked ideologies and evil lifestyles and warns against them. GOD can never ignore HIS own nature, His essence, which also encompasses HIS divine veracity, justice and righteousness, along with several other important attributes. God so

loved the world (Jhn 3:16), yet the whole world is not saved, because there is a justice and righteous standard that must be met. The truth of BD is that it is not open to emotional waves and cosmic interpretation. The Bible, when studied properly, either changes you and you fit into the plan of God. Or you walk through the cosmic cherry field, and pick what you like. Then find creative ways to fit the Bible into your lifestyle.

Often it is easier to train up a new Christian who has had no religious background or set of legalistic standards, then it is to awaken a Bel who is already set in their beliefs. Teaching true grace is very challenging for not only the religious, dogma crowd but for anyone! Because the OSN rejects the things of GOD. God's grace is completely void of anything humanity can produce. As we look deeper into Titus chapter two, let us realize that Titus is being set amongst his fellow country-men in familiar territory, yet the challenge is still very steep. Titus was like the gunslinger in the old west, the one you hired to go clean up the corrupt town. It may come about in your Christian-walk, that God will begin to use your Christian leadership skills to be the problem solver and the peace-maker among other Bels. Maybe it will be family members or close friends, it may be in a new environment with strangers so you have to be prepared. You, as a growing Christian, need to learn certain skills and be able to teach those skills which is application of BD. No one can learn or grow if they are already full of lies, nonsense or emotions. Having the arrogance of a full cup of knowledge, leaves little or no room for growth. You have to come to God with a truly open heart and open mind, then get serious with the study of HIS word. Let us close this chapter and open the next with a few interesting quotes from a very unlikely philosopher who happened to be one of my childhood hero's;

“Empty your mind, be formless. Shapeless, like water. If you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup. You put water into a bottle and it becomes the bottle. You put it in a teapot, it becomes the teapot. Now, water can flow or it can crash. Be water, my friend.”

Bruce Lee

In the spiritual realm you have to empty out what you think you know about God and become open to what a true Bible study and the filling power of God the HS will teach you. You cannot fill up a cup that already has liquid in it! Remember this as well, no matter what God places in front of you, no matter what challenge pops up, if you are doing the best you can

inside the plan of GOD, just assume it is a learning, growing experience and a test to push you toward SM;

“Don’t fear failure. — Not failure, but low aim, is the crime. In great attempts it is glorious even to fail.”

“Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.”

Bruce Lee

Titus like all other Bels in Biblical history had failures and weakness. The issue is never one of sinless perfection, the issue is one of endurance and integrity. Endurance means you stay the course, when you fall, you fall forward, dust off and keep moving. Integrity that comes from God, means you apply BD to your life to the best of your ability. You are a person who seeks to live in truth and honor even when you are challenged or tempted in another area.

Phl 3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

Lam 3:21 I recall this to my mind, Therefore I wait. 22 The LORD’S acts of mercy indeed do not end, For His compassions do not fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I wait for Him.” 25 The LORD is good to those who await Him, To the person who seeks Him.

CHAPTER FIVE



THE MARCH FORWARD INTO MATURITY

As we open up in Titus chapter two, we now begin to see the mission Titus is being sent on, we are seeing the new ministry in the Christian-walk for Titus. The title of pastor-teacher, means you have to go forward and teach where GOD leads you to teach and teach who GOD puts in front of you. At this historic point the apostles still held the highest authority under the guidance of TLJC. After the completed canon of scripture, the pastor became the sole authority over his own ministry and he must answer directly to the filling power of God the HS. The Apostle Paul is still the head over Titus as a pastor-teacher.

Tit 2:1 But as for you, proclaim the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

Titus chapter two, opens with the marching orders for Titus, here is what your new ministry will need to focus on, is the command. All Christians have a general plan of GOD to follow and then as time goes on, a personal sense of destiny for their personal, continued walk with God.

Tit 2:2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

Tit 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

Tit 2:4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Part of your leadership role as a Bel who is reaching toward maturity is to guide others and lay down examples for new Christians. The mature Christian not only evangelizes in this lost and dying world, they become salt and light to everyone. This also means, showing Believers who follow false doctrine the right pathway toward the truth.

Tit 2:5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

Tit 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

What is qualified as sound doctrine is important to understand. Many Bels follow false teaching often related to doctrines of demons. Look at Titus 2:1 - Sound doctrine- *hygiainō didaskalia* – That which brings health and that which is full or whole, related to the teaching or instruction of the Master. This term points to a full concept of health or a whole of the truth. Doctrine (*didaskalia*), means deep principles of instruction from the master. The Greek root word *didaskalos*, meant the expert instructor, the doctor, the leader or the master. In this case the Master instructor is the WORD, The Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul is telling Titus to stay in the framework of truth. He is to emphasize BD and not get distracted by the arrogance or stubbornness of a few men or the false teaching of others. This becomes the stumbling block for most Bels, what others are doing, cosmicdistractions and counterfeits. Satan loves to use the guilt or shame from sin and failures to derail Bels. He has success when we worry what others will think. Satan has success when we get anxious over what the cosmic system will place in front of us. If only we would step out in faith and stop the lies from tripping us up. The focus on problems or failure ensures the lack of energy and confidence to go forward into solutions and victory. If your reliance is upon God's power and God's word, who cares what others think and what the cosmic system might throw at you! The greater question in all that is, what are you trusting in? Where is your faith,

if it doesn't lay within the mind of Christ, then where? You will remain frozen in your growth if you don't occasionally step out in faith and you can't step out in faith if you don't know what you stand for. If BD is your foundation you can stand firm and step out in faith.

In Titus 2:2 and 2:3, we see a call out for older Christians, Older men (*presbytēs*) – a man of age, not necessarily old, yet definitely not too young. It often was used for a seasoned man (experienced) or an ambassador. Older women (*presbytis*) – a woman who has experience in life, not necessarily elderly. These terms did not always get used to highlight elderly by our standard today. It meant a man or woman with life experience. A young man that is 21 or 22 years old, can have greater skills and qualities related to leadership more so than a man at the age of 50 years old, who has lived an undisciplined lifestyle. Same goes for the ladies, age will not always be a deciding factor if the person has maturity of the soul. They live in Biblical norms and standards and follow the word of God for their guidance, that is imperative for Christian leadership. Titus was to develop churches with men and women who have leadership skills or at least a basic foundation of these skills. These types of skills become a part of your personality over time, once God is allowed to enter your life through HIS word and the power of the HS, your skill set in leadership will increase. Notice in Titus 2 verse 2, we see a specific list which determines if someone is ready for leadership.

Titus 2:2- *temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.*

Mental stability, relaxed mental attitude, someone who lives a life centered in Christ will have integrity. Impersonal, unconditional love and the endurance to go the distance. Temperate in the original context meant having a sober and clear mind. Cloudy or mixed-up judgment means poor decisions making skills. Balance in mind and spirit go a long way in good decision-making skills. In fact, dignified and self-control in its original Greek context, both point to an honorable spirit and soundness of mind and spirit, not an emotional trainwreck. These are some of the qualities that Titus displayed and the Apostle Paul wanted him to find men who would be walking in the same path. Ladies can learn from this as well, those who operate from spiritual maturity not involved in the drama and gossip. Nor are they a party-girl, they have a calm assurance and a level head.

Titus 2:3 - *reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good*

The Bible never tells you not to have a drink, it warns against addiction and drunkenness. Just as it is not money that is a root of all evil, it is the LOVE of money, the lust of greed that is the evil root! The Greek adjective for *reverent* is *hieroprepēs* (Titus 2:3), which points to spiritual maturity, one of the root words in the Greek, means holiness. This is related to godliness as we know it, not sinless perfection. What the Apostle Paul is teaching Titus is to keep his eye open for Bels who have begun to display the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

Gal 5:22 But *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

You can teach SM that leads to the fruit of the Spirit, but you cannot force a person to have the fruit of the Spirit active in their life. Spiritual growth unlocks the fruit of the Spirit which is deeply entrenched into that new nature within you. The fruit of the Spirit is the essence of the humanity of Jesus Christ. These are common traits that make up the nature of the Trinity. In the sense of the humanity of Christ, this is as close to God's nature as we get in the temporal. Never forget we are all considered witnesses for heaven here on earth. We are one of the three witnesses for the plan of GOD against the lies of the Angelic rebellion. The third witness is Christian marriage. This is why the Apostle Paul emphasizes what he does in Titus 2 verse 4;

Tit 2:4 so that *they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,*

The ladies with doctrine, can lift up and guide the new brides and soon to be brides, in the ways of having a successful Christian marriage (Divine Institution #2), therefore becoming a valid 3rd witness in the Angelic Conflict.

One of the main reasons America has crumbled into a full-blown playground for Satan and his fallen angels are because, the 4 Divine establishments have been under assault and Christians have failed to

uphold those institutions. Why do the majority of Christians blame Unbels and Satan for all the problems, when the Bible tells us, as plain as daylight, that we are in a spiritual warfare? Even though there is great truth in the statement that - *satanic evil and Unbels are destroying the principles of God.* There is also truth in the statement that lazy Christians and false doctrines are the cause of a lot of the chaos and evil which leads to the slow destruction of true Christianity. Now take a deep breath, as we are about to touch on some subject matter that makes some folks uncomfortable. Remember there is a difference between condemnation and HS conviction! Believers need to be of a sober mind, meaning thinking with a balanced and organized perspective. Not an ideology from the devil's world or from human viewpoint.

Tit 2:5 to be *sensible (sophron)*, *pure (hagnos)*, *workers at home*, *kind*, *being subject to their own husbands*, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

This points to a lady of discretion who is not carried away by lust patterns. It speaks to a stability that a family can be built upon – a type of foundation in her soul. Sensible (*sophron*) pointing out a sobriety of soul, to be clear minded. This is the opposite of fumbling around in a funk and allowing emotions to dictate decisions. The word *hagnos*, is from the root word where we get the term HOLY from. It means a godly type of purity; it is not sinless perfection. It means you regard your mind and body as one spiritual being belonging to the LORD. It is stability rooted in BD. These description for a bride, are about a stabilized manner. Again, it is the idea of sanity, stability and it all comes from accurate doctrine in the soul. We are dealing with Christians and therefore, we are dealing with Bible doctrine in the right lobe, norms and standards placed there, from positive decisions about God's knowledge. Parents have a great opportunity to instill norms and standards which line up with the Word of God into the conscience of their children. This will in turn dictate ideologies they eventually formulate. This is why Christian marriage is so important! You bring up the next generation of Christians and you also live as an example and witness in spiritual warfare. Words like sanity or stability, discretion and accountability bring forth a certain virtue in a woman, or even a man. Sanity or stability cannot coexist with mental attitude sins, it cannot coexist with drug addiction, it cannot coexist with a person who is ruled by

lust patterns or emotions. This type of stability and sanity has to be taught. To be pure, holy or “chaste” - means to be pure in thought and action. To refrain from sexual relationships until marriage is the greatest advice you can receive as a teenager or even an adult who is divorced. It means really to avoid premarital sex. The reminder is that God has a right man for you ladies and God has a right lady for you men - wait on him! Anyone else is just taking it for a test ride. Who knows what kind of long-term damage that leads too. We all fail in areas within our lust patterns, it is one of the weakest areas and most highlighted failures in the Bible. especially the men within scripture, sexual lust patterns. Sadly, in our day and age, ladies now act like men and men act like ladies.

Most of us have been there and failed miserably whether it was last week or twenty years ago. Most people do not wait for marriage to begin a sexual relationship. I don't care if it is adultery, pornography, the free-for all party life style, flirtatiousness or a wandering eye, as well as secret desires and intimate friendships with the opposite sex that you toy around with, it all leaves a mark. It all slashes and gashes at your soul structure. It can leave you with scar tissue and confusion related to the relationship of marriage. From God's divine perspective in marriage, adultery causes scar tissue of the soul (Proverbs 6:32, Ephesians 4:19).

Pro 6:32 One who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself commits it. 33 He will find wounds (neḡa') and disgrace, And his shame will not be removed.

The result of sexual escapades outside of marriage is self-induced misery and pain. Wounds is the word used in Proverbs 6:32, the Hebrew term for a disease or a plague is neḡa . It is written in a spiritual sense because it is nearly impossible to put that back together again in a marriage. In fact, there is a slim set of circumstances for God allowing divorce and adultery is one. The mind and thought process within adultery destroys trust and many people cannot recover and forgive properly. It brings forth a whole host of mental and even physical problems. One of the reasons our world seems so corrupt and wickedness is around every corner, is because Satan has successfully attacked Christian marriage.

Eph 4:17 So I say this, and affirm in the Lord, that you are to no longer walk just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their minds, 18 being

darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

If we habitually walk in the ways of the world and accept Satan's counterfeits we allow misery and darkness to occupy our soul structure. We are called to walk by the Spirit, which means that which you digest and that which you accept and that which you apply to your daily life - matters!

Eph 4:19 and they, having become callous (apalgeō), have given themselves up to indecent behavior for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Receiving that which the cosmic system tempts us with, leads to more emotional and physical unhappiness. Having become callous (*apalgeō*), is a reference to a high level of frustration. Really this means frustration, implacability, never finding a peace or comfort. They are never satisfied and they begin to get more difficult or hard-hearted which leads to less control over emotions like bitterness and anger. This is the signs of a person on a frantic search for happiness, which always brings forth self-induced misery. You begin to destroy not only your capacity for blessings but physically and emotionally you are welcoming in misery. This is not a book focused on marriage, yet I can tell you, marriage is not a party bus, it is a two-seater. Marriage was designed for two people, two Bels who honor and respect the LORD! This means that promiscuous activity to compensate sexual frustration is definitely out; it is not in the grand design of the plan of GOD. Testing out different partners, like some type of sexual buffet only damages the soul for future compatibility. You are programmed for one person, God set the standard in the original Garden. The more you dabble in Satan's counterfeits the more your mind and body will reject the right man and right woman principle under God's divine protocol. If there is past failure in these areas the only corrective medicine you have, is a complete change of heart and then a crash course of BD and deeper intimacy with the LORD. Repent and make the correct mental and physical adjustments. It doesn't matter about your past failures and the damage brought into your life. You have an opportunity to wash yourself clean and really remove some of the damage and bring yourself back to a place where you can have great capacity for blessings in marriage. We can always turn a curse into a blessing yet we have to come to grips with the damage we have caused because some of it

may remain. Depending upon the depth of the damage we bring into our life, is that which determines the journey back toward God. You have to remove all the worldly garbage from your life and get alone with God for a long period of time, so that a curse can be turned into a blessing over time.

Every Bel committed to marriage must focus on that divine institute as a gift from GOD that they develop and nurture which can be a potential witness for God. A marriage in disarray leads to a Believer in disarray. There is very little attention a Christian can give to other ministries or callings, if life at home is saturated with distractions and confusion. The Apostle Paul is teaching Titus that both men and women in Christian marriage need to have that divine institution in order, for all other aspects of their Christian-walk to bring forth fruit. Some Bels will treat strangers out in the cosmic system with more honor and integrity than their own spouse. The highest form of honor and integrity in Christian marriage is that the husband and wife do their best to operate within the framework of GOD's divine standards for marriage.

Titus 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

Tit 2:4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Tit 2:5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

Many Christians are called to be examples for new Bels and younger Bels within their periphery. As you grow in God's plan you become an example for others.

Tit 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

This means having your head squarely screwed upon your shoulders. It means to be someone who can calmly assess every situation that unfolds in front of them. A person of sound mind and good character.

Tit 2:7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine (didaskalia), dignified,

The original root word points to a Master teacher, a highly respected instructor, The professor or doctor, this means Jesus Christ. The word doctrine is the Greek noun– didaskalia, meaning a master of instruction and precepts. Jesus Christ and the WORD of God are inseparable. The WORD is the mind of Christ! Your master instructor and precepts that guide your life are the WORD, Bible Doctrine. Purity of BD – speaks to accuracy in handling the word.

Tit 2:8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

You shut ignorant people down by being accurate in BD, applying knowledge from BD which becomes the wisdom of your life. You cannot love the Lord Jesus Christ unless you love the WORD itself. The word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

Tit 2:9 Urge slaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be pleasing, not argumentative,

Tit 2:10 not stealing, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

Anytime we note slaves and masters in this type of context within scripture, it is a call to recognize authority; employer over employee, parent over child, pastor over congregation and so forth. The historical context applies today within the realm of the doctrine of authority and the chain of command. Authority is your friend. When you learn that God's plan dictates a chain of command and that authority needs its proper recognition; your life has one less knot to untangle. Bucking against authority is always a recipe for misery and entanglement of emotions and reaping what we sow. Challenging authority is like challenging GOD. The fact is, unless you are being pressed toward sin and evil by that authority, you should submit to it. We must obey God rather than men. Without spiritual discernment your emotions may get the best of you in understanding how to handle authority. You have to have a clear call that the authority is operating in evil or sin and you are making a choice for God, not based in emotional bitterness or baseless assumptions. If authority hurt your feelings or you disagree with the authority's approach and method, it is never an excuse to rebel. Your

opportunity for leadership is based upon how you operate under authority. Often, even how you handle unjust authority is a test, it is God's way of preparing you for something greater. Remember something, your inner character and integrity show up once the pressure is on.

Let me tell you a personal story in closing this chapter out. As a young child I taught my son basic martial arts skills and as he grew into sports he became interested in boxing. This was a sport I dabbled in as well and my grandfather (on my father's side) spent several years as a professional fighter, so this sparked his interest. Before my son graduated high school I had spent time training him at a local boxing gym between 2002 - 2003. There was a sign over this antiquesoda machine at Rhode Island Boxing Gym, that I remember very well. Actual two signs at that boxing gym that caught my eye when I was training my son back then. The old soda machine was broken, you just had to pull the side door and tug on a bottle and a soda would pop out. There was an old rusted, coffee can on top to put a dollar in for payment of a soda. The sign above it read - Character is what you do when no one is looking. In the dingy, old locker room where all the equipment was stored, under no lock or key, it had a sign - Integrity is doing the right thing even when everyone else is doing the wrong thing. God pays attention to the details my friends. Those two signs always reminded me that real spiritual growth means character and integrity are driving factors in your life. Also, even when we try to sneak around authority and rules, GOD sees everything. How you handle authority says a lot about your character and integrity.

CHAPTER SIX



KEEP LOOKING FOR THE BLESSED HOPE AHEAD

One the greatest positions of strength we put ourselves into is recognition of the abundant Grace Plan of God and within that, our eternal security. If you truly want to elevate your spiritual growth and reach levels of security in your leadership skills within this chaotic world, keep your eyes on the prize! Always reassuring yourself, you are a child of God, you are in union with Christ. You are inseparable from God and positionally, you are in victory lane because Jesus won the battle already.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people,

Jesus Christ and HIS work on the cross scream to all of us that God's grace is abundantly working in fallen mankind's favor. That love, mercy and grace poured upon fallen man is enough for us to know HE is working for us. HE has put forth all that we need for our success in the temporal because He has secured the eternal for us on that cross.

Tit 2:12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and in a godly manner in the present age,

This is not a warning about sinless perfection, but a call to walk habitually in the new nature moving ever closer to Christ.

Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

Looking – is in a Greek, present tense, we are told to keep on looking forward. The blessed hope of the rapture around the next corner and the glory, tells us of the 1,000 years of perfection on earth. Are you a Bel who understands the CA you live in and the coming rapture of the church? Is that part of the happiness and strength that drives you? After that, the Millennium reign of Christ will be a time that winner Bels will rule cities and populations in resurrected glory. Living godly lives in a hostile world we call the cosmic system, is the battle in the temporal we are called to fight in, right now! Godly – *eusebōs*, the Greek noun, connotes duty and responsibility of the royal priesthood to God under HIS grace plan for CA Bels. It is not a demand for sinless perfection but a call to duty in Spiritual Maturity. Godly Bels are not hindered by habitual sin patterns and emotional waves, they spend the majority of their time studying and applying BD with the power of God the HS. Godly (*eusebōs*) or Godliness, is a term for maturity, it is a Bel who is living a life that displays Christ is increasing and their flesh is decreasing. The fruit of the Spirit becomes apparent in this Bels life. So, godliness is a direct result of the two power options hitting a peak within your life, the filling power of God the HS and BD circulating in the soul structure. That determines a godly life.

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds.

We were saved and delivered from the OSN and in the process rescued from everlasting condemnation. Spiritual maturity is achieved within a serious journey into the WORD, filled by God the Holy Spirit (two power options). We are only purified because of the person and work of TLJC. It is HIS nature that is pure righteousness and it is our union with HIM that enables us to enter heaven.

Tit 2:15 These things *speak (laleō)* and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. No one is to disregard you.

The Apostle Paul is commanding that Titus, focus on accurately handling the Word, this is written in a Greek present tense, active voice and imperative mood. This simply means to communicate it in an objective, positive way. Repetitively and remain strong in teaching, this is a command. The word speak (*laleō*), points to the accuracy and continued repetition of teaching BD. To exhort (*parakaleō*), has two meanings; one points to comfort or encouragement and the other aspect points to strict teaching or instruction with warnings. To rebuke or reprove (*elegchō*), speaks to a serious reprimand and correction in the form of strict chastisement, a rebuke, sometimes used to point out punishment. One of the root words used for exhort (*parakaleō*), comes from the one of the titles for God the Holy Spirit, the HELPER, one who guides us and walks alongside us. The Apostle Paul reminds Titus of his calling; telling him that your authority was established by GOD, therefore, do not allow weakness or emotions to dictate the strength of your leadership and teaching abilities.

Bels need to grow toward maturity and find their strength and conviction in that which God has called them to do! Whether you are a Christian parent, or a pastor or prep school teacher (whatever the calling and ministry), never allow outside influence and cosmic viewpoint to dictate what GOD is calling you to do. Weak people often use an array of manipulative tactics to try and control the strong. They will use outrage, shame, guilt and several forms of emotional nonsense and cosmic trickery to manipulate a strong Bel into a corner.

Act 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

Whether you have to make a stand against corrupt authority or outside forces trying to manipulate you, there must be BD that you stand in. If you do not have the truth of GOD behind you, there may be a form of discipline or self-induced misery on the horizon for you. The apostles were called by GOD to preach the word, speak the gospel everywhere, to establish the early church and complete the Bible. TLJC commissioned these men for this exact mission and the fact that the Jewish or even the Roman leadership, attacked them and discredited them didn't matter. The apostles kept on teaching and

training the early church leaders, yet they did so without seeking physical conflict at every turn. They remained law abiding citizens but would not stop what our LORD had commissioned them to do. Strength and conviction mean you trust God for the results and do not allow emotions and outside opinions to sway you. If your foundation remains in BD and the filling power of the Holy Spirit you will remain firm. Parents need to understand this concept and follow through with BD and discipline in the household. School teachers, law enforcement, political leaders and the list goes on and on, all need to pay heed to this. The question is, are you following the principles of the Bible you claim to believe, or are you a victim of the popular opinion of the day? Stop placating to other people's opinions, stop allowing pressure from popular opinion, social justice or political correctness to dictate your life and especially your walk with GOD! As a Christian leader in family, business or whatever ministry God calls you into you cannot be fearful of being a strong authority figure. Strength in leadership is not harsh or aggressive, it is a strong stance within protocol and that which you believe GOD has shown you. This takes maturity and an organized life to be prepared and apply skillful leadership.

Titus was set up as pastor-teacher and head organizer over several groups or churches in Greece. The men had a reputation for arrogance and defiance against any man who they deemed unworthy by their standards. Titus became known as a problem-solver and peacemaker, yet it wasn't because he was mild mannered and a push over. The majority of the Greek men he was dealing with were verbally and physically combative. The Apostles Paul's instructions were very firm, and a *no non-sense* approach was what was being called for. Men who are concerned with popularity contests and looking good in front of others, have no business in any role of leadership. One of the great failures in the Christian household is that parents do not run the household. Either the kids do or the popular advice of the day, such as what a Dr. Phil or Oprah suggest, run that household. God has called us into strength and courageous steps following HIS word.

Josh 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified nor dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

When you are sure the calling or the ministry is from GOD, HE desires for you to boldly step up and step out! Do not let emotions or cosmic

viewpoint cause you to tremble and stall out before you step out in HIS plan. Do not do anything from your flesh, your reliance is upon your new nature not the deception and emotions of the OSN.

Phl 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Jer 29:11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

If you truly believe the calling is from GOD and the foundation in which you stand is from BD then you can rest assured HE is working in your favor. That type of confidence and boldness are rooted in truth.

2Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Your boldness and confidence to step up and step out is reliant upon what is within your soul. You want to be a better parent, get serious with Bible Doctrine. You want to be a better spouse or a better business owner, Get serious with BD. You want to step out in a ministry that you feel God the HS is leading you on? Get serious with BD! Becoming the person God called you to be is available, if you get serious with the mind of Christ (BD).

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Whenever your spiritual walk gets serious, especially when GOD calls you out to do something specific. The kingdom of darkness will look for opportunities to attack. The Greek present tense (Eph 6:10), tells us keep on being strong, keep on doing this habitually. It is also in the imperative mood, to be strong, which means a serious command. Verse 11 begins in the imperative mood as well, the command is a serious statement carrying into the order, PUT ON something! The full armor, is the Greek noun, *panoplia*, this means a complete outfit, all of it, not just a few pieces! This is important to understand, because during times of growth and victory in God's plan, Satan and his army look for the chink in the armor. They seek the opening where they can strike. Remember men if Satan can't get to

you, he will go after your wife or someone close to you. The same principle applies to the ladies; if Satan and his army can't get you, they will go after your husband or your loved ones. If you have a weak area and guess what? We all do, usually, several if we are being honest. Then the Kingdom of Darkness will attempt to test their attack on those areas. Never forget your enemy is a supernatural army of demonic beings. We are playing chess not checkers folks!

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but *against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

This points to rulers in leadership and positions of power. It also highlights a spiritual element (unseen) which you can never ignore! This means, there is a rank-and-file set of military demonic forces. Satan and his army have a military style organization. RULERS (top rank fallen angels), POWER (would be lower level officers) and WORLD FORCES (foot soldiers and the human aspect of possession). The original language reads as; blood and flesh - is the order we are to not get drawn into focusing on. The Blood of Christ, in theology points to the saving work of TLJC on the cross (Believers). The flesh points us to the OSN, meaning Unbels and Bels walking in their flesh. In other words, stop looking at the human aspect of everything all the time, something supernatural and spiritual is at work. When a Bel can learn to understand, that we all struggle with the OSN. And that most Unbels, though they may be arrogant, are nothing more than pawns of Satan in a much larger game than we see on the surface. You have less of a battle with your own, hyper sensitivity issue (subjective) and learn to be more objective. Think about this ministry Titus was called into at this point of history we are studying. Titus is called to basically go back into his hometown and become a spiritual leader at a very high level. He was not only called to operate in the office of pastor-teacher, he was directly left in charge by an apostle to set up several churches and in doing so, ordain good men of God as leaders.

Hyper sensitivity (subjective attitude) is a guarantee your feelings will always be hurt. Titus would have had a verbal and physical confrontation every day if he was overly sensitive or subjective. You develop thicker skin as you grow up spiritually, recognizing your own failures and sins while knowing, GOD has taken care of the issue of the OSN, why should you

dwell on your own or anyone else's? One of the best pieces of advice I can give a newly married couple, is figure out your spouse's weak areas without using them as a weapon against them. Learn their struggles, failures and weak areas without getting insulted or angry. Just do this, so you know that this is who they are and you have your areas of weakness and they have theirs. You will quickly learn to not take everything to heart at every turn. You who are married, are married to another person's OSN and they are married to yours...welcome to the human race! Forgiveness, grace and mercy are the foundations of Christianity, so you had better get used to learning and applying those core doctrines. If you married someone with the thought in the back of your mind that they will change or even worse, you will change them, shame on you, you own that! Marriage is not a problem-solving device in most cases it's a problem manufacturing device. This is why you need SM to succeed in marriage. Outside of a serious relationship with Christ, most people never change and will only get worse over time, not better. People can do surface changes like quit smoking or quit drinking. They may even go through a difficult event that changes their attitude in one area, but true, deep change, a lasting transformation into becoming more Christ-like only happens in a love affair with TLJC. Now, as our focus goes back onto Titus and his ministry, realize some historic facts; The Greek men on the island of Crete were stubborn and implacable, they had a reputation of resisting all kinds of authority, and these were Bels. They refused to recognize the authority of BD, they refused to recognize the authority of anyone who communicated doctrine, they even struggled with recognizing authority in their own land. At this historic point, they lacked patriotism and law and order didn't always appeal to them. So, we see the command to remind Bels to be subject, to be obedient, to be subordinate to the authority of national leadership, to be subordinate to leadership powers, or authorities in general.

Tit 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

Anytime we buck against authority it almost always is the equivalent, to a kick against the plan of God. Authority is never to be pushed against; you can only stand against evil authority. Even then, you have to have maturity to make that decision. It is better to assume GOD placed the authority in your path and be obedient to the best of your ability, then to

kick against authority in any fashion. Many young men and women end up behind bars, because they do not understand the divine principle of authority.

Tit 3:2 to slander no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing every consideration for all people.

Tit 3:3 For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject – This is written in the present, active imperative. Meaning, the Apostle Paul is keeping this lesson in command form and for this to become the habit for Titus. The Apostle Paul is stating; as part of my authority over you Titus, – I am commanding you to keep on teaching these principles related to authority. God is the author of the chain of command and the principle of authority. HE has it firmly established in many scriptures throughout the Bible, from Genesis into Revelation. The creation of angels in eternity past was set up with rank and file, order and authority. In marriage, in government, in church leadership and obviously the ultimate authority, our Triune God, authority has been ordained by the Creator. To kick against authority, is to kick against divine establishment principles, set up by the GOD who created you.

CHAPTER SEVEN



RESPECT AUTHORITY BEFORE YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT

The Bible is rich with repetition and many people don't like that. Unfortunately, God knows what you need for growth, repetition with consistency of hammering home principles through accurate teaching, is a necessity. The core principles over and over again, presented from every angle is how we grow. The call is to be obedient and subject yourself to authority. More specifically, Titus had to teach this habitually to many men who would openly buck his authority. Your ministry may come with a challenge or complications therefore you have to be prepared to stand fast and press on through the power of God the HS. Quitting and complaining is not a problem-solving device. If God wants to stop you, or remove you from something HE will make it clear! Yet it is only to those who have intimacy with the Trinity that clarity becomes second nature to them. Uninformed and immature Bels have a tendency, to think something like a rain storm, or a flat tire, is a sign that GOD is stopping them from going forward in a ministry. It may sound silly but many immature Bels work off of emotions, watching for signs and symbols of every-day life. There is a need for alertness and paying attention to events, people and circumstances in your life. Yet doing so without reading into every detail as GOD speaking to you. Every detail of life is pre-planned, or ordained by God from eternity past, taking into account all negative and positive decisions. The misconception that every minor challenge or issue means

that our beloved Father, is stopping, starting or warning of coming blessing or cursing in your life, is a dizzying roller-coaster, of guessing games and emotional waves of uncertainty. The cosmic system was infiltrated by the kingdom of darkness since the fall in the garden. Therefore, be warned not to over analyze every step and challenge which daily life presents you. Pay attention, have consistent prayer with bible study, knowing God will speak to you in certain circumstances. Satan loves nothing more than overly emotional and confused Christians.

Noah had to spend 120 years building the ark and it had never rained before in human history. The apostles were lied about and attacked verbally and physically by not only local people but the Roman and Jewish authorities. The Apostle Paul faced imprisonment and whippings more than once in his ministry. Titus is dealing with men who are disrespectful as well as stubborn and he would buckle down and stand up for the challenge. He knew this was the ministry God needed to use him in at this historic point. A challenge or roadblock is not always a stop sign from God. If you do not grow up spiritually, you will never know the difference between an attack from the kingdom of darkness or a message from God. Your decisions are responsible for the strength of your soul structure. Within it reads as such; Titus 3:1 – to be ready for every good deed. A good deed (divine) related to the filling power of God the HS and a good deed (works), are two different deeds or ministries. Everything done in the flesh, motivated by the flesh is burned up. Only divine good (in the new nature) will shine like a gem stone at the Bema-seat Judgement of Christ. That shining gem stone of divine work will account for blessings and rewards not just in the heavenly but from the temporal aspect as well. I would suggest a quick study of 1 Corinthians chapter three, as a reminder of the Bema-seat Judgment which happens after the rapture of the church. You may find out that some of the blessings you received in time were because you began touching levels of SM and the Fruit of the Spirit was prevalent in your life. Which is usually on display by divine works and selfless acts or ministries the positive Bels get involved in.

The fact that the bible teaches us about crowns, blessings and rewards or the acknowledgement of achievements in the spiritual realm, right now in time, is easily discovered by studying your NT scriptures. The consistent and ignorant cry for equality on every turn in life, is void of merit, dedication, skills or talents. Equality happens at the moment of salvation and in the lake of fire, that's about it for equality. Every person

who believes upon TLJC is given the same opportunities and same 40 grace gifts. But each of us take that set of grace gifts and grow at a certain pace or reject spiritual growth. Our effort toward having an intimate relationship with Christ matters in the end. In the lake of fire there appears to be more equality than heaven, even Satan and his fallen angels will suffer the same consequences as the Unbels! There are no celebrities in the lake of fire. Every person or angel in the final judgement of the lake of fire is a loser, separated from GOD forever. The doctrine of divine good helps points us to our part in the resolution of the angelic conflict. Spiritual growth and application of the word is how we glorify God in spiritual warfare.

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Titus 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; 7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,

God's grace plan for CA Bels is they take all that they were given at salvation and learn to live in and walk in these gifts. Because ultimately there are winners and losers in the end. Every true Believer will be in perfection and resurrected glory in the end, yet there will be rank, file and authority in heaven. The only way you will ever be a producer of divine good is through BD being fully digested, habitually studied and then applied to your life. No Bel grows outside of the WORD of God circulating in their soul structure and the filling power of God the HS.

2Tim 2:20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver implements, but also implements of wood and of earthenware, and some are for honor while others are for dishonor. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be an implement for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Some teachers and many Christians shy away from teaching or studying this concept of winners and losers, yet it is all over the Bible. Why does Hebrews 12:1 and 1Cor 9:24, teach us to run in a race or be involved in a competition as to win a prize? What about the crowns of 2Timothy chapter four. Or what is written in 2Peter 3:13, as well as James 1:12, and also seen in Rev 2:10? My opinion is, any Bel who truly understands their Bible and doesn't want to believe the inequality principle in heaven related

to winners and losers, is a Bel who has a lazy attitude and doesn't want to be bothered with accurate study of the word leading into spiritual growth. It's much easier to use the age-old, apathetic saying, that; 'I have my own relationship with GOD'. 'I know about BD but I have my own way of applying God's word in my life'. We all have Bels like that in and around our daily lives. We can only keep them in prayer and occasionally try to feed them truth when opportunity arises.

Let us move into a look at the letter to Colosse. The Apostle Paul had never seen this church, he had never visited Colosse, and yet we find Paul inspired to pray in a very strong way for people he has never seen.

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Because of free will, you always see scriptures such as this that are laid out to tell the Bel or Unbel that they have to use their God given freedom. You may be filled with the knowledge (BD), you may grow spiritually and have spiritual discernment. Which is wisdom that is divine knowledge applied. YOU MAY, is written because free will matters before and after salvation.

Epignōsis - Knowledge is truth which means truth and knowledge are inseparable, this points to divine knowledge which is Bible Doctrine ready for application. Gnosis - means that which you listen too which could be true or false. Epinosis speaks to the process of digesting something (knowledge, facts, principles) accepting that with faith into your life as truth. That which you process through your left lobe into your right lobe of the brain is highlighted here. When you listen objectively to teaching or a person or even instruction, you have a free will choice to roll it around in your head and examine it, yet sooner or later, it will be accepted or rejected. Anyone can sit and listen to something and come away with no true wisdom on the subject matter, because they didn't care to fully digest it and examine it. The original languages of scripture paint a very detailed definition. Sophia - Wisdom is applied BD to your life. Wisdom is like a skill set that usually gets embedded into the soul as norms and standards. Synesis - Understanding (discernment) only comes sometime after wisdom has had time to breath and grow in a Bels life. This is what Colossians 1:9 is pointing out.

Col 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

The fruit of the Spirit is a result of spiritual growth in action which in turn promotes divine works. The Apostle Paul is stating we never cease to pray for your spiritual growth increasing in knowledge which translates into BD. The reason the Apostle Paul emphasizes the prayer for growth is because within that statement is a clear choice; so that you (BEL), will walk in a manner (new nature) worthy of our LORD. Meaning you can walk however you please. Free will is the key, positive volition or negative volition is what it boils down to! The spiritual life was designed for the production of divine good in the Believer;

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk (peripateō) in them.

At times this Greek term was used for soldiers marching in an orderly fashion. This is not haphazard. To walk, peripateō, means an orderly fashion of movement. It also meant to be occupied with the manner in which you walk, pay attention! The production of divine good is a sign of both maturity and stability.

2Thes 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

There is a dual meaning laid out in the teaching; our true security and comfort comes from our salvation (eternal security). The word HOPE in its original Greek (elpis) context leads down several avenues depending upon the use of it. ELPIS, is not hope as we define it, but a confident expectation of what is right around the next corner. The temporal life we live in right now, we have God's grace plan and our confident expectation of what is guaranteed to us at salvation. Then we see what is the call for our daily condition which is divine work. Divine, good work is attached to the WORD and Fruit of the Spirit.

Your motivation for doing charity, good work or reaching others is

dependent upon BD in the soul. Wrong motivation coupled with the OSN adds up to wood, hay and stubble. Even if it was above and beyond in the human realm of good works, charity or assisting and guiding others. Divine good is only accomplished in the new nature with BD, as its prime driving force behind it. Divine good will be rewarded, this can be seen in many scriptures. In 2Corinthians chapter five, the Apostle Paul is building upon their confidence and the resurrection and the life we will have in heaven. He tells them to be courageous, GOD prepared you for a purpose and we all want to be face to face with the LORD. Yet right now is the time we apply what we learn, this is the race we run or the battle we fight. A lot of lukewarm Christians, seem to think when they get to heaven, they will apply BD and do great and wonderous acts for GOD in heaven. Newsflash, by then, the race is over and the battle field won't need you!

2Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

Lazy Bels don't enjoy these types of scriptures because it gives no wiggle room for the belief that inequality in heaven is a false concept. Inequality, is factual in the spiritual realm, inequality that no one else will be responsible for, but YOU! This is why it becomes important to grow up spiritually and also understand what callings or ministry GOD places in front of you.

2Co 5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people, but we are well known to God; and I hope that we are also well known in your consciences.

Now you see another version of the Greek word for HOPE, spelled slightly different, it is directed at something you trust so it probably will happen. It is the verb- *elpizō*, which used in this statement tells us, the Apostle Paul is hopeful. It is not set up just yet as a confident expectation in his mind. This is because once again, the Apostle Paul knows free will plays a role before and after salvation. This flows directly into verse 12 and highlights the kind of HOPE he is talking about.

2Cor 5:12 We are not commending ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

2Co 5:13 For if we have lost our minds, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

The original language speaks to being ‘*beside ourself*’, or out of character in amazement toward GOD. Meaning there is a personal love and commitment there that others may think is bizarre or crazy. The fact is the Apostle Paul teaches them that his love and emotions toward GOD are real. Yet he has a sober or sound mind teaching his congregation.

The Apostle Paul was a sound teacher that loved his congregation with impersonal, unconditional love (agape). That love, never betrayed him in his teaching style. He never relied on emotional teaching that way he maintained a relaxed mental attitude and cool head. The growing Christian learns about having a relaxed mental attitude, as well as a balanced and organized lifestyle. The Apostle Paul is claiming; I am in love with the LORD! And I show it or I proclaim it, with emotional responses sometimes. Though when teaching or studying the word, it is serious and sound thinking involved. Grace is the basic concept of divine good, without God’s grace plan we fail miserably, no matter how good we think we are.

2Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

God is the only manufacturer of real grace. Real, divine grace, has no strings attached at all! God’s grace is related to divine good. God’s grace plan was already established in eternity past, that includes all blessings and rewards. God gave everything already, possibly billions of years before the human race ever existed. Therefore, there is nothing given because of you or I being good enough. There are three sources for the production of divine good;

1. From God the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Spirit produces divine good; Nothing else nor anyone outside of the divine power source, of the filling power of HS can produce divine good. This is why the

Bel must understand, that the Unbel with a generous nature is not accounted for as doing divine good. Without the nature of Christ and more specifically, the filling power of God the HS there is no such thing as divine good.

2. The human spirit in relation to the new nature. Bible Doctrine produces divine good when exhaled (application) from the human spirit or when cycled into the soul structure (right lobe) from the human spirit. The new nature is motivated by BD and powered by the Holy Spirit.

There is an inhale and exhale process in relation to what the WORD does for a Christian. The inhale process, is the study of the accuracy of the word of God and the exhale points to the application. Both are completely dependent upon the filling power of God the HS, without that it becomes fruitless. Divine good comes naturally under the proper Edification Complex of the Bel's soul. All of this is based on God's grace gifts. There is a spiritual construction that takes place in your soul that is either active or stagnant.

3. The soul construction (ECS). The strength within the soul structure (Edification Complex of Soul) produces divine good. Even the Bel's respect for authority and proper protocol under the conditions of the Spirit-filled life, in conjunction with application of Bible doctrine, is a producer of divine good.

Your Edification Complex in your soul is the strength of the structure you build right now, can be an acceleration of your soul structure in the new nature. It is dependent upon being in the SPIRIT for true growth. You are strengthening and building upon that which your new nature has already built up in your soul structure. Consider your soul structure as a four walled security room; one wall is a library of vast theological terms, ideas and doctrines that align with God's word. The second wall is related to your norms and standards that begin to align with scripture not the world. That wall brings forth solid ideologies that build upon your spiritual growth and faith. The third wall is related to your inner source of strength, faith and knowledge slowly turning into divine wisdom. This third wall responds to the changes from who you were in the world and who you are becoming in Christ. The fourth wall is the application wall, this is where

it all eventually comes together and comes forth in your life, over time by producing Fruit of the Spirit. The question to ask yourself, as we close this chapter, is simple; is your Edification Complex in your soul being built up, ignored and falling apart due to the incompetence of the builder? Or perhaps it never really began after salvation, so all the God given supplies and grace gifts, are simply collecting dust on the floor of your soul.

CHAPTER EIGHT



TAKE CARE OF THE VINEYARD GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

The Christian is responsible and accountable for their own actions, decisions and the building, or nurturing of their own soul structure. God gave us freedom of thought, meaning a free will as the first divine institution. We will be held accountable for that freedom. The bible often uses gardening terms and the health of a tree, or a crop as an example of the soul of the person. The Fruit of the Spirit being an obvious analogy, or a typology of the true self. Your soul structure reveals the true YOU! Your thought patterns, norms and standards as well as creativity, emotions and ideologies all make up the complexity of your soul. As an example of the bible referencing gardening or farming, Isaiah chapter 5 points out a vineyard and this analogy is closely related to what I am explaining. God has done all of this gracious and merciful work. HE has laid down everything we need, there comes a point where we have to apply and grow in what He has given us. We need to be responsible for our own soul structure and what is being built in our spiritual life. You have to take what GOD already gave us and apply it. God gave HIS precious SON, HE was given to remove the sin issue. Truly believing upon the person and work of Jesus Christ creates a unique union with Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is the divine God-man, we are in imputed into a supernatural union with HIM

at salvation. The power of God the HS is given at salvation, a new nature created by the very righteousness of Christ happens at salvation. There are at least 40 grace gifts given at the only baptism we need, the baptism of the SPIRIT, at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone. We are given HIS personal thoughts and instructions, from the very mind of Christ (Bible). The work is done, the victory is assured, yet we must step up and live in that which we claim to believe.

Isa 5:1 Let me sing now for my beloved A song of my beloved about His vineyard. My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.

The perfect location for a vineyard is a valley or hill terrain with fertile soil. This vineyard is related to the Bel's inside the plan of God. Therefore, it is a perfect location and perfect crop.

Isa 5:2 He dug it all around, cleared it of stones, And planted it with the choicest vine (šrēq). And He built a tower in the middle of it, And also carved out a wine vat in it; Then He expected it to produce good grapes, But it produced only worthless ones (b'ušîm).

The Hebrew term, *šrēq* is used for the best grapes, the most juicy, plump red or purple grapes you can grow. The Hebrew word or term for the worthless grapes, *b'ušîm*, is also known as stink-berries! They literally have a stench and bitterness to them that will cause you illness. These were known as wild berries that produce illness. In some cases, death was the result of eating these stink berries. You are looking at the polar opposite results for what GOD intended for a human soul.

Isa 5:3 “And now, you inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, Judge between Me and My vineyard.

The call was to both the Northern and Southern tribes of Israel to take stock in all their choices related to their relationship with God. Who is to blame? God, who supplied everything they needed for spiritual growth, or the Bel's who took their own free will, their time, talent and treasure and rejected God?

Isa 5:4 “What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it?

Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones?

Bels in the CA need to relate this to their own spiritual walk. Let me use a quote from a very astute teacher and a man of God from days gone by;

“O you that profess to be his people, what more could Christ have done for you? What more could the Holy Spirit have done? What richer promises, what wiser precepts, what kinder providences, what more gracious patience?”

Charles Spurgeon

Isa 5:5 “So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground.

This speaks to divine discipline which always begins with reaping what we sow first. Then if we do not turn back toward God, cycles of discipline begin to circulate in that Bels’ life. None of that ever happens overnight, God is long suffering. There is a wall of fire we call divine protection around all Bels and certainly, a client nation unto God. One of the cycles of discipline, usually the fourth cycle into the fifth (final), is when that wall of protection is removed. That break is also seen in the soul of the Bel who has gone astray, the wall of their soul is broken down.

Isa 5:6 “I will lay it waste; It will not be pruned nor hoed, But briars and thorns will come up. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it.”
7 For the vineyard of the LORD of armies is the house of Israel, And the people of Judah are His delightful plant. So He waited for justice, but behold, there was bloodshed; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

God is a perfect gentleman; HE will eventually give you that which you keep pushing toward. Do you know God gives every person, Bels or Unbels exactly what they asked for in the end. How you ask for something is in your actions, decisions and your words. When you push far enough away from God, HE will honor your wishes. Jesus, used a similar lesson in His parable of the wicked tenants and the vineyard seen in Matthew 21:33-46.

Your vineyard for the CA Bel is your soul structure. Remember the analogy of the nation of Israel is often related to the soul of the CA Bel. There is a great relation to this in King Solomon's teaching of Song of Solomon;

Sng 1:6 "Do not stare at me because I am dark, For the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; They made me caretaker of the vineyards, But I have not taken care of my own vineyard.

Your spiritual walk and commitment to God is YOURS! Do not allow the opinions or frustrations and attitudes of others, distract you from your personal calling for God. If your soul is not kept in order that will have a direct correlation to your decisions and lifestyle choices. Now looking back into our anchor study of Titus chapter three, let us keep focus on what our calling and divine good really looks like. Divine good comes forth from fruit of the Spirit which only begins to grow in a Bel's life as they step upward to levels of SM. Stop allowing other people, even those closest to you, to dictate your commitment to God. Stop having the attitude of; 'if only I had this...I would be happy!' 'If only I was smarter, better, wealthier... I would be more involved with God'. 'When everything is in perfect order... than I'll get serious with God'. Every day that is your attitude, it is another day that slips by under these circumstances or attitudes, becoming another 24 hours lost forever. You need to wake up and look at your time as a great currency that is slowly burning up or being used for something eternal. Back in our study of Titus, the Apostle Paul continues to prepare Titus for the role of not only pastor-teacher, but a church builder. Titus, was called to not only the ministry of pastor but also a church developer and ordaining other church leaders. He did this under very difficult circumstances as well.

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

The chain of command has been established in the plan of GOD since the creation of mankind in the garden. Good deeds or divine good is not accomplished outside of BD circulating in the soul structure and the filling power of God the HS. One of the signs or symbols of spiritual growth, is reflected in how the Bel treats authority. How a Bel responds to authority is a good indication as to what level of maturity they are at.

Tit 3:2 to slander no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing every consideration for all people.

Notice the Apostle Paul tells Titus to treat ALL people in this fashion.

Tit 3:3 For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Looking down our nose at others has a painful and humiliating way of coming back around in our life and biting us in the backside. The Apostle Paul may be warning Titus, that I know some of your weak areas Titus. Don't forget your own past and especially, don't lose your temper. There is a strong chance that Titus may have been the type of guy, who wasn't afraid to mix it up physically and verbally with those who pushed him too hard. Men, we all struggle from time to time with our temper and patience's and we need to do our best to keep it in check. Ladies, you know you have your own little issues with a hot-headed, temperament as well. The truth is we all have failure and sin so be careful how we judge others. Your calling and ministry may be an area in which, your weakness gets challenged. Which will make it a wonderful opportunity for growth, if you approach it the right way. Do not assume your ministry or calling will be problem free. God may use it for growth and testing. Satan may attack it because it edifies other Bels or wakes up Unbels.

Tit 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

The Apostle Paul is speaking of the person and work of TLJC. Notice, GOD our savior...Jesus Christ is God and always was GOD!

Tit 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

The doctrine of regeneration is supernatural, there is no element of human works or human righteousness that can bring a new nature into our soul. Regeneration is our new birth; the imputation of the nature of

Christ given at the moment of salvation. We have a positive moment in time toward the person and work of TLJC and God the HS does all the work in salvation. When you keep in mind that nothing in you, has the ability to guarantee eternal security. No deed or human righteousness can bring forth a Christ-like nature into your soul, it makes it possible to look at others with great compassion. Titus is being reminded that if not for the mercy and grace of God he would not be in the position he was at that point. None of us would be going to heaven if not for the perfect, grace-oriented plan of God the Father and the impeccable work of TLJC, along with the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. All Christians should have a full awareness of the grace plan of GOD, which should guide them into the attitude of having genuine humility. Beware of those who are involved in pseudo humility.

Tit 3:6 whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Because in our regeneration we are now heirs to Royal blessings for all of eternity. The work of Christ passed the justice system of God and fully justified mankind. All we are called to do is agree with the justice system of God. There is nothing we have ever done or could ever do that warrants the kind of grace and blessings bestowed upon us. No matter what you are called to do. Or what ministry you are working within at any given moment of your life, never lose sight of the fact that everything you have, even the very air you breath is a grace gift of God.

Feeling entitled or better than another person is a dangerous patch of ground to walk on even for a few steps. Everyone has a past, everyone has an OSN and everyone has failure as recent as last week or as close as next month. How we treat the unlovely and those others who despise us, speaks volumes to the grace branch of fruit coming off of our tree. Many Christians forget where they came from or where they may be next year.

Tit 3:8 This statement is trustworthy; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and beneficial for people.

Engage in divine works which can only come from the fruit of the Spirit. The application of the word, from the new nature, is divine fruit that is accountable and is credited toward the Christian-walk.

Tit 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies (genealogia) and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and worthless.

Do not make an issue out of someone's social status. Never elevate or degrade a person on their reputation, wealth or social status. That Greek noun, *genealogia*, is referenced to pointing to the bloodline or heritage of someone. This is related to your family tree as much as it is pointing to the cool crowd, those we deem above others because of their wealth or popularity. At that point in history, you had a group of very elite and most of them wealthy men, called Gnostics. They came into church groups with deep, intellectual viewpoints on philosophy and religion. They blended together ancient Asian mysticism with Judaism while mixing in elements of Greek philosophy into Christianity. Some of these deep thinkers and highly respected, educated men went on to form denominations in the 2nd century that are popular religious movements today. This is why The Apostle Paul adds in the statement - *disputes about the Law*. The reference is to the Mosaic LAW, which was fulfilled in the person and work of TLJC. We have a great deal of this same mentality and ideology in Christian circles today. Especially within the large, stadium type churches and popular denominational leaders. Titus needed to do what all church leadership needs to do, concerning elevating anyone in the congregation into positions of authority or any form of prominence. First remove the dollar signs from the forefront of your mind. Second do not concern yourself with secular popularity. Thirdly and most important, is only acknowledge those who lift Christ on high above all aspects of human talent, wealth or popularity.

Most churches are filled with leaders and authority figures who are enamored with their own fame and intellect. Though, they use humble speech and catch phrases that make them appear sweet or very modest, the majority are extremely political and theatrical at heart. Many church leaders and congregation members are completely drawn into the cosmic system related to political correctness, Hollywood theatrics or community popularity contests. The brother of TLJC, James, called out some of this nonsense in his writings;

Jas 2:1 My brothers and sisters, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.

This is human nature and it is directly related to our OSN. We naturally lean toward certain personalities and certain looks. Whether you have a leader in politics or the church, the more of a celebrity and polished they are, the more people willingly follow them. It doesn't matter what their talking about, what they believe and their personal integrity, they appeal to our OSN. God often chooses very unlikely people to lead and become HIS personal mouthpiece, or the one who steps forward above and beyond others.

Jas 2:2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and is dressed in bright clothes, and a poor man in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and you pay special attention (epiblepō) to the one who is wearing the bright clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"

They get higher levels of respect; they are regarded as above others, epiblepō, means you hold someone in high regard, you are impressed by them. When they enter a room you actually become star struck by them.

Jas 2:4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

Isa 65:5 "Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, For I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.

Even in the midst of rejecting the plan of God, many people believe they are above reproach. This attitude is usually developed over time. It comes from people who have always been in a position of authority, wealth or comfort and therefore it has embedded in them a large amount of entitlement. This scripture in Isaiah 65, was related to Bels who had fallen in love with the Babylonian captivity, they began following false gods under their heathen captors. The reality is that arrogance and self-righteousness are the worse form of cancer in the church and really in a nation. Legalism is fed from arrogance and a feeling of entitlement or self-importance above others. Sometimes its depth or roots is from a feeling of insecurity,

simply masked in a prideful appearance. Like the scared boy who becomes a bully to prove himself. Going into the last chapter, it is imperative that we begin to recognize our self in light of our success or failures, weakness and strengths. Never do this from a place of insecurity or guilt, but simply the truth that we are all flawed creatures, born with the Adamic nature that is ripe with arrogance, insecurities and a corrupt nature.

CHAPTER NINE



KNOWN THINE SELF AND YOU CAN KNOW OTHERS

The biggest mistakes most of us make are usually related to understanding our own weaknesses and strength, either under estimating or over estimating ourselves. This often spills over into how we view others and this tangles up into all our personal relationships, family, friends, work or even marriage. The greatest form of spiritual growth is truly, knowing yourself and knowing the God we serve. Most people go through life within cycles of doubt, fear, frustration, blissful moments of joy as well as self-righteousness and inner rage toward self or others. The majority of that is related to not knowing who you are, or who God created you to be and exactly who GOD is and what is HIS divine plan for your life. Every person is born into sin with an OSN (Adamic nature), that is foundationally rooted in narcissism in one form or another. The sooner the Christian understands these basic truths the more opportunity for growth and expanding our knowledge in life skills increases.

Jude 1:16 These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.

Most people fall for the deceptive lies and the trickery of false humility and theatrics. Hordes of pastors and spiritual gurus make a living off of

theatrical messages, hidden prophetic knowledge as well as the lights and music ministry set up like rock concerts. In closing this book, let us look at this great example TLJC uses to teach on this type of arrogance.

Luk 18:9 Now He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

Luk 18:10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 “The Pharisee stood and began praying this in regard to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

The Pharisee knows very little about the Publican, yet he refers to him with the criminals and adulterers. Legalistic people have a tendency to assume they know all the details about another person’s spiritual status.

Luk 18:12 ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’

This is the arrogant art of, look what I DO! Spirituality is not a show it is a lifestyle. Often we simply do not know if someone is walking spiritually or not, unless there are blatant overt signs, such as anger or drunkenness, for example.

Luk 18:13 “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’

Luk 18:14 “I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

God looks at the heart and some of the worse leaders in any realm, are those who appear humble yet are truly arrogant in their heart (soul).

Tit 3:10 Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, 11 knowing that such a person has deviated from what is right and is sinning, being self-condemned.

This is what I like to call the doctrine of not being a doormat. After several attempts to deal with divisive attitudes or a negative person, you have to make a conscious decision, to separate and not become a verbal or mental doormat for their aggression and negativity. Many times, within a church organization or a business, the boss or whomever is in leadership, may deal harshly with someone. On the exterior view it may seem unnecessary, yet if you don't know all the details, be careful how you judge the situation. Learn the difference between evaluating a situation and judging a person. Judging a person on a flare up of an odd behavior, or even during a bad patch is foolishness. Learn to not judge anyone, Christians are not called into becoming judge and jury for other people. We must become keen on evaluating circumstances and not so much people. A harsh reprimand from an authority, may be well overdue and you simply are not privy to all the details leading up to that reprimand. As a leader there are times your strength and authority need to be on full throttle. The worst thing a leader can do is turn a blind eye to trouble makers and negative people within an organization. In Titus 3:10, it actually states; Reject a factious man - *paraiteomai* – reject or side step, remove yourself from, is what the Greek verb insinuates. The Greek noun, *hairetikos* – means one who brings factions or speaks in lies, false doctrine, apostate in speech or action. When someone is a distraction and a negative presence for others, leadership needs to address the one problem before it becomes several problems. The Greek verb, *paraiteomai*, means to decline an invitation, to step away from or side step something or someone. The word used for a divisive person, *hairetikos*, is where we get our English word - heretic from. It can mean an apostate Bel or one who oppose the truth after they have been presented with it. Also in this case, one who speaks false doctrine. This is written in the present tense, imperative mood; meaning keep on avoiding this type of person. The imperative command, is the Apostle Paul saying, make sure you do this TITUS! One of the biggest problems in groups of people is personality conflicts and that brings out sins of the tongue which is like a cancer.

Psa 5:9 For there is nothing trustworthy in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction itself. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.

Sins of the tongue; gossip, maligning and judging others as well as lies and deception all are a sign of bitterness in the soul. The tongue on fire is

a danger to a family, a church, a business and certainly a government or society. Mobs and riots are formed and ignited by lies and gossip. Sins of the tongue can also mean you repeat something true when it was none of your business to be involved in the first place. Maligning often involves large swaths of truth, with a twisted narrative or a few falsehoods blended in. Gossiping is repeating truth that you should be protecting, or perhaps not even been involved with in the first place.

Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such people are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Whatever God calls you to do, one of the warning signs it will bring discipline in your life is the sins of the tongue entering into the mix, whether through you or someone else involved in that ministry and calling

Jam 3:5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our body's parts as that which defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

Do you want to bring blessing into whatever you get called into by God? You should desire to make sure it has no distractions from your own mistakes and failures, there will be enough from the cosmic system, don't make it worse on yourself. Keep in mind, once your flesh takes over, there is no blessing and no growth or fruit coming forth.

Psa 34:12 Who is the person who desires life And loves length of days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.

One of the greatest favors you can do for your self is begin to recognize your areas of weakness. If sins of the tongue are active in your life it has to be addressed firmly and abruptly. The Christian who focuses upon their own spiritual walk, not their friends or spouse, their own, will have

more success moving toward maturity than the busybody who refuses to recognize their own issues. The Apostle Paul was very adamant at scolding the Bel who falls into the sins of the tongue.

2Thes 3:11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

1Tim 5:13 At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also they become gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.

In the end, we all face the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ and we will account for what we did with our own, time, talent and treasure. Not what your children did, not what your spouse or co-worker did, but you!

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each person must be careful how he builds on it.

1Co 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw,

1Co 3:13 each one's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet only so as through fire.

Most Christians do not even know the difference between the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ, for Bels after the Rapture, and the Great White Throne judgment at the end of time as we know it.

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book

of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Rev 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The Lake of Fire is currently empty, yet it will be the final everlasting home, for all Unbels, fallen angels and demonic spirits. The Christian who does not have the time to study and learn basic truths from scripture, is a Christian who may never fully come to know who GOD created them to be. They will go to heaven if they truly believe upon Christ in this temporal walk. Yet, they never came into a relationship with Christ and fulfilled their calling from God, that HE gave them in eternity past. Therefore, they are winning by going to heaven yet losers in the bigeternal picture. There is no equality in heaven. Not everyone gets a trophy in heaven, Believers will be rewarded with crowns, blessings and rewards for what they achieved after salvation. Sadly, many Bels lose out in time, right now, on certain temporal blessings as well. God has given every Christian a unique union with Christ, only accessed through the filling power of God the HS and we also have the very mind of Christ (completed canon of scripture). Those two are the power sources for true spirituality. There are always ordained men of God, pastors and leaders, in every dispensation that are called to teach the positive Bels who seek a true relationship with HIM. Men who feed the flock in the accuracy of the word. Positive Bels are those who have the humility to seek truth, seek forgiveness and turning away from the old self, while habitually turning toward the new creation.

Jhn 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease.

2Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

You can not grow if you are unwilling to look into yourself, deeply in your soul and begin to take responsibility for your own areas of sin and weakness. God wants you to hand it over to HIM, to wash it clean daily as needed and accept the WORD as your new standard. Human viewpoint and cosmic system ideologies only skew your relationship with the LORD. That fleshly mentality and worldly norms and standards, interfere with your leadership skills that God has already given you. Skills that will surface as you grow into the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Most Christians won't answer the calling of their unique union with Christ, or if they do, they sporadically apply it and little gets accomplished in their spiritual walk. Those leadership skills that arise at higher levels of maturity, will be what you need to shine a light in this lost and dying world, also what you will need to lead friends and family into truth during times of adversity.

Tit 3:12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.

Tit 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unproductive.

Tit 3:15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

You see the close of this letter highlight some of the men who rose to leadership roles in the early church, not all were called to teach. Yet all were called into action and roles that led others and assisted others. We to, are called to lead on different levels with differing skills, in our Christian mission of spreading the truth and lifting up the fallen. Until you are willing to be honest with yourself and make a change in certain areas God places upon your heart, you may never rise to the level of these types of early church leaders. Time is a fleeting treasure, stop wasting it on the devil's world and embrace who God called you to be.

