



Discover
and Fulfil your
Ministry

GEORGE AKALONU

***DISCOVER AND FULFIL YOUR
MINISTRY***

by

Apostle George Akalonu

Imprint

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Compass To Fulfilling your God Given Ministry

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<http://www.kingdombiz.org>

ISBN 978-1-61364-775-2

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DISCOVER AND FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY

Preface

Every saint has a God given ministry! This revolutionary message is a rider: it is the responsibility of every saint to, above all else, discover, walk in and fulfil their God-given ministry. If this is ignored we will be required to give account on the last day at the judgement seat of Christ.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

It is not enough to discover your God given ministry. It is equally important to undertake ministry by means of the gifts and callings of the Holy Spirit, under His direction and according to the pattern plainly stated in the Holy Bible. Those who refuse to discover and utilize their spiritual gifts will unconsciously serve God by rote, rituals or natural abilities and resources.. All these lead to dead works, one of the hallmarks of religion. Dead works can never please God, even if the saint is sincere. The house of God is spiritual and its master plan has already been spelt out upon the foundation, which is Jesus Christ Himself manifesting through the God given gifts and callings to saints. The message and warning of Paul to the Corinthian church about labouring according to the divine pattern, using divine instruments is very relevant to us today.

¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

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

¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Our prayer is that through this book, God will show you how to discover your spiritual gifts; pursue and fulfil your ministry and calling.

This book goes forth with the prayer that God will use it to spark the quest in all saints to press into the fullness of their callings, in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

George Akalonu

By the grace of God, an Apostle of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 1: PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

The critical difference between a Kingdom minded church and a denominational one is the concept of ministry. A Kingdom minded church is where the Church is presented as the Body of Christ. Since it is a Body, the real head is Christ and every one of the redeemed is gifted by the Holy Spirit to function optimally in order to contribute to its health. This by no means implies that there will be no leadership. Rather, the kingdom minded Church is conscious of the need to live according to the Word of God. The Word specifically pinpoints the ministry role of leaders – the fivefold: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers as that of “equipping the saints” or perfecting them for the work of the ministry.

¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

In other words, the work of the ministry is to be done by all members of the household of faith rather than just the leaders. This establishes the fact that the Church is designed to function as a living, loving, Holy Spirit filled and led organism rather than an impersonal human or religious organisation. Until this simple truth is discovered and put into practice, the Church of Jesus Christ will remain immature and an ineffective witness of the risen Christ before a sceptical world. Where this truth is given its place, saints will mature quickly, able to discern truth from error, be immunized from various winds of doctrine and above all, function optimally in receiving the grace of God and releasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in them. This in turn will lead to a united body which reflects Christ, its head.

¹³Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Eph 4:13-14

Irrespective of age, gender, educational attainment, wealth or size of congregations, true leaders called by Jesus Christ, will be recognized by how close their ministries are structured to empower saints using the Ephesians 4:11-16 model. True leaders therefore will focus intense attention on the empowerment of the saints they are made overseers of, over and above every other thing! Finances, acquisition of property, broadcasts on radio and TV are all good but none is anywhere near the need to systematically empower the saints to come to a place of knowing who they are in Christ, who He is in them and manifestation of the Holy Spirit in them. This is what defines their callings, gifts and ministry to God and other members of the Body.

The empowerment of the saints requires the embracing of a Kingdom paradigm much different from what is practiced in most churches today. In the Global School of Ministry, Abba has graciously revealed a five point strategy for this empowerment as a fundamental reality. It is known by the acronym, TTEAR process. This postulates that every believer, no matter how young in faith has a fundamental spiritual right to these divine processes:

1. **Teach** every saint the Constitution of the present phase of The Kingdom of God which is the Holy Bible. A systematic understanding of the Holy Scripture is the basis of making disciples out of believers. Understanding, applying and ability to preach and teach the holistic gospel is the most secure insurance against error so that our faith stands on Truth, not emotions. Disciples arise out of sound teaching!

2. **Train.** Sound and systematic teaching of the whole counsel of God in the word will make believers to become disciples of Jesus Christ who follow in His steps and allow Him to demonstrate His life through them. Any ministry which has no focus on discipleship is a social organization!

Every disciple should be trained to serve God and The Kingdom. This cannot be achieved by haphazard preaching of 'messages' and doctrines but by a systematic presentation of a body of knowledge, based on a curriculum which is biblical, Spirit-led and inspired. Humanistic ideas and concepts of the new age movement called the pseudo-kingdom gospel, while sweet to the ears and full of sound bites and disputations against the Church cannot empower, but rather enslave saints to preachers who craftily present their teachings as of equal value or even more important than revelations in the Bible.

3. **Equip.** Saints are entitled to be equipped in the understanding of general issues concerning ministry as well as skills for undertaking specific aspects of ministry to which they are called. This is better achieved when they have access to one on one instruction with the Pastor, trainer or mentor assigned to guide them into this destiny impacting life. This was the pattern of Jesus with the 12 disciples and was practised by Paul and articulated in a Kingdom principle in 2 Timothy 2:2. Equipping saints for the work of ministry is a central purpose for which the New Testament leadership exists as Ephesians 4:11-12 states. Failure to incorporate an equipping process will lead congregations to become morgues of gifts and callings rather than the hatcheries they are ordained to be.

4. **Activate.** Within the spirit man of every child of God are various gifts deposited by the Holy Spirit and callings imparted by Jesus Christ Himself. These gifts and callings will remain dormant, misapplied or useless if they are not discovered and

utilized. It is the responsibility of ministers of God to help those God has brought to them to discover what these gifts and callings are. More than anything else, spiritual gifts are the main assets through which saints function as organic members of the Body of Christ rather than mere statistics in religious organizations. Activating will start therefore with spotting a gift or basket of gifts by either the minister or the saint. Then the minister affirms the saints in those gifts by words of encouragement and pointed exhortation which has quickening power. Finally by the laying on of hands of the presbytery, activation is taken to the next level.

*Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the **laying on of the hands of the presbytery.***

1 Timothy 4:14

5. **Release.** Saints need to be released at some point to exercise their gifts and callings. That is what is meant by being 'in ministry'! Ministry is not the collar a select few wear or titles which people acquire and wear proudly. Ministry is simply the 'expression of what saints are impressed with'. In every local congregation, no saint has been ordained to be a benchwarmer that comes in to hear and enjoy 'fixes' of good sermons and adore the eloquence or charisma of the leader! When saints are taught, trained, equipped, activated, there comes a time they ought to be officially released by leadership to function without hindrance by Satan or religious minded folks. This process is best executed through a Licensing and Ordination ceremony. This process is best executed through formal laying on of hands and ordaining into ministry. It is not the plan of God that ordination in a New Testament ministry should be limited to a select few. Ushers, deacons, prayer warriors, those called to the five fold, those called to the market place, those who serve God through their businesses, employment, public

service or professions. Indeed all who have been called to serve God whether as visionaries or supportive ministers ought to be and should be ordained on completion of the TTEAR cycle!

For this to happen, ministers of the gospel should acquire greater confidence in God, themselves and the flock. They should therefore refrain from slowing down or withholding the manifestation of the gifts and callings deposited in the flock of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2: NEED FOR PROPER PREPARATION

It is needful to state that newly saved saints and those who are not trained are not expected to jump into public ministry without being processed first by God or without accountability to anyone. To be gifted without the character which comes from intimate relationship with God and not being accountable to any form of leadership is dangerous. The process of God includes training, education and mentoring.

Wrong Reasons and dead works

To jump into ministry because of the lure of money; failure in secular work or out of ambition to be seen and known or even because of 'natural' leadership skills and talents can be disastrous!

Impure motives and natural qualities will only produce 'dead works' of religion because they are based on what can be seen with the carnal senses rather than what the Holy Spirit is doing through a willing, yielded vessel. It is interesting that saints will take time to study for their various 'secular' degrees that will qualify them to serve society but find it difficult to submit to training in order to function optimally as fit-for-purpose ministers of the gospel.

The Jesus Model

For 30 years, the Son of Man lived on earth in the shadows of Joseph the Carpenter. Apart from the brief mention in Luke 2 when He accompanied His earthly parents to the temple, there was no record of preaching, teaching, healing or the working of miracles by Jesus. There is a key scripture which gives us an idea of what happened in those thirty long years of obscurity.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Luke 2:52

In other words, Jesus was busy living like an ordinary man. He helped with the work of Carpentry, was subject to Joseph and Mary and allowed the Father to use everything He experienced to ‘taste’ life in the flesh. It was only at the age of thirty that Jesus went to Jordan where John was baptising.

As He submitted himself to the national prophet of Israel for baptism (thereby modelling necessity for every authority to be subject to another authority), the heavens opened and two significant things happened: The Father approved Him and the Holy Spirit came in full measure upon the hitherto obscure carpenter of Nazareth, Jesus!

¹⁶And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:13-17

After the anointing of the Holy Spirit, Jesus went to fast in the wilderness and confronted Satan in his office as ‘Tempter in Chief’. Thereafter, the public ministry of Jesus began. We can see therefore that Jesus modelled the need for proper preparation for ministry. As an anonymous sage declared, ‘proper preparation prevents poor performance’.

Jesus went on to do likewise with His disciples. As very God and very man, He could have laid hold of any one and empowered them straight away to announce and demonstrate the Kingdom of God. He however chose a different track which we need to consider seriously lest we fall short of His lofty standards. Let us consider how Jesus called and developed leaders for ministry.

¹³And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

¹⁴And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

¹⁵And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:
Mark 3:13-15

1. He prayed to receive insight into who would go with and for Him. Luke 6:12
2. He chose the people by name.
3. He called them to be with Him first. The idea was to ensure that He became 'formed' in them first before they could be released.
4. He sent out those who spent some time with Him.
Now please note that these were not sent out immediately. They first served Jesus as ushers at His crusades, waited on Him as personal assistants, observed Him pray, heal, preach and minister generally. It was in Matthew 10 that they were sent out with specific instructions. In John 15, Jesus announced that He had chosen them and gave them the formula for productivity which is to abide in Him, obey His commandments and love one another.
5. He empowered those who were faithful till the end and obeyed His instructions not to proceed until they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus specifically asked the disciples not to go forth into the work of the great commission until they were empowered.

⁴And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

and in verse 8

^sBut ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:4,8

The 120 disciples and followers who waited for an extra 10 days in prayer at the Upper Room were filled with the Holy Spirit and used to turn the world upside down!

^tAnd they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

Jesus observed the Law of Process in preparing His disciples for public ministry. The process which involved, teaching, training, equipping, activating and release was practically speaking, invented and modelled by Him!

The Example of Paul

Paul the apostle declared this same principle and demonstrated it with his experience in the school of hard knocks before Barnabas was used by God to mentor him into public ministry. It is interesting that Jesus Himself apprehended the then Saul on the road to Damascus but never commissioned him immediately. Jesus sent the man who would be a great vessel, to go to a house on the street called Straight where an obscure but faithful disciple, Ananias, would be used to lay hands on him for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and healing as expounded in Acts 9:10-18. A careful reading of Galatians 1 and 1 Timothy 1:12-16 reveal that Paul submitted himself to various processes of God through which he obtained valuable training for the great mission ahead. His apostolic commission was confirmed by the Church at Antioch which publicly released him and Barnabas into the Mission field Acts 13:1-4. Be a 'sent' person with a heavenly mandate confirmed by the Body, not a lone ranger, building your own kingdom!

Personal Application for you

- To sense the call of God upon your life is a vital first step on a journey.
- The next step is to be open to the process of God through what you suffer, fingers that got burnt doing good, rejection and all manner of things which will work together for good if you have the right understanding and attitude. Romans 8:28-39.
- Then you need to submit to a mentor already in ministry who will guide you as Barnabas did to Paul. He/she would normally be someone who has passed through the way God is about to lead you.
- Fourthly, there is need to obtain training in general terms and possibly specialise later. This may be as basic as a workers training programme for a few months in your local church. By the grace of God, there are many good training programmes offered by colleges, seminaries and even online groups such as on Facebook. The problem with many theological colleges and seminaries today is that people who are not born again or who reject the current validity of some scriptural experiences such as baptism in the Holy Spirit, the importance of five-fold ministry or women in ministry are professors of religion in them. If you intend to go to a theological seminary or bible college, please prayerfully examine the background, articles of faith and whether the faculty are born again and Spirit-filled believers. While a theological institution should be a hatchery, it can also be a morgue, from a spiritual point of view!

The highway of ministry across the world is filled with carcasses of men and women who were not prepared, processed and empowered for ministry. May we never fall into the same pit where they were slain but rather escape the snares of humanistic ambition.

The Key: God qualifies the called!

There are many who God has called to serve Him and the Body in various capacities but are full of fear or have been intimidated by people to believe they are no good. There are also some who are honestly aware of their deficiencies to the point that they feel totally unqualified. If that is the case with you, you are in good company! Moses felt unqualified when called. Joseph was clearly not ready when he was first called and had to undergo a thirteen year training period to be who God showed him in dreams. David was not qualified when he was called and anointed by Samuel. For thirteen years, God processed him through what he suffered and at the age of thirty, he became king of Judah. It took another ten years before he became the king of all Israel he was anointed to be so many years back. Mary who was picked to bring forth Emmanuel was clearly unqualified when called. All the twelve disciples were clearly unqualified as unlearned fisher men who lived in the margins of society. God had to address their fears, reprogram their minds and transform their lives over a period of time!

The lesson is this: ***God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called.*** If God has called, you, He will qualify you! He will never leave you alone. The truth is that the more you run away from God and your calling, the more you delay your life journey and destiny. Jacob was preoccupied with things other than his calling and God allowed him to come face to face with life outside of his calling: a dead end. The day he realized the folly of running away from God or accumulating material blessings, Jacob held on to God at the brook of Jabbok. Genesis 32:22-32. The mark of that encounter became his signature tune for all life: entire dependency upon God. May God break our strength so that we learn the glorious truth of depending on Him and resting in His perfect will!.

Stop running away! Stop excusing your pre-occupation with so many other things! Don't wait until the heavens over you are closed or

some dramatic things happen to you before you submit to the call of God upon your life. If you need help, we are here to guide you – absolutely free of charge! It is our core calling to enable you get into, pursue and fulfil your calling!

Chapter 3: OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPT OF MINISTRY

Every system of worship is mediated by a particular form of priesthood. Each priesthood order forms the basis of the way the people worship the deity they believe in. Religions have structured priesthoods based on rank and this is seen in the symbols which adherents use to distinguish the 'greater' from the 'lesser'.

One of the critical problems confronting saints is that many were born into environments and systems that are rooted in 'Christian religion'. These systems leaned heavily on either Judaism or the religion which sought to 'replace' it, the Roman Catholic Church. Over the years, Rome had basically appropriated the priestly caste of Judaism, modified it and made it the basis of its world-view which divides adherents into two broad classes: priests and laity. Most of the offshoots of Roman Catholicism – including fruits of the Lutheran reformation invariably found the allure of this dichotomy too great to ignore. The priestly caste has thus been sustained even in Pentecostal and Charismatic ministries which are modern offshoots of the Protestant movement.

Unfortunately, what many saints have been doing all these years is storing the new wine of the gospel of the Kingdom in the old wineskin of two cornerstones of Judaism:

- a professional priestly caste called 'the clergy' and
- massive investment in religiously designed building men described as 'Churches' to take the place of the temple

Here is how Jesus defined the impossibility of what many have tried to do with the Church and the Old Testament structures:

¹⁶No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

¹⁷Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved. Matthew 9:16-17

The Levitical Priesthood

In the Old Testament there was a special dedicated priestly caste that descended from Aaron, the brother of Moses. This exclusive priestly caste had special access to God while the general congregation were far from Him. This paradigm served as the backbone of the old religious order in which people served God from afar and could only approach Him through this priestly caste. The Levitical order of priesthood was exclusive to able bodied males from the tribe of Levi. No one outside the tribe dared to minister in the holy things of God. Capital punishment was the severe consequence of doing so.

The order of Levi was what sustained the Old testament religious system. Because it was a religious system, the physical dwelling place of God in the tabernacle and later the temple was necessary. The Presence of the Lord was so holy and powerful that human vessels were needed to act as a 'go between' with the unholy people. In order to raise their esteem in the eyes of the people, Aaron and his sons needed to wear special robes in prescribed colours for beauty and glory. The priests were kind of 'step down' transformers so that the people were not consumed by the power of the presence of God. The people had no personal relationship with God and therefore were subject to many regulations and rituals in order to feel holy. Exodus 28:1-43.

Unfortunately, so many ministers of the gospel especially in evangelical denominations operate in this Levitical mindset of an exclusive priestly caste and a dormant or mildly engaged 'laity' who need to come to a temple in order to 'encounter' God within specified time frames on defined days of the week. In so doing, they have slowed down the agenda of God considerably. More alarming is the fact that independent charismatic ministers who were anointed by

the Holy Spirit and sent into ministry are today revelling in all the trappings of the Aaronic system, putting big barriers between them and the docile laity. To worsen matters, many female ministers have jumped on the bandwagon of Aaronic systems complete with robes, rings/signets, seals and external accessories designed to mark them out as belonging to an exclusive caste of priests! If only these women realized how exclusive the Levitical order was! If only they realized how it admitted ONLY males from the family of Levi who had no physical infirmity.

With its pomp and pageantry, colours and elevated order, prestige and the applause of men, the Levitical priesthood holds strong fascination for men who prefer to retain the status quo, enjoy the privileges of exclusivity and keep the saints as 'laity' in the pew. Those who operate this paradigm can never serve but are to be served. Even in preaching the gospel, it becomes a job or career rather than a calling. There is so much expectation of reward in the now and any inability of saints to sustain the expected lifestyle of the minister is berated and deemed insulting.

This paradigm is severely defective because it keeps the majority of the church in the pews while a tiny class of people are available to serve on a fulltime basis as a vocation. Exodus 28, 29. This leads to pressure to 'perform' and bear the burdens of saints which can be quite crushing. These trends, in turn, lead ministers to be wearied, burnt out and even die prematurely.

Those who operate in the Levitical order will not be used by the Holy Spirit to produce genuine sons of God! This paradigm of ministry stifles callings and gifting, subordinating believers to the whims of men and women, who believe they can control saints, promote who they like and demote who they don't like. For this reason, denominations built on this paradigm are ever contending with internal wrangling for power and politics.

The Order of Nimrod

Before the Old Testament was given, there was an order of priesthood attributed to Nimrod the son of Cush. This man was the first human being to build a transnational empire by the sheer force of his will, ambition and political savvies. He is attributed by some scholars to be the key master mind of the Tower of Babel. Most of the cults which dominate world affairs today are thought to date back to Nimrod. The most telling insight into Nimrod's mindset was the statement that he was a 'mighty hunter' before the Lord. This statement is not a compliment to his prowess for hunting game. It was a strong statement indicating that Nimrod controlled the lives of fellow humans who he subdued by soulish dominance.

⁸And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.

⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.

¹⁰And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Genesis 10:8-10

Those who do ministry so that saints will gather unto them, adore them and do their every bidding are operating in ministry after the order of Nimrod. Those who are looking for saints to control and micro manage, telling them who to marry, which jobs to go for and causing them never to outgrow the pews, are in effect Nimrod priests who are 'hunting' after souls. Those who have gathered crowds unto themselves, not building them in Christ or giving scope for Christ to be formed in them are operating under a Nimrod anointing.

If you have the habit of telling saints that they cannot attain to the height where you are and causing them to believe that lie, a Nimrod spirit is at work! Children should validly go further than their parents! If you cover the glory of God in those you lead and do not consciously provide avenues and opportunities for them to grow in grace and in their callings and giftings, the Nimrod syndrome is at work!

If you enjoy situations where saints will approach you to seek solutions to even the smallest issues of life because they feel only you have access to God, the spirit of Nimrod is probably at work! Don't be a Pharaoh! Let the people of God go and have a personal relationship with their God!

Concerning the nature and operation of Priesthood in the New Testament church which is kingdom driven, there is ample proof that it should not be patterned after the nature of Nimrod.

Chapter 4: NEW TESTAMENT CONCEPT OF MINISTRY

Contrary to the two models we examined, the New Testament is patterned in a radical departure from the old. Jesus is the model priest. He calls all those redeemed by His blood to follow His example and serve God through intimate relationship with Him and loving service to one another. John 5:30; John 6:38; John 13:1-17. His church is not a building where people gather once or twice a week, but rather the redeemed that have been called out of the world to be witnesses to the same world. This kingdom of priests and kings that they are redeemed into operates a different kind of priesthood.

⁹But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

¹⁰Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

The Order of Melchisedek

The priesthood we are called to is titled the order of Melchisedek. Hebrews 5:1-10; Hebrews 7:11-25; Hebrews 8:1-13. The Order of Melchizedek was so superior to the Levitical priesthood that Jesus subscribed to it. As a descendant of Judah rather than Levi, Jesus was unqualified for the priesthood that Aaron started. That priesthood was limited to Levites and was essentially exclusive to able bodied men. Jesus came to break down all barriers limiting saints so that the life gate to Abba will be opened widely for all who are called to have an intimate relationship with Him, minister to Him and to other saints! Hebrews 10:19.

That the captain of our salvation and great high priest would take after another order and call us to the same is a liberating truth which Satan does not want saints to press into. Satan has essentially caused a hindrance to the pace of the great harvest by causing ministries and congregations to cling to a system which was fulfilled when Jesus declared on the Cross, "It is finished". It was no surprise that

the very first fruit of the translation of Jesus was the renting of the greatest symbol of exclusion in the temple: the veil. That veil made the Holiest of Holies accessible only to the high priest.

The order of Melchizedek is a liberating order to which all saints are called. It is an order in which God does not call the qualified but rather qualifies the called. It is an order in which God receives everyone who is willing to be a vessel for the Holy Spirit to come, indwell and empower with callings and gifting. Because callings and gifting are deposited and operate within the human spirit, it is an order in which there is no distinction between people on the basis of their race, gender or age. In this order, the priesthood of all saints spoken of in 1 Peter 2:9 is given full effect. Because of this reality, external distinctions such as special robes, garments and colours are no longer necessities except for the purpose of helping unbelieving neighbours!

In this priesthood, the Holy Spirit manifests in human vessels in two ways: The fruit of Galatians 5:22, 23 and the callings and gifting of Romans 12: 5-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7 and 1 Peter 4:10, 11. It is to this end that God has specially called people – male and female into the five-fold offices of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher to equip the saints and prepare them to function as priests without restriction as Ephesians 4:11,12 adequately explains. When their work is rightly done, the Body of Christ will mature into the one new man spoken of in Ephesians 1:10, Ephesians 2:14 – 18 and manifesting the traits described in Ephesians 4:13-16 and Galatians 3:26-29.

In the New Testament, the grand norm of ministry is “the expression of that which we have been impressed with”. In other words whenever Christians bring forth the gifts that the Holy Spirit has imparted within them, serve God, the brethren or even meet the needs of their communities or humanity, they are engaged in ministry. Ministry therefore is not an organisational construct, neither is it the collar that a select few wear. The Church is not an organisation but a living organism in which all the members are like the cells of a body that are designed to contribute to the overall

wellness and proper functioning of the entire body. The scriptures are very clear on how God intends the body of Christ, the church, to be structured and operated: Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14; Ephesians 4:7, 11-12; 1 Peter 4:8-11.

A critical preparation for ministry therefore is the thirst, preparation for and receiving of the endowment of the Holy Spirit, with the subsequent manifestation of spiritual gifts. Acts 1: 5-8.

It is vitally important however, to state clearly that New Testament ministry is about serving God and His people and not an opportunity to join an exclusive priestly class. Luke 22:24-27; John 13:17.

²⁴And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

²⁵And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

²⁶But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

²⁷For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth. Luke 22:24-27

Understanding the Concept of New Testament Ministry.

Ministry is not a title, nor the exclusive right of a caste of priests like the Levitical order of the Old Testament. In the present dispensation called the New Testament, God has made each saint part of His temple. He does not just dwell in the hearts (spirit-man) of saints in a dormant posture. Jesus lives in each saint and desires to use each saint to express Himself to the church, sinners and society generally. Our beings therefore are simply designed to be vessels through which the Holy Spirit manifests Himself or, to use a contemporary idiom, 'shows up' when need be! Please read all of Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-16 and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
Luke 22:24-27

⁷But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Ephesians 4:7

¹⁰As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

¹¹If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

In effect, New Testament ministry is a summary of two basic spiritual concepts:

1. **The expression of what we are impressed with by the Holy Spirit.** Every saint has a measure of the Holy Spirit by the new nature in Christ. A deeper walk with God propelled by a yearning for more of Him opens the door for greater measures of the Holy Spirit. When we release the spiritual gifts or grace, virtue and divine abilities deposited within our spirit man as prompted by the Lord or need, we are engaged in ministry at the most basic level. For instance, if the Lord has blessed you with the grace to serve (called ministry in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12), whenever you are led by the need for order and decency to arrive at a fellowship centre before others in order to ensure that seating arrangements and sanitation are in order, you have simply ministered to both the preacher and all the saints!

The church of Jesus Christ is not designed to be a building, organization or religious corporation. It is without any shadow of doubt, designed to be a spiritual organism comprising living cells and body parts each of which are uniquely and sovereignty designed and placed by God to fulfil a particular divine

purpose. This makes the Body complete and healthy! When apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers do their work as ordained by God, the saints are equipped to do the work of the ministry. As saints who are so equipped, begin to release grace to others and receive in return, everybody matures, is built up and the entire Body profits with overall health, lacking nothing. That is a basic purpose of the priesthood of all saints!

¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

¹⁶From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:11-16

Any saint who has not discovered what part of the Body he or she is, has imbibed the principle of the unproductive fig tree of Mark 11:12-14, 20! That is a very dangerous place to be. No minister called by God should ever be comfortable with a situation where the unit of the church over which he or she is

granted oversight becomes so besotted with many other pursuits while saints languish in the pews not knowing their callings and the supporting gifting.

Please request for these two in-depth teaching notes: GSoM Course 103: The Holy Spirit and Humanity and GSoM Course 113: Concerning spiritual gifts. They will be sent to you, free of charge.

2. **Serving the Lord and His people as well as our community.** Contrary to the Levitical and Nimrod order of priesthood which puts men in elevated platforms for others to kow-tow and bow to, Jesus demonstrated and propagated a different approach to ministry. He came to seek and to save sinners (Luke 19:10); He went through towns and villages doing good – preaching, teaching, meeting needs for food, healing, deliverance and divine intervention in the affairs of others. Acts 10:38. His wellbeing was secondary to His submission to the Father and service to others. One day, Jesus demonstrated the principle of service as the core of ministry by washing the feet of disciples and asking them to do likewise. John 13:1-17. Furthermore, Jesus used the incident of lobbying for places of honour in the Kingdom by the sons of Zebedee and their mother to teach with clarity that ministry in the Kingdom is about serving others rather than being served. Matthew 20: 20 – 28.

²⁰Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

²¹And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

²²But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

²³And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

²⁴And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

²⁵But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

²⁶But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

²⁷And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

²⁸Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:20-30

When we meet the needs of other people or provide solutions to problems they face, by the grace of God, we have ministered to them.

From a spiritual point of view, each saint has an ordained destiny which can be fulfilled only in Christ. The destiny of all saints is, simply put, the call of God on their lives. To fulfil their callings, all saints are blessed with spiritual gifts. The gifts are designed to make a way for saints to operate in this world by the principle of grace and favour rather than that of labour.

‘Labour’ was the curse pronounced on Adam when he sinned in Genesis 3:17-19. Jesus came to teach saints to abandon the principle of labour in Matthew 6:19-34, John 6:27-58 and to

personally break that curse at the Cross as Galatians 3:13-14 eloquently explains.

Chapter 5: SPIRITUAL DNA

To seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness (Matthew 6:33) includes making discovering and fulfilling our callings and ministries the core of our lives because we would be fulfilling the vision of God and the Kingdom here on earth when we do so! When saints live in this way, they will be distinguished clearly from their unbelieving neighbours who pursue fleshly ambition for the vanities of this world! That is why Paul was used of the Holy Spirit to explain in Romans 14:17-19 that the Kingdom of God is not the accumulation of stuff here on earth but a life which rests in the finished work of the cross. This is evident where there is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit!

In plain language, a summary of what we have said so far can be put thus: ‘saints who have not made the understanding, pursuit and fulfilment of their destiny the ultimate are hurting themselves in the now and will be ashamed on the last day. It is through our callings and the supporting gifting that we are fitted to excel in specific sectors of life and ministry – whether domestic or public; whether in the pulpit or in the market place! Our gifts are designed to make a way for us before men, bring us favour and open doors in those areas in which Abba has uniquely called us. Our race, gender, age, financial status, dress sense and other natural factors pale into insignificance when saints begin to flow in the call of God upon their lives! Truly speaking, such saints simply swim in the river of grace without the need to struggle against the current as many do.

Neither Satan, the hordes of hell or wicked men can withstand saints who are thus empowered! The sweetest part is that you do not have to pay a dime to be called or gifted! Your call and gifts were purchased, signed, sealed and delivered to you long before you were conceived – right there at the incredible cross of Calvary by no less a personality than the God-Man, Jesus Christ! He is seated at the throne of majesty making intercession for you and providing all the

grace and strength you need to be who He has called you to be, not what your ambition and personal preferences want!

In the natural realm, every human being has what is called a DNA. Here is how Wikipedia describes the human DNA:

“Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a nucleic acid that contains the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all known living organisms and some viruses. The main role of DNA molecules is the long term storage of information. DNA is often compared to a set of blueprints or a recipe, or a code, since it contains the instructions needed to construct other components of cells, such as proteins and RNA molecules. The DNA segments that carry this genetic information are called genes, but other DNA sequences have structural purposes, or are involved in regulating the use of this genetic information.”

The human DNA is thus a unique piece of divine engineering that ensures every human being is specially packaged in a bespoke manner by God to function as a being that can represent Him on earth.

As is generally known, every Christian has the DNA of God because we are begotten of Him both by creation and by the new birth experience. Genesis 1:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. Apart from this divine heritage, all Christians are uniquely packaged with personalized spiritual DNA. This is a combination of qualities and personal traits the Lord uses to make each person a unique vessel in His vineyard. David was used of the Lord to voice the awesomeness of the unique nature of the human body in Psalm 139:14-16. What he did not fully figure out was the intricate nature of the entirety of the human persona. From birth through to the day of redemption and in growing up in Christ, a mix of factors and properties come together in the life of each saint which essentially define who they are in the realm of the spirit. God has designed each saint with a mix of factors so that none of His children will ever live sub-optimally or be

defeated. Our spiritual DNA will therefore hold the key for saints to truly fulfil two divine mandates that are from God in Genesis and the New Testament:

²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26-28

¹²He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

¹³And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. Luke 19:11-13

That is why every endowment or facility God has blessed us with will be accounted for on the last day as Luke 19:14-27 reveals.

The properties that make up your Spiritual DNA include:

1. **Your Spiritual gifts.** You need to identify, practice and grow in the use of your spiritual gifts. The starting point is to know what they are. They are found in these scriptures Romans 12:5-8; all of 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7-11; 1 Peter 4:8-11.

A spiritual gift is a measure of divine life imparted by the Holy Spirit into the spirit man of those who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus. At the New birth, all saints receive what Dr. Cosmos Ilechukwu, author of the ground breaking book, 'The Church of His Vision', calls a root or basic gift. When saints press on as they grow, broken and yearning for more of God and receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, they are empowered with the enabling gifts which bring a cutting edge quality to their spiritual lives. If you want to walk in the fullness of the

spiritual gifts God has packaged for delivery to you, the starting point will be to ensure that you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit evidenced by the initial ability to speak in other tongues. When He comes into your life and you are subsumed in Him, the power to flow in both the root gifts that came into your life when you were born again (which define who you are in the Spirit) and the enabling gifts creates a quickening effect that others cannot but notice!

2. Your natural talents. Talents are the things you can naturally do well. Because all human beings, including sinners are created by God, He blesses all with some talents through which they can be distinguished. Though talents are given by God for His glory and pleasure, the sin principle at work makes many use them to foster their own pleasure, achievement and success, not minding whether God is glorified or not. Talents often manifest from a young age. It could be acting, drawing, decorating, having a strong business sense or being humorous to name a few. When saints consecrate and deploy talents for the glory of God and expansion of His Kingdom, there is a sanctified use of them. Saints should not throw away or neglect their talents. What they need to do is to integrate and deploy them into their lives under the sovereign rule of God.

3. Your life experiences. Romans 8:28 says all things work together for your good. Psalm 37:23-24 says the steps of the righteous are ordered by the Lord. The journey of life will take you through so many kinds of experiences and encounters with people. They are part of the divine process of preparing you for your ministry and calling. When you understand this principle, you will not fret over anything but rather heed the exhortation of Paul the apostle to 'rejoice in the Lord' and to give thanks in all situations. Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16,18. The things you went through in the past are not to make you bitter

and angry but to prepare you for what the future will unfold. David was a case study of a young man who was equipped, through adversity, for the enormous role as the king of Israel and the greatest military commander they knew.

4. Your education and skills acquired by learning and practice. These are not a waste of time. God allowed you to go through particular disciplines because He has need of them in making you an effective minister. Whether Peter the fisherman, Matthew the tax collector or Paul the learned Pharisee, the education and skills of these people were relevant to what they would do later on in life. It is significant to note that all the apostles who sat at the feet of Jesus for three and half years did not grasp some of the teachings on the kingdom of God and Jesus had to hold a forty day school of ministry after His resurrection to bring home these truths. Acts 1:1-3. He had to arrange for them to receive the Holy Spirit in order to break some of their natural limitations as unlearned and unsophisticated people. Significantly, it was Paul who was well versed in the Old Testament that Jesus had to specially recruit many years later to properly articulate some of the truths of the present and future dimensions of the kingdom of God. Even Peter acknowledged the depth of revelation God was using Paul to expound in 2 Peter 3:14-18. We must constantly remember that God is an active God who works out everything about those He has foreknown and foreordained. The skills you acquired yesterday may come in handy at a point in your life when you may least expect to need them. Do not neglect or throw them away.

5. Opportunities God sets before you in life. When God wants to use you in a particular way, He will provide opportunities to bring out what is in you. Some of those opportunities may come as challenges to you or other people. It is an opportunity for you to provide a solution. That is why

God will cause you to see the way out. It is wrong to murmur and complain about challenges. Wait, watch and pray because God may have placed you in that situation for the very purpose of solving it. It is unprofitable to complain of an untidy sanctuary. If you 'see' it, why not pick up the gauntlet and get there early on meeting days to help with putting things in order?

6. The Things you are passionate about or love to do.

Whatever area of ministry you have a deep and abiding interest in, may be indicative of a special call of God on your life. Learn therefore to identify, understand and pursue the fulfilment of your passions. Your passions and conscience are reliable compasses which show where God is leading you. This is because love is the grand norm of the Kingdom. Whenever you have special passion for something, there is a clear revelation of a deep love for that activity.

7. Your Personality. When you were conceived God prepared a body through which you would live in this present life. Jeremiah 1:5–10; Jeremiah 29:11; Hebrews 10:59. That body was shaped in a peculiar way. Your personality was wired to deliver on the treasure that is within you. You are truly unique and able to deliver on your life assignment through the earthly tabernacle or body fashioned for you. You need to appreciate what God has given to you, stop comparing yourself with others and celebrate how fearfully and wonderfully you are made. Psalm 139:13-18.

8. Your peculiar style in doing things. Everyone is unique and we do not need to imitate others before we can be fulfilled. Do not be apologetic for your way of life, provided it is not sinful. Some people are humorous while others are serious. Some have multiple gifts while others are mono-gifted.

Appreciate your style, develop it and lay it down as a vital tool for the discovery, pursuit and fulfilment of your ministry.

Chapter 6: SCOPE AND CATEGORIES OF MINISTRY

It is important to realise that it is God who determines the scope of ministry. In other words, we should not allow self, manifested as ambition, competition or other carnal considerations to propel us into ministry. Romans 12:3 speak of acting in proportion to faith.

³For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

We should not therefore exalt ourselves beyond what God has called us to do. Ambition, the love of money and the control of people have been used by Satan to lead many people to run off prematurely to do public ministry as lone rangers unaccountable to anyone. As we grow in Christ, it will become obvious that the reason why God gives each saint a measure of grace is to make us inter-dependent, needing each other to be complete in Him. God wants us to use His call on our lives and gifts given, to engage with other saints as organic parts of Spirit led kingdom communities, whether as cell fellowships, local congregations, city churches or non-denominational ministries. In the classic Kingdom setting, no natural family should 'own' a ministry, acquire and use its assets to foster personal ambition or use the saints to achieve their own goals. God has chosen unity as the pathway for expressing what His Body is.

Ephesians 4:1-7

What this means is this: as we discover our gifts and callings, the idea is not to receive a declaration of independence from the spiritual relationships into which God has called us. This makes it imperative for every saint to find out from God beyond any shadow of doubt, the answers to the following questions:

Who has been assigned to speak into our lives as pastors, mentors, and teachers? The persons God assigned will be used of

Him to release grace which will quicken our spirit-man, activate our gifts and callings and nurture us to healthy growth in Christ, increasing our authority in Him. It is therefore wrong to be in a local congregation for fleshly reasons such as being of the same race or tribe as the pastor, opportunities for business networking or simply because it is close to our home and therefore convenient. The question is: did God plant you there or did you plant yourself?

Who are we assigned to? Our callings and gifts are meant for the edification and empowerment of other saints who God has determined before the foundation of this world. Until our paths cross with them and we engage with their need for what is in us, fulfilment cannot take place. It is therefore critical that we are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit who will bring us to the place and people where our calling and gifts can be released freely and received by those for whom they were given! For this reason, God does not accept human attempts to build racial, tribal, social, financial establishments or religious corporations presented to Him as 'churches' and ministries!

There is only one Kingdom and one King. There is only one Father and one Holy Spirit. There is also only one Church which is the body of Christ. Any structure which inherently excludes some saints or is structured to favour people of a particular racial, ethnic, gender or socio-economic status is inherently defective and won't pass the test of the fire of God on the last day as 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 states.

Alignment necessary for the emergence of true kingdom ministries.

If you locate your calling or gifts, do not run off with them to perpetuate mono-gift ministries and 'churches' which litter the religious landscape. Allow the Holy Spirit to connect you with those who are gifted and called in other areas so that by connecting with them, a fuller expression of Christ will be made manifest as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, market place ministers and

other supporting gifts work together to achieve the purpose of the King. Ephesians 4:11-16.

If we cannot work with others except we are leading, there is a fundamental flaw in our mindset! Though all are called, it is essential to see that call as an invitation to serve God and the saints rather than an opportunity to sit in places of honour! God Himself will set in place as servant-leaders, those He has given grace and the required character and gifts to bear that burden without cracking under pressure!

This is time for divine alignment like never before so that kingdom ministries owned by God Himself will emerge rather than human owned religious corporations and family owned businesses called ministries!

1. Categories in ministry

There are three broad categories of ministry and every believer should understand which of these God has designed them to function in optimally.

(a) Primary calling

This is a calling in which an individual receives a fresh mandate from God to expand the kingdom in a specific direction. By reason of this calling the individual becomes a visionary. In this category are pioneer pastors or heads of ministries. The people called are equipped with the capacity to see new frontiers and are given the grace to begin a fresh work by the Spirit. God will normally speak specifically to those He has called in this regard and they will have no doubt whatsoever that they have heard from Him.

Those called to primary ministry would have undergone the deep processes of God so that they can function as pillars in the house of God. The process of God is threefold. The first is the dealings of the Holy Spirit by what the saint is allowed to pass through. As you put

away trust in man and look up to God, there is a perfection of grace which will be necessary for the emergent assignment. Secondly, God uses training in ministry to prepare saints for the future. No training is wasted. The third part of the process is mentorship and service. Those who will be used by God to lead others in a primary setting must allow God to make them serve under others first, to be proved and released. Those who do not serve others before leading often make avoidable mistakes and have unrealistic expectations from those God has brought to co-labour with them. Whatever experience you skipped in the journey of faith may haunt you in future when God takes you to the top.

Let us state a biblical truth clearly here. Not all those called to five fold offices – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are called to primary ministry or as visionaries. Many indeed will be called into the fivefold and gifted in such a way that as they connect with each other, a primary leader will emerge concerning the work to which all of them have been called. They have not come as employees or supporters of the one given visionary grace but as colleagues, each one set in the place God ordained before the foundation of the world. When they labour in love, unity and holiness, the sheep of Jesus put in their charge will mature quicker and grow in grace. Ephesians 4:11-16. They all have a divine responsibility to avoid strife and ego tripping. The principle in 1 Corinthians 3:1-15 is very relevant here. It is advised that no one should presumptuously proceed into a primary ministerial assignment without receiving a clear mandate from God.

(b) Supportive ministry.

This refers to the broad spectrum of ministry that God commits to those He has gifted to uphold the hands of those in primary calling.

The most graphic picture of this is the case of Moses on the mountain with Aaron and Hur holding his hands up while Joshua

engaged in battle against Amalek at Rephidim – Exodus 17:8-13.

In a local congregation these officers are supportive ministers: elders, deacons, administrators, worship leaders, Sunday school teachers, ushers and other operational personnel. In a sense, such saints are in their appointed primary callings - to stand with those who are visionaries or lead pastors. Without their active buy in and full participation, no Kingdom ministry will function optimally!

Those called to support ministers in primary callings are not in God's eyes inferior to them. This operating principle is seen in 1 Corinthians 12 – the body has many parts and no part can function without the other.

(c). Hybrid Ministry

These are people who are gifted with both primary and supportive ministry capacity. Hybrid ministers fall into two distinct categories:

- Those whose primary grace is to stand with visionaries to make the ministry complete in Christ. Such people will find no compulsion or ambition to be visionaries neither will they feel inferior to those God has called as visionaries. They will be satisfied with the calling and gifts God has bestowed on them and fully invest in growing the ministry where they are planted. They are persuaded that the visionary does not 'own' the ministry but is rather serving in a God-given leadership capacity. Because they understand that Christ is the Head and has placed both the visionary and themselves there by His sovereign will, they buy into the vision and therefore embrace it as their own. The faithfulness of these kinds of saints releases a sweet aroma of Christ into the Body. They are indeed vital pillars of the house of God. Never allow human beings to nudge you to be a visionary if God has called you into

supportive ministry. This was the grand problem of Aaron who was nudged to replace Moses prematurely. The outcome was the Golden Calf!

- There are others who God will allow to start as supportive ministers. As they faithfully discharge their callings in this dimension, the Lord creates channels of manifestation and at the appointed hour, orchestrates their manifestation in primary roles as visionaries. There is no self or flesh involved in the transition process. Consequently, as they serve faithfully, a time comes when without any human input, God tells the visionary, the individual involved or even both of them that a shift has occurred. Joshua served God faithfully as aide to Moses. One day, God told Moses to lay hands on Joshua so that the young man would assume the great responsibility of taking Israel into the Promised Land.

In the New Testament, Paul was a supportive minister to Barnabas until God released him into a higher calling. Phillip was merely a deacon, 'serving tables' in the top heavy Jerusalem Church of Acts 6. Persecution drove him to Samaria as a refugee minister. There, his anointing as an evangelist became evident. Acts 8. Troubles are not bad in ministry because they provide opportunities for saints to draw on the grace of God!

The core principle to moving from supportive to primary is that of faithfulness as unto the Lord in all that we do.

*And if ye have **not** been **faithful in** that which is **another** man's, who shall give you that which is your own? Luke 16:12*

2. Place/Location of ministry

(a) Pulpit based ministry. This refers to the ministry of the fivefold – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers Ephesians 4:11-12. They are the leadership gifts given to guide God's people into all truths and train, equip, activate and release them to discover and fulfil their ministries.

(b) Marketplace ministry. This is ministry that is exercised in the normal course of life outside the pulpit. This is where Christians engage with their spiritual DNA to advance the Kingdom right where they find themselves. They do not need to seek ministerial fulfilment through any pulpit based ministry because God has ordained to use them in and through business, the professions, academia, public service and other non pulpit arenas to fulfil their redemptive assignments. As priests and kings who minister to God, believers and humanity, those in marketplace ministry will be able to exercise dominion over their environment. 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; Revelation 5:9-10.

It is important to note that the 'holiest' people in the bible were not the great prophets but rather those in the market place. These include people like Joseph, Joshua, Daniel, Nehemiah, Esther and Zerubbabel.

(c) Hybrid. There are some individuals who God will gift for fivefold ministry and yet make their place of ministry predominantly in the marketplace rather than on the pulpit. These will include business men, administrators, academics and professionals who are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Their styles will be peculiar and trail blazing. Just as no one can perfectly understand the ways of the Holy Spirit, so it will be impossible to constrain such people. They are merely vessels whom the Lord wants to use in peculiar ways to get things done. For instance, God can raise a Christian who is an apostle in the market place as president of a

nation. Such a person will be mightily used by the Lord to chart a new direction of progress, peace and prosperity for the country.

(d) Internet/Web based Ministry

The internet is a great place of ministry. Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo and other social media have become viable platforms of fulfilling the call of God on His saints. In a true sense, the internet is the highway and byway of this age with many sinners and saints spending quality time online and the arrival of smart phones, tablets, wider usage of laptops, personal computers and similar devices.

Through the internet, the world has now become the global village it was prophesied to become. Time and distance have lost their limitation with the global use of the internet. In the world, Facebook and Twitter were extensively used to fuel the Arab Spring in 2011 and topple long entrenched regimes. In the gospel, Facebook, Twitter and websites are viable tools of penetrating the new Iron Curtains of religion, ideology and political divides so that sinners in such closed cultures can be targeted, prayed for and evangelised.

God is raising a generation of ministers who are skilled in the use of social media to preach the gospel of salvation and reap the end time harvest. There are also those God is using to teach, train, equip, activate and release saints into ministry in various ways. Many saints will do their ministerial trainings completely online and yet not miss out on quality! Only God is privy to the extent to which He is using some saints on these platforms. There surely will be many surprises at the judgement seat of Christ when many unknown people will be ushered into great places of honour for the extraordinary ways they allowed God to have His way and use them completely for His own glory.

Please note: It is wrong to consider ministry from a worldly perspective. This is a perspective that places an undue premium on the availability of money, infrastructure such as buildings, broadcast

media, staff, worship teams, amongst other things before the work can begin. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus says He is automatically present where two or three people are gathered in His name. What this means therefore is that in proceeding with ministry, what we need most is sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, yielding to Him, faith in God, His call and gifting. When He prompts us to proceed in any particular direction, we need to step out in faith using three ultimate benchmarks: righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17–19) and allow Him to use us to do what He wants to do. Jesus is the chief shepherd and bishop of the church. The sheep are His and He alone knows the capacity He has granted to any of His under shepherds to take care of part of the flock for Him. In John chapter 10 this concept is vividly illustrated. Verses 16, 27 and 28 are particularly instructive.

Chapter 7: Ways God can call you into specific ministry

In every true sense, every believer is called into ministry. This is attested to by various scriptures which reaffirm the priesthood of all believers. John 15:16, 1 Peter 2:9. Beyond that general call there are specific ways through which saints can know that the Lord is seeking to catch their attention or apprehend them for the purpose of serving in a specific sense, building up the body of Christ generally or in a local assembly.

In order to fully discover, pursue and fulfil your ministry, it is important that you understand your spiritual DNA as it reflects what God has made you to be. What is expounded here are the various ways a Christian can hear from God concerning his or her life. This would be the bedrock of your testimony as you appear before any council set up to ascertain readiness and/or suitability for public ministry.

Audible Voice. God speaks audibly to some people. You can have a divine visitation in which He calls you by name and tells you He wants you for service. This was the case with Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9:1-18 and Samuel in 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

The Written Word. God can call you through the quickening of specific verses of scripture that minister to you. The quickening can occur when you are in a church service or when you are alone. Those who make it a regular habit of studying and meditating on the Word of God have the greatest chance of receiving inspiration from God in this way. Psalm 1:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

Ministration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit communicates the call of God to prepared vessels. This was the case of the apostolic call of Paul and Barnabas in Antioch Acts 13:14.

Burden of the heart. A call can be discerned by a burden the Lord lays on the heart of an individual which refuses to be shaken off. Such

a burden fixes your gaze spiritually on a given aspect of the work of the Kingdom.

Revelatory Gifts. God uses the revelatory gifts to communicate His calling. The revelatory gifts include dreams, visions, trances, prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discernment. The call of Saul (Acts 9:1-16) and the call of Peter to the Gentile mission field (Acts 10:1-16) involved the revelatory gifts.

Angelic Visitation. God sent His holy angels to call His elect vessels to specific assignments as in the case of Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39. Angels are God's messengers and/or helpers Hebrews 1:13-14.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The greatest ordination and qualification for service is to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the mind of Christ, the Lord of the Church, no man is qualified to minister by recourse to natural abilities or the arm of flesh. This is why Jesus Christ, shortly before His ascension to heaven, charged His disciples to wait until they were endued with power from on high. Acts 1:8. It is significant to note that even Jesus Himself did not begin His earthly ministry until He was baptised with the Holy Spirit and affirmed by the Father at John's baptism in Matthew 3:13-17. Whoever is baptised in the Holy Spirit is called by God for service in the Church.

Manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In our day to day lives and work in God's house, occasions arise when spiritual gifts manifest. The manifestation is an indication of the specific call of God in a person's life. God's pattern for the Church is that His work will and should only be built by and through spiritual gifts. Romans 12:2-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11. It is important therefore that every Christian pays the price of discipline to discern or discover their spiritual gift(s). A spiritual gift audit is recommended for all saints.

Providential Steps. Psalm 37:23 says the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. In calling some of His children to ministry, the Lord orders their paths to cross with other vessels ordained as instruments to take them to the next level of service. For Esther the vessel was Mordecai, for Saul it was Barnabas, for the Ethiopian eunuch it was Phillip. Circumstances can also be divinely orchestrated by God to bring out gifts embedded deep within Christians. In Acts 8:1-8, persecution by Herod and the martyrdom of Stephen led the maintenance minded church of Jerusalem to scatter. The outcome was unexpected. Phillip who was appointed a deacon to mind the distribution of relief equitably to widows of Jewish and Grecian stock was used mightily of God to evangelise Samaria where he ran to, with mighty signs and wonders following. His gifting as a fivefold leader in the office of an evangelist was manifested. Romans 8:28 teaches that all things work together for good to them who love God and are called by Him. It was persecution that took him to Samaria and his hidden gift was manifested.

Opportunities. One of the best ways of knowing a calling is quite simple: what do you do with opportunities that crop up? How do you respond to challenges that arise? Opportunities are powerful means of bringing forth grace that is embedded within our lives. The case of Phillip in Samaria is instructive.

Passion/Love. What you love to do or find yourself passionate about may reveal a special call of God on your life. Love is a powerful and positive emotion. If you find yourself peculiarly drawn toward a particular ministry you may as well give yourself to intense prayers and diligence in learning all you can about that particular ministry. After all 1 Corinthians 13 asserts that love is the greatest gift.

Critical Insight/Perspective. God can call by giving a person critical insight into a particular ministry or kingdom activity. With such a perspective you may be able to see what many cannot see. If

you are carnal you will end up criticising or tearing down what others are doing. The Lord does not approve of this response. We should allow what we are seeing to plant a burden in our hearts that prompts us to be willing to be part of the solution and stand in earnest intercession for divine intervention.

Answers to Prayer. God expects His children to take the discovery and exercise of their callings seriously. This is proved by your willingness to engage in intense prayers of inquiry to ascertain the will of God for your service in His house. We need to wait on the Lord in importunate prayer and fasting to discover the specific mission field He is calling us into. Matthew 7:79; Luke 18:18; Luke 11:5-10.

Authority. Throughout God's work with mankind, He requires order and discipline in His house. Romans 13:17 urges every soul to be subject to the higher powers. Hebrews 13:17 calls for obedience and submission so that we can obtain reports of joy from our leaders. God may use a leader to give us a message, clarify a revelation and test our motives of suitability for a particular aspect of His work. God's call on young Samuel was rightly discerned by Eli in 1 Samuel 3:118. Whenever a leader God places over your life gives you assignments do not be drawn to those you think will bring you fame or glory; be mindful to execute all assignments diligently. Life and ministry is a seed. What you sow is what you will reap says Galatians 6:7-8.

Natural Abilities and Talents. Psalm 139:14 says we are fearfully and wonderfully made while Psalm 138:8 says God will perfect everything concerning us. Every one created by God is supernaturally vested with some talents or extra abilities that will be needed to navigate the journey of life at one time or the other. Talents are given to all men whether saved or sinners. God does not show partiality on the fundamental issues of life just as He allows His sun and rain to be enjoyed by all. Matthew 5:45. As we grow in

the Lord He requires us to consecrate every talent or ability He gave us back to Him and to use them in pursuit of His Kingdom agenda. Talents so consecrated are sanctified for God's holy use in building His Church. As previously mentioned, talents include the ability to sing, draw, paint, decorate, act, write, produce films, internet web design, video production, photography to name a few.

Skills/Experience/Education. In the same vein, we can also consecrate to God the skills acquired in our workplaces or through education and professional development. In God's economy, He at times allows His chosen vessels to acquire invaluable experiences and deep insights from institutions they will be called upon to reach for Him in due course of time. Joseph and Daniel were divinely planted in heathen courts as part of their election. Paul's acquisition of the best Pharisee education of his day was an essential part of His calling to expound the fullness of the mystery of the ages. Philippians 3:16; Ephesians 3.

Brokenness. Divine strength is for the broken, the weak and humble that tremble at God's Word. For God to use His elect, He first breaks their strength, pride, esteem and ego. 1 Samuel 2:4; Psalm 51:16-17; Isaiah 66:12. Jacob was broken at Jabbok. David was broken after his sin with Bathsheba; Peter, after he denied Jesus; Paul on his way to Damascus. When we are broken we no longer rely on our natural strength, wisdom and worldly endowments but entirely on God's strength, by His Spirit to function. Whenever you are going through a prolonged breaking process, be sure that the Lord is preparing you for an awesome assignment. 1 Peter 5:10.

Bench-marking the Call:

No matter which of the above ways you perceive that God is calling you, it is important to apply the benchmark of the Kingdom so that you can be assured without any shadow of doubt. The benchmarks are found in Romans 14:17-18: **Righteousness, Peace and joy in the Holy Ghost!** Once you have a sense of right standing with God

concerning what you perceive as His call upon your life, have the peace of God which passes all understanding and find a well spring of joy fill your heart, you know you are on the right track. Even when your circumstances appear dark, you can boldly step forward, offering your neck to the yoke of Christ, knowing assuredly that He will never leave you or forsake you! Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 13:5, 6.

Chapter 8: The General Call of all saints for ground level ministry

From a New Covenant paradigm, all saints are redeemed by the blood to minister to God, fellow saints and sinners. This threefold ministry cannot be skipped or neglected! The general call to ministry rests on these pillars:

1. The innate ability wired into each saint to minister to God in worship, praise and prayers constitutes primary ministry to Him. Recognition of this primary ministry and giving it pride of place will engender excellence in other dimensions of ministry. The city church at Antioch recognized this need of God and in the process of ministering to Him became a critical mission base for Paul and Barnabas. Acts 13:1-3.

2. The calling of all Saints by Jesus to be productive parts of His being and the family of God on earth. Jesus did not come to start a religion. He came to open the life gate for lost children of God to be reconciled to Him and take their places as members of His eternal family, finding their places in the Kingdom of God. Those who are so reconciled to Him are automatically given the responsibility to bring other lost ones back home. If we abide securely in Him, we will produce fruit as He planned. John 15:1-8, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

3. We are a Kingdom of Priests and Kings to our God. In this capacity, He will use us to minister the truth and things of the Kingdom to those who need help and teach them His principles and ways. 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1: 6; Revelation 5:9-10

4. The outward working of the indwelling Holy Spirit produces the outcome of ministry. 1 Corinthians 12: 1-12. As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, He uses us as channels of expressing the presence and power of divinity when and how it pleases Him for the

glory of the Father. We are not to turn the Holy Spirit on and off at will. The act of expressing Himself through us is pure ministry.

The wellness and proper functioning of the body of Christ is guaranteed only when saints have been equipped by the fivefold to release their gifts and callings to build up and edify others while receiving from others. Ephesians 4:11-16.

The Kingdom driven Church is not an organisation but a living organism where every Christian is called into ministry. This is the distinguishing feature of the New Testament priesthood as opposed to the restrictive extreme hierarchical structure of the old order. The scriptures affirm with clear and vivid language that as Christ consummated His sacrifice at the cross of Calvary, the veil of the tabernacle, which symbolised separation between God and man and an entrenched priestly caste that approached God on behalf of men, was rent into two. Matthew 27:50-51.

As Jesus hung on the cross between heaven and earth in the full glare of Jews, Gentiles, religious people, stark sinners, men, women, old and young, a new pathway was made through which all humanity could access the throne of Grace, even through the broken body of Jesus Christ .

¹⁹Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

²¹And having an high priest over the house of God;

²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19-22

We are now to draw near the Throne of Grace with a true heart knowing that access is guaranteed by the blood of Jesus. What the high priests of old could not attain to, is what the least of the saints in the Kingdom has by inheritance! The new covenant is not like the old which was written in tablets of stone. It is a radical and awesome expression of the love of God and His eager desire to have a family on earth which is an extension of Himself and His Kingdom:

¹⁵Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

¹⁶This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them. Hebrews 10:15-16

For this reason, the King who has gone to Heaven (the far country) to surely return in the next season has given us gifts to use as instruments of Kingdom business while He is away as Luke 19:11 – 13 says. The account of Matthew 25:14-15 offers a critical insight: God gives gifts to all saints according to what He knows in His omniscience is their capacity. He who created and redeemed has a purpose for every one of His creation and family. There is no discrimination with God and no one has any basis of being jealous over the quantum of gifts given to other saints!

¹⁴For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

¹⁵And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Matthew 25:14-15

What God expects all of us to do therefore is to discover what He called us to do and what He has equipped us with to do it. This requires fervent and targeted prayers on our part. As He reveals them to us through any of the seventeen ways listed in the previous chapter or any other way He speaks to us personally, we ought to

exercise due diligence and run with the vision and mandate of the King! We need to start right where we are to release what God has put in us without seeking the attention or approval of man.

Matthew 25:16-30

¹⁶Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

¹⁷And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

¹⁸But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

¹⁹After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

²⁰And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

²¹His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

²²He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

²³His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

²⁴Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

²⁵And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

²⁶His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

²⁷Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

²⁸Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

²⁹For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

³⁰And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Start where you are to serve – at home, in the office and within your primary sphere of influence. Begin to look at other people as deserving of your loving service and your attitude towards them will change for the better. For saints around you, take responsibility to give them their dues in terms of love, intercession, release of grace to minister to them whether by way of encouragement, exhortation, and correction in love and indeed any type of blessing within our ability to render as Galatians 6:9-10 says. To sinners, our love and affection should have one central purpose: to draw them to Christ and into the Kingdom of God. When this desire is not predominant, we can veer into secular humanism.

Jesus has assured us of His constant presence and power to represent Him in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-20. It is truly a fearful thing to face eternity as unproductive members of the Body of Christ or as those who buried their talents in the ground, in effect accusing God of not being a righteous Judge!

Chapter 9: The Four Divine Facilities for Success in Ministry

These four facilities will make your calling and ministry distinguished in that which God has ordained. There will be no beating about the bush! There will be no excuse for failure. If you are in public ministry and the four blessings of the Father are not manifesting, you may need to re-evaluate yourself with these questions: Am I in the right calling? Am I engaged in the right ministry? Am I rightly aligned? Am I in the right location? Saints, there is no excuse for failure or burn out! You are ordained for success!

If we are sincere with the Lord and yielded to Him, these are the four core facilities He releases which will propel us to achieve exactly what He set before us:

A Name. The Lord will give to us a name which is greater than our natural name. This is achieved by God anointing our names with His glory and power. When this happens, the name you bear begins to resonate in the heart of those who you are called to reach. God first established this principle with the name He gave Adam and that which Adam gave Eve. Their names defined their roles as forebearers of the human race. The principle of making a name great was first demonstrated in Abraham. God did likewise to Jacob when his name was changed to Israel.

*And I will make of thee a **great** nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy **name great**; and thou shalt be a blessing: Genesis 12:2*

²⁷And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

*²⁸And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.
Genesis 32:27-28*

God knows you by name and has called you by name. Everything he has ordained to accomplish with that name shall be done, as long as His anointing is on it!

A Voice. The Lord releases the authority of His voice on our natural voice and it becomes powerful to those we are assigned to. Do not try to speak like any famous preacher. Remain who God called you to be and He will anoint your voice to the degree that the sheep assigned to you as His under-shepherd will hear His voice in you and respond. When such sheep come to you, no one, no matter how anointed can pluck them out of your fold!

²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. John 10:27-29

This is why you should not hold saints as if they are your personal property. By all means invest in and nurture them. As many as Christ assigned to you will come to you and remain with you not withstanding pressures to the contrary. Those who are not assigned to you will not settle. There may also be others you are assigned to for a period of time. Thereafter, they may not fit into the ministry God called you to lead. Let there be no hard feelings when this happens. Ideally, their exit should be done decently. Even if they choose the path of rebellion and evil speaking, it is essential that you do not respond in kind but rather spend time interceding for them.

Spiritual Identity. The Lord clothes ministers with His own identity. As He is worn like a cloth, the perception of people will shift from looking at ministers naturally to that of perceiving the degree of Christ which has rubbed off on them.

¹⁴But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Romans 13:14

*Wherefore henceforth know we no man **after the flesh**: yea, though we have known Christ **after the flesh**, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 2 Corinthians 5:16*

With the identity of Christ, those assigned to us will no longer know us after the flesh but by the Spirit. They will not allow mundane issues such as race, tribe, age, gender or level of secular education and wealth to influence their decisions to come or abide with us. The grand plan of God is to place all of His sheep into alignment with ministers He himself assigned to them. Those who locate and connect with their assigned ministers develop faster and process better into the destiny ordained for them.

Mordecai alone was the assigned instrument through which Esther was ordained to be queen. Barnabas was the ordained minister through which the apostolic mantle of Paul received confirmation and encouragement. The bible is filled with such connections. It is so till today because it is a critical Kingdom principle.

The reason why many saints spend longer years in the wilderness is that they are locked up in safe houses called churches based on denomination, race, tribe, gender and soulish preferences in the choice of ministers rather than discernment of the will of God. Consequently, they are unable to meet and connect with their appointed destiny helpers.

A destiny helper is one who God specifically commissions to enable you enter the fullness of your destiny. Destiny helpers want nothing from you, not even appreciation. They are content to do what God assigned them to do, as unto Him and for His glory, by releasing grace, encouragement, information, networking opportunities, intercession and warfare on your behalf. At most times these people could also provide you with a vital bridge to cross into your promise land! In all your getting, let your destiny helpers take their place! They will never give Satan occasion to corrupt their hearts or minds and become stumbling blocks, even when their assignments have been completed.

There is a place for fathers and mothers in the faith. There is also a place for mentors and coaches to bring out the best in you. Beyond these, there is a specific place for destiny helpers with extraordinary commitment to your breakthrough who have been commissioned by God for that purpose!

Those who walk in the flesh cannot connect with their destiny helpers but will rather create helpers for themselves who may ultimately disappoint them. The key is to walk in the Spirit and use discernment to ascertain the perfect will of God, for example, when you need a new church home after relocating to a city or when you are looking for the best way to break through to a higher level. These are important life decisions and should not be left to whims, emotions or other fleshly ways of making decisions!

4That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:4-6

(d) A Peculiar Message. This is based on a specific revelation the Lord grants us of Himself, His Kingdom or His programme for humanity. This message will be so powerful that it is literally identified with you among the comity of preachers. The revelation of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom granted to you will be so original, fresh and life transforming to those who God appointed to be blessed through it.

Effects of these four facilities:

Most times, Satan confuses those who are called into the ministry to forget that Jesus committed Himself to two critical success factors in true growth:

- **He will build His Church! He has not stopped doing so.** All the worry, anxiety and troubles to try carnal church growth strategies derive from forgetting that the King is in charge!

¹⁸And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18

- **He also promised that He Himself will bring His ‘other’ sheep!**

¹⁶And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. John 10:16

Instead of running from pillar to post, let us spend quality time with Jesus in His Word and prayer to grow in intimate love with Him. When our lives are lost in Him and He releases fresh measures of the Holy Spirit to completely dominate our lives, growth will be organic, flowing from the work of Christ through the Holy Spirit, using us as mere vessels for expressing His glory. It is then that the four divine facilities are released in and through us for Spirit led growth and success in what He assigned us to do.

When you have these four facilities and your life is right, the “other sheep” of the Lord assigned to you will:

- (a) Hear His voice in you and come to the Lord in you.
- (b) When they come, they will connect with the peculiar message you preach or teach.
- (c) They will accept you on the basis of your spiritual identity and not find fault with you.

(d) They will abide with you and you will all become one sheep under the great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

(e) They will abound, starting with their spiritual life and onto other aspects of their lives.

With this understanding, strife, competition and carnal church growth concepts and strategies will have no place to confuse or deceive the elect remnant again. We will then return to Spirit led Church growth which will cause the people of God to rest in Him and occupy until He comes.

Chapter 10: The Price to be paid and Oppositions to Ministry

Contrary to the Hollywood type glamour which is projected by 'successful' ministers and ministries and the hype which attends city wide meetings of 'great ministers' of this generation, public ministry is not a piece of cake! True biblical ministry has only one model: Jesus Christ Himself! The disciples and early Church were blessed and used mightily by God because they were single minded in following the example of Jesus Christ. Accepting the call to ministry is the spiritual equivalent of coming out of the world and shunning all its glories in the quest of the Kingdom to come. The command by Jesus in Matthew 6:19-34 to trust God for all their well being was not just a doctrine but a way of life for the early Church. As the end of the age approaches, God is looking forward to anoint and send men and women who will still seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness.

In several scriptures, Jesus laid out the price to be paid. Let us examine a few passages.

²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:24-26

²⁴Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. John 12:24

³¹Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³²(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

³⁴Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.
Matthew 6:31-34

¹⁶Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

¹⁷But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

¹⁸And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

¹⁹But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

²⁰For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

²¹And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

²²And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

²³But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

²⁴The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

²⁵It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

²⁶Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

²⁷What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

²⁸And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

³⁰But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

³¹Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

³²Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

³³But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

³⁴Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

³⁶And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

³⁷He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

³⁸And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:16-38

Let us articulate some of the specific prices those who answer the call to ministry may pay:

1. Die to self. The self nature is the greatest enemy of the saint who would become a minister. This old nature loves itself so much that it seeks to subordinate everyone else, including God! When we die to self, we can truly serve God and be productive in His Kingdom. The invitation to the Cross is an invitation to die to self and experience the blessedness of true liberty as Paul discovered in Galatians 2:20 and Galatians 6:14.
2. Seek first and foremost the Kingdom of God and its righteousness as the core essence of our being here on earth. Three things are implied: we must constantly remain under the sovereign rule of God; occupying for Jesus or doing Kingdom business with our gifts and other endowments must remain paramount and we must do everything upon the spiritual hinge of the Kingdom to come. For us, whatever is not done with righteousness, peace and in the joy of the Holy Spirit is of the flesh and therefore unprofitable.
3. Rejection is bound to come from immediate and extended family. Your spouse, parents, children or siblings may take offence when the call of God demands greater intimacy with Him, affecting old pleasures you used to enjoy.
4. Evil speaking may be the response of loved ones to your devotion to the King! Yet you are to love them and not respond!
5. There may be threats to life by those who ought to be convicted by your preaching.
6. Some people may seek to blackmail you and set you up for destruction.
7. Suffering and pain may be required at some points in life.
8. Some may be killed, martyred for the faith.

Sources of Opposition

Depending on who you are and the scope of your assignment, opposition may come from any, some or all of these strata of society:

1. **Family** – they may misunderstand you or feel offended that God is ‘taking’ more of your time.
2. **Friends** – on and offline may try to make you miserable when you begin to give God more time. Some may gang up to accuse you or lie against you. Remember you have no business justifying yourself!
3. **Community** where you came from or where you live or labour in.
4. **Religious Leaders who are not comfortable with the word of truth in you.** Don’t be surprised if you are thrown out of your ministerial association because of the deeper waters of revelation God commits to you which challenges tradition. Your local congregation may disown you or put you aside.
5. **Cult leaders**, especially preachers who deny the divinity of Jesus and inerrancy of the Scriptures may assail you for being faithful to Jesus and The Word.
6. **The Mass Media.** These days, many ministers are tempted to court the media for exposure. While the media can be very valuable source of publicity, it can also bring great grief especially when inaccurate stories are broadcast or published. Retraction is not always effective.
7. **Governments.** Through laws which are contrary to scriptures and which attack conscience, Governments can be great sources of opposition. In some areas, Government laws affect ability of ministries to find places of worship and constrain public ministry.
8. **Satan and his evil spirits.** They may plan your down fall and seek the chinks in your armour through which to tempt you or destroy your testimony. This can be through immoral thoughts or actions including pornography and relating with saints of

the opposite gender in unholy ways. Satan may also tempt you to use false power or to compromise the practice of ministry with worldly principles. Those who devalue the capacity of Satan are probably already in his bag! If Satan could tempt Jesus, no minister is immune from his antics. He will always try to use any, some or all three of what He tempted Adam, Eve and Jesus with: **love of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life.** (Genesis 3:1-6; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 2:15-17). Be assured however that God has promised us preservation (Jude verse 24). In addition, God has given us authority to resist Satan and bind his cohorts (1 Peter 5: 8, 9; James 4:7).

Chapter 11:

Pitfalls to Avoid In Ministry

Chase for ‘Success’, a corrupted world!

The word ‘success’ has been so corrupted by worldly concepts to the degree that many chase after it with all their strength. There are many today who are drawn into ‘ministry’ because that seems the only viable path to achieve ‘success’ with the collapse of the economy.

Why is it so? From a worldly perspective, success is about how large a congregation is, how rich a ministry is, the degree of access to the high and mighty and the extent of assets or facilities that are controlled by the chief executive of the religious corporation. Many now also equate success with how many programmes a ministry can sponsor or the degree of visibility in the mass media. The situation is compounded by the advent of mega churches and well funded ministries whose leaders live like royalty in a bubble, insulated from the daily grind of biblical ministry life.

Judging from the relish with which ministries advertise ‘miracle workers’ through beautifully designed posters, flyers and banners, commercials with airbrushed photographs of the star ministers, success now is also equated with how many ‘miracles’, signs and wonders an individual is able to perform. In the process, many ministers have turned to the occult for power to do supernatural acts which pass off as miracles.

Jesus made it a point to warn that the end does not justify the means in Kingdom ministry! He therefore warned that it is not enough to prophesy or do miracles in His Name. Jesus therefore charges all who will heed His call to do so according to the constitution of the Kingdom of God which is the Holy Scriptures.

²¹Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

²⁴Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

²⁵And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

²⁶And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

²⁷And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

²⁸And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: Matthew 7:21-28

Every one truly called by God to ministry will succeed, if they build according to His pattern and live by His example. What God deems as success often varies from that of the world. God is not moved by numbers as much as He is moved by motive in ministry, obedience to His word and following the pattern of the Kingdom in all that we do.

¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

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

¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Tendency to seek control over lives of other saints.

It may not be popular to say nevertheless it is true: God does not permit any one He calls to exercise control over the lives of His Sheep! A careful reading of the dominion mandate in mankind reveals that God never gave any human ability to control others (Genesis 1:26-29). The call of God is for the sheep to be shepherded (nurtured to growth), taught and equipped to be all that God created and redeemed them to be. This point is well articulated in the charge of Peter to leaders:

¹The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

²Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

³Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

⁴And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 1 Peter 5:1-4

Pressure, Burn out

The pressure to 'perform' meaning achieving results such as statistical growth, establish as many branches as possible can lead to extreme stress, burn out and mental and nervous breakdown. Many psychiatric wards have ministers as their patients who cracked under extreme pressure. The Lord wants us to trust Him, understand the mystery of true growth as we shared earlier and allow Him to grow the ministry as He promised.

⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7

⁵Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

⁶So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:5-6

Chapter 12: Epilogue

The highest expression of worship

Many there are who worship God emotionally, acting strangely when their feelings are aroused by music or preaching which stirs them up. These can be fleshly and un-pleasing to Abba.

The highest expression of worship lies in an opposite direction however. It lies in the determined quest to discover, pursue and fulfil the purpose of God in creating and redeeming you! The truth is that there is no nobler activity on this side of eternity than to seek to become exactly what God ordained you to be!

This book therefore is a revelation from God concerning how to locate your gifts and callings within the context of the divine purpose. For this objective to be attained there is need for you to take the subject matter seriously and dedicate more than average time to grasp the principles, issues and practices outline in Discover and Fulfil your God given Ministry.

You were not redeemed to sit on the pews as a dormant laity. Neither was you redeemed to run in another person's lane. You certainly were not redeemed to pursue the vain ambitions of the flesh.

Let go and Let God should not just be a buzz word. It is an invitation for you to abandon those things which have engaged much of your attention and God given resources so that The King can take over your heart, mind and will. Ruling from the Throne of your heart, Jesus will by His Spirit empower you to be and do exactly what Abba purposed in and for you before the foundation of the world.

Read Discover and Fulfil your Ministry again and again until the message within the letters grip your heart and move you to action. When this is so, our assignment would have been completed! Let us meet at the arena of training and ministry!