

# God's Preparation for Leadership : 2

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	Page
Introduction	1
Lesson 1            Joseph	2
Lesson 2            Moses	7
Lesson 3            Joshua	10
Lesson 4            Elijah and Elisha	18
Lesson 5            David	22
Lesson 6            Timothy	28
Lesson 7            John the Baptist and Peter the Disciple	31
Lesson 8            Pitfalls in Leadership to be aware of	34

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# **Introduction to God's Preparation : 2**

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## **PURPOSE**

This Book is a study on some of the great leaders in the Bible.

We are going to discover:

1. Their Weaknesses as well as their Strengths.
2. Their Failures as well as their Successes.
3. Their Character.
4. The Ways of Godly Leadership.

These lectures are a guideline to reveal the traps and pitfalls that many great leaders have experienced in the ministry.

**My Prayer for you:**

**That you be a leader that will pass through the furnaces, the trials, the testing and the valleys of Godly Preparation and come out unscathed, as many of the great men in the Bible did.**

**May God give you the ability to equip other leaders for service unto the King so that His Kingdom may increase here on this earth.**

**May you be humble enough to learn from the mistakes of others.**

**May God grant you wisdom in your life and in your dealings with His Sheep and cause not only your ministry to increase but that Christ may increase in you and the people you lead.**

**I pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen (so be it).**

We can learn a lot from these great people that we will be studying and we have a choice in leadership to either make the same mistakes as they did or not to.

We can choose to rather follow after their strengths and successes.

# Joseph

## Lesson 1

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### **Read about Joseph in Genesis 37:1 – 50:26**

Joseph was the second youngest child in a family of thirteen children – (twelve sons and one daughter). Joseph and Benjamin were born of Rachel whom Jacob loved very much.

Joseph was obviously the favourite in the family as it was he who was given the coat of many colours (Genesis 37:1-4). (Some theologians believe that this was a sign of him receiving the greater part of the inheritance.) If this were so, then obviously there would have been a bit of tension amongst the brethren. Reuben, who was the first-born, should have been the one to receive the double portion.

### **A. Lessons to Learn**

#### **1. God chooses those who have the right heart attitude.**

Many times the eldest has the power to influence the younger ones in the family because of age and size. Parents need to realize that it is not always the eldest that is chosen by God. Some examples of younger ones whom God chose: Jacob, Moses, David, Gideon.

Never doubt your calling because of position, education or age.

#### **2. Joseph's dream.**

##### **Read Genesis 37:5-11**

Joseph, at the age of seventeen, has two dreams. When he shares them with his family it causes his brothers to become angry and obviously they start discussing the situation amongst themselves. The decision by the brothers to murder Joseph must have been premeditated, possibly by Reuben.

Most times, the first to attack your ministry will be family members. Those close to you will envy the calling of God on your life. Do not be thrown by this, as you will discover that Leadership can be a lonely position.

#### **3. Result.**

##### **Read Genesis 37:18-26**

Joseph goes to see how his brothers are doing and the situation is ideal for the plan to be fulfilled.

The first thing that they will try to strip from you is the thing that they hate most about you. It could be your character, title, qualifications and even your anointing. This can be done by verbal abuse to make you feel discouraged.

In your deepest moments of despair, you will need to focus on the dream, the promises and the calling that God has given you. Worship is the greatest thing that we can offer to God (verse 26). Judah (Praise) saved Joseph.

4. **Rewards of being faithful.**

**Read Genesis 39:1-6**

Joseph is sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, a captain of the guard. It is not very long before Potiphar recognises that God is with Joseph and so the rewards start to come. He is put in charge of Potiphar's entire household.

When God has given you a dream, do not let pride enter your heart. God will test you with jobs that are far below your actual calling. Remain faithful, as this is a very great test.

5. **A Test.**

**Read Genesis 38:7-20**

Mrs. Potiphar tries to seduce Joseph, with no success. Joseph knows about sin and that the consequences would cost him his dream. Joseph was able to flee temptation but, unfortunately, was condemned by lies. Because he was considered a "nothing" the price was prison.

The man of God may easily overcome temptation, but the accuser lies waiting at the door. A hard test is to be able to overcome false accusations. This will call for a heart of forgiveness, times of confusion and many tears. Remember, with every promotion from God, there is a furnace that one must go through.

**TRIALS AND TESTS ARE FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING**

6. **The Desert.**

**Read Genesis 39:1-22; 40:1-22**

The prison is a dark, damp place of extreme loneliness. All Joseph really had was a dream that was given to him by God. There were no friends or family to comfort him during this time. (Remember the desert!) Joseph's promotion did not come overnight. He had now been in Egypt for approximately 23 years but still remained faithful to God. The Bible says that God gave him favour with the jailers and he also interpreted dreams for two prisoners.

There will be times of loneliness and despair in your preparation. God wants you to become totally dependent on Him. This period will cause you to have a closer relationship with God and it will cause your faith to increase. Remain faithful with your gifting no matter how dark and lonely the situation may be. Joseph still heard from God and was able to interpret those dreams.

7. **It is God who promotes.**

**Read Genesis 41:1-36**

The butler made Joseph a promise that he would put in a good word for him and try to have him set free from prison.

Many people will promise you great things. When the man of God becomes dependent on people, he is stepping onto quicksand. Man will forsake you when the times become hard. God will never forsake you, so hold on to your dream. Joseph remained in prison for another two years and was only remembered when Pharaoh had a dream. He was called out to interpret the dream.

Is it not amazing that often people only call on you when you are needed; otherwise you are not considered, remembered or even thought of? Remember you have been bought with a price. You no longer belong to yourself but the King of Kings now owns you. Do not let rejection destroy your dream.

**8. Faithful in your gifting.**

**Read Genesis 41:33-36**

Joseph was so faithful to his calling that he not only interpreted the dream, but also advised Pharaoh as to what course of action to take.

Go beyond the call of duty and God will honour you. Another lesson that many great men of God fail in, is the lesson of “Self-Promotion”. The posters cry out and the sirens are wailing as the man of God is announced with his great ministry. People come flocking to see a man and not Jesus. It is your gifting that God gave you that will draw people. So who gets the Glory? Allow God to promote you.

**9. A Dream fulfilled.**

**Read Genesis 41:37-44**

Within twenty-four hours Joseph is promoted to second in charge of the whole land of Egypt. He was placed above Potiphar but did not seek revenge, simply because he saw God in the situation.

See God in every situation as He is preparing you for your dream.

**10. The Training.**

In Potiphar’s house, Joseph would probably have learnt about their customs, gods and the ways of their military. In prison he would have learnt of their governmental rule and laws. Can you think of a better man to do the job of a prime minister? Instead of worrying about your situation rather ask God “What are you teaching me in this situation?”

**IN EVERY TOUGH SITUATION  
GOD IS TEACHING YOU SOMETHING**

## 11. **The Test of Forgiving.**

The test of forgiveness is a test that every leader will go through.

This study is of great importance as many leaders in the army of God have struggled in this area.

Joseph's brothers suddenly appear in front of him and do not recognise him. They are at his mercy as he has the power to have them put to death, imprison them or have them enslaved. This would be the ideal time to take revenge as no one would ever know, or find out. Only God would know.

God WILL put His leaders through this test.

## B. **Let's look at Joseph**

He has been in Prison, in Slavery, Rejected by Family.

**NOT A HAPPY MAN!**

**Genesis 42:**

### 1. **He spoke harshly to them – Verse 7.**

Was he suddenly giving vent to all his hurts? Was it his flesh now manifesting? Most times, people or circumstances can bring back memories of the past and so the hurts manifest once again. Forgiveness is not forgetting, it is learning to deal with issues.

### 2. **He accused them of being spies – Verse 9.**

This was a possibility – but what was Joseph's motive? Was it to make them fearful or uncomfortable?

### 3. **He accused them of wanting to cause war in Egypt – Verse 9.**

This is ridiculous because during that time Egypt was the most feared nation in the entire known world. Joseph knew their ways, abilities and talents and that they were shepherds. Shepherds were looked down upon in Egypt.

### 4. **He tested them by telling them to fetch their younger brother – Verse 15.**

This was his way of enquiring about all the family. The love was still there, yet there was also a burning passion for revenge.

### 5. **He put them into custody – Verse 15.**

“Let me tell you what I have been through because of what you did to me”.

### 6. **He had Simeon thrown into prison – Verse 24.**

“Maybe you would like to see our prisons department?” Maybe Simeon was instrumental in the selling of Joseph, although there is no record of this in the Bible.

7. **He made them scared by putting their money back into their sacks – Verse 25.**
8. **He accused them of stealing his silver cup.**

In the last two incidences we can see a softening of the heart. Joseph was doing something here to make sure that they would come back. There was an obvious longing for reconciliation in his family.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARE WE SOMETIMES LIKE JOSEPH IN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THOSE WHO HAVE HURT US</b></p>
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During this time of agony Joseph was struggling, as many times he would draw aside and weep. God was saying “forgive” (which he knew was the right thing to do) but perhaps his flesh was crying out to hurt his brothers.

Finally, Joseph made the decision to expose himself and verbally forgive them and the Bible says that he uttered such a loud cry that the Egyptians heard it, and so did Pharaoh.

The relief of forgiveness is hard to understand. God wants us to be **free** leaders, not “bound” leaders.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EACH LEADER NEEDS TO GET A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GRACE OF GOD, AND LEARN TO FLOW IN THAT GRACE</b></p>
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Grace is something that all of us need to learn about. If we do not understand grace then we will never begin to understand people. Grace enables us to see people through the eyes of God.

***ADOPT THE ATTITUDE OF JOSEPH AND GOD WILL BLESS YOU***

**INCREASE YOUR VISION – NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE**

As Leaders, never think small. Learn this lesson from the life of Joseph.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOSEPH DREAMT OF HIS FAMILY BOWING DOWN TO HIM NOT A NATION</b></p>
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**Notes:**

1. Look into your heart and see if you have any unforgiveness towards someone. Deal with it now.
2. Never look at impossibilities but, rather, possibilities with God.
3. Not many people will admire your great vision.

# Moses

## Lesson 2

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### Read about Moses in Exodus – Deuteronomy

Moses, in my opinion, was one of the greatest leaders that God chose for the purpose of delivering Israel from bondage. Born in the midst of poverty, yet raised in the Palace of Pharaoh, all because his mother would not give in to the law.

### Lessons to Learn:

1. **His mother chose to hand her son into the hands of the living God and trust in Him.**

#### Read Exodus 2:1-6

When parents dedicate their children to God, they need to have enough faith to believe that God will take care of them and that His hand is upon them. Many mothers dedicate their children and then take them back, not trusting the living God. As leaders, God has us in His hands and His plans and purposes will be fulfilled irrespective of what happens.

**Another example. Read 1 Samuel 1.** Hannah prayed for a child and God answered her prayer. After weaning, Hannah gave Samuel into the Lord's service and he became the greatest prophet in the time of Israel.

2. **Rather do it God's way.**

#### Read Exodus 11-12

Moses tries to do things his way by killing an Egyptian. The result is that he has to flee. Although he was brought up in the Palace of Pharaoh, he recognised the calling on his life and wanted to try it his way.

God places the calling of a leader on his heart. This can become such a burden in your life that it can cause you to function ahead of God. Leaders need to know that only when you are ready will God release you into your ministry (remember the polished shaft of the arrow).

3. **Lesson in Humility.**

#### Read Exodus 3:3-11 – Note the humility in verse 2 “Who am I ....”

God had to humble Moses and show him that the vision would be fulfilled but it would be done God's way and not man's way. Moses becomes a shepherd, something that the Egyptians considered the lowest of humanity.

#### Read Exodus 5:7-8

The higher your calling, the greater the need for humility. Moses was humbled even more when Pharaoh gave the command that the Israelites were to make bricks without

straw. Imagine being released into your ministry and it seems that the enemy is getting the better of you. The tests that you face are not to destroy you but, rather, to build you up and cause you to increase, not decrease as some may feel.

#### **Read 2 Timothy 4:5**

Paul wrote to Timothy and encouraged him to endure afflictions and to complete the course set before him, as Paul had done. I wonder if Timothy ever got despondent?

Moses had a very long period of preparation. Forty years in the courts of Pharaoh and forty years of living in the desert. At the age of approximately eighty he returns to Egypt. The question is “why so long?”

Forty years to learn all about the ways of the Egyptians. He had to learn about their culture and, most of all, about the gods of Egypt. Every plague that came upon the Egyptians revealed that the God of Israel was far more superior to their gods. He had to know his enemy.

#### **4. Experiences do count.**

Forty years in the desert. You cannot take 3 million people into a desert if you have not been there before. If you have not learnt to survive then the people under you will never survive. The person you are is what the people will become.

As you minister into peoples’ lives, they will pick up your ways, ideas and anointing. The man of God must always examine himself and have a pure heart before God.

**WHAT YOU ARE IS WHAT  
YOUR PEOPLE BECOME**

In a relay race the best runner is always kept for the last leg. If you feel that God is taking a long time then be encouraged because there is a greater calling on your life. There is a reason:

- a) Why you dropped from the courts of Pharaoh into the desert.
- b) Why you feel discouraged.
- c) Why you have to do work that you think is useless and has no value.

God knows what He is doing – allow Him to complete the work that He has begun in you.

**Philippians 1:6** *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”.*

Quote by D.L. Moody

MOSES, FOR FORTY YEARS HE THOUGHT HE WAS A SOMEBODY (PRINCE)  
FOR FORTY YEARS HE LEARNT THAT HE WAS A NOBODY (DESERT)  
AND FOR FORTY YEARS HE LEARNT WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH A NOBODY

## 5. God fulfils a calling.

Up until the time of the burning bush Moses only had a longing to see Israel set free. For this purpose was Moses birthed, to deliver the nation of Israel.

He was born at the right time in the right place to fulfil a Prophecy given to Abraham approximately 400 years previously.

### **Read Genesis 15 and take note of Verse 13**

Each one of us is living in this generation to fulfil God's specific plan.

**1 John 3:8b** *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil".*

God is looking for "Nobodies" that will fulfil His plans and purposes. God will NOT share His Glory with anybody, as He is the only one who can and will be exalted. When pride enters your heart and you think that God will never manage without you, **BEWARE!** You are about to fall.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-31**

**GOD CAN BRING RICHES OUT OF RUBBLE**

**IN GOD'S HANDS, EVEN ASHES HAVE PURPOSE**

### **WEAKNESSES:**

Failed to enter the Promised Land, because of disobedience – **Numbers 14:16**

Did not always recognise and use the talents of others – **Numbers 11:16**

### **Some Lessons to be learnt from the life of Moses:**

He knew God.

**Psalms 103:7** *"He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel".*

He was a good shepherd to the people. After the people had sinned at Sinai, Moses went back up onto the mountain to plead for the people. **Exodus 32:30-35.**

He was the mediator between God and Israel.

He was a very humble man. Even when leaders opposed him, he pleaded for them – **Exodus 33:12-17.**

# Joshua

## Lesson 3

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### Read the Book of Joshua

**Meaning:** *The Lord is Salvation.*

Joshua was a young man at the time of the exodus (Exodus 33:11) but after many years in the desert he would have been well prepared to become a positive, determined leader.

#### A. Character of Joshua

1. **He waited.**

**Read Deuteronomy 31:14**

Joshua never tried to take over from Moses but rather chose to wait for promotion from God. It was only after forty years in the desert that Joshua was prayed over. Only God knows when His men are ready to accept responsibility.

Never try to take over from the one who is mentoring you. You will fail.

2. **He enquired.**

**Read Exodus 24:12-14**

Joshua would go half way up the mountain where the people were forbidden to go. A man who was not totally dependant upon Moses to hear from God but was intent on hearing God's voice for himself.

He would stay behind in the tabernacle after Moses had finished communing with God. (Exodus 33:11)

Even though your mentor hears from God – Learn to listen for the Lord's voice for yourself.

3. **He looked to God.**

**Read Joshua 24:14-15**

Joshua knew the path he had to walk and was not influenced by others. He informed the people that they were free to choose the god that they wanted to serve but he and his family would serve the one true God.

Choose to be a God-fearing man and not a people-pleasing man.

4. **He waited on the Lord.**

**Read Joshua 5:13-15**

Joshua never moved until he had explicit directions from God.  
A man who moves without God – moves into trouble.

## 5. He inspired people.

### Read Joshua 3:3-5

Joshua always inspired confidence amongst the people and has always been considered a selfless person of sheer courage.

People need to be **inspired** to possess their inheritance. Too many of God's leaders have chosen the path of ruling and domineering God's people.

#### *Quote by William S. LaSor*

*God expects each generation to get up on its own feet and face its own problems. God does not want us to stand around saying, "Well now, look at Moses. There was a great man! We will never have another man like Moses". Moses is dead. Get up and face the problems of your day and your age! Arise, go over this Jordan. Do not long for the past. Do the work of the present, and God says, "I will be with you".*

I firmly believe that the day of Moses has come to an end and the time has come for the Joshuas to be raised up in the Church. For too long the Church of Jesus Christ has been pampered by the Pastors. Pastors have been the ones to pray, seek God and feed the people. Now the True Body of Christ needs to cross over their Jordans and possess the land for themselves.

God commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous four times in Joshua chapter one and He did it for four reasons.

### Read Joshua 1:1-18

1. Verse 6 For the sake of the people. The people are like sheep, not knowing which way to go. They need strong leaders to direct them.
2. Verse 7 For the sake of himself. God knows that His leaders are under tremendous fire and so they need to be very strong and courageous.
3. Verse 9 For the sake of the Lord, that His Kingdom may be established here on earth.
4. Verse 18 For the sake of those that are in rebellion to the Lord (the unsaved). Spirits of deception blind these people and they need to recognise that there is only one true God who loves them and wants them to be free. By being strong and courageous we demonstrate the power of the living God who dwells within us.

## B. How do I become strong and courageous?

Joshua 1:7-8, "Be strong and very courageous. **Be careful to obey all the law** my servant Moses gave you; **do not turn from it to the right or to the left**, that you may be successful wherever you go. **Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful".

1. Obey all the Law of God.
2. Do not compromise the Word of God.
3. Do not let it depart from your mouth.
4. Meditate on it day and night. **Read Psalms 1.**

### **38 Characteristics that made Joshua qualify as a Leader:**

**1. Joshua as a Warrior. Psalms 144:1.**

Born during captivity – he experienced hardships and in that became courageous and warlike. God needed a warrior to lead people into the Promised Land.

All Leaders need to begin as Spiritual Leaders. There must be a cause in their hearts to defeat the enemy and bring victory for the Lord. John 18:36; 1 Corinthians 9:25-26; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7.

**2. Joshua as a Word Bearer. Exodus 17:14; Acts 9:10-12.**

He received a Prophetic Word after his first battle. Moses spoke it into his ears and Joshua rehearsed it in his heart.

Every leader needs to hear personally from God concerning his calling into ministry. This word needs to be carried in his heart.

**3. Joshua as a Servant. Exodus 24:13, 33:11.**

He served under Moses for forty years and when Moses handed him the reins his response to the angel was (Joshua 5:14) “What saith my Lord unto his servant?”

All leaders need to learn to first serve others and be known as a minister (a servant) in his local assembly.

**4. Joshua as a Faithful Co-Worker. Exodus 32:17.**

When Moses was called up into the mountain, Joshua would follow. When the people rebelled, Joshua remained faithful. When others had no faith, he held onto the promises of God. Genesis 16:1, 15-16; 1 Samuel 8:5-7.

**5. Joshua as a lover of God’s House and God’s Presence. Exodus 33:11.**

Whilst in the tabernacle, there were many times that he did not want to leave.

It is possible for a man of God to fall in love with his gifts and ministry and not in love with the Presence of God. Read Exodus 33:15.

Also take note of Genesis 4:16; Psalm 16:11, 31:20, 51:11, 1 Corinthians 1:29 and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

**6. Joshua as a man of Zeal. Numbers 11:28-29.**

His zeal wanted to stop two young men prophesying and Moses forbade him.

Leaders must be balanced and have a mature understanding of God and His movements.

John 18:10: the zeal of Peter as he cut off the soldier’s ear.

Luke 9:51-56: the zeal of James and John to call fire down from Heaven.

**7. Joshua as a man of Changed Character. Numbers 13:16.**

His original name was Oshea meaning “deliverer or helper”. God changed his name to Joshua meaning “Jehovah saves” because God wanted to show him that it was going to be through His Power that the land would be possessed.

8. **Joshua as a man Rejected by his Brethren. Numbers 14:6-12.**  
 After the spying out of the land Joshua, with Caleb and Moses, was rejected by the people.  
 Every leader needs to know that even though rejection does come, it will be used in God's plan.  
 Other Examples: Paul had 14 years of obscurity.  
                           Joseph had 13 years of prison.  
                           Moses had 40 years of wilderness.
  
9. **Joshua submitted to the Laying on of Hands. Deuteronomy 34:9; Numbers 27:18; 1 Timothy 4:14.**  
 Laying on of hands represents:     The recognition of another's calling.  
   The acceptance of a leader who is "above" you.  
   The impartation of an anointing into one's life.
  
10. **Joshua who was set before the Priesthood. Numbers 27:19a.**  
 He was willing to recognise the vertical relationship by also submitting to Eleazar.  
 If a leader cannot submit to other leaders, he will not be preparing himself properly to submit to God.
  
11. **Joshua who received a Commission. Numbers 27:19.**  
 He did not have a proud or independent spirit about his ministry. He waited until he received a formal commission from the hand of Moses and before the people and the priesthood.  
 All leaders must be willing to take the special charge given to them from the Lord through those over them in spiritual authority.  
 See also 1 Timothy 1:18, 5:21, 6:13, 17.
  
12. **Joshua who was set before the Congregation. Numbers 27:19b.**  
 He was commissioned in front of the congregation. God was teaching him to not only have a vertical relationship but also a horizontal relationship with the people.  
 Every leader needs to be able to relate to all different types of people. It is the people that make a ministry.
  
13. **Joshua who shouldered a little responsibility at a time as it was given to him. Numbers 27:20.**  
 Moses only gave him responsibilities slowly.  
 The reception of authority comes only from a recognition and obedience to the same.  
 Every leader needs to take his responsibilities slowly. If it comes too quickly, pride could be their downfall.
  
14. **Joshua obtained guidance through the Word of God. Numbers 27:21.**  
 Although Moses had given him permission, he also needed to seek guidance from the Lord.  
 Every one of God's leaders must seek His guidance irrespective of how much authority has been given to them.
  
15. **Joshua as a Shepherd-Husbandman who first partook of the fruit. Numbers 27:15-23; 2 Timothy 2:6.**  
 He never expected the people to do anything that he had never done himself.

Every leader needs to see that they cannot expect the people to do something that they themselves have never done.

- 16. Joshua was an Example of a Believer. Numbers 32:12; 1 Timothy 4:12.**  
He, with Caleb, was known to have followed the Lord “fully”. They revealed a true example by not wavering at the promises of God.  
Leaders must be an example of what a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ is. Not wavering in faith but, instead, pressing forward in the promises of God.
- 17. Joshua was found with the Elders. Numbers 32:28.**  
When Moses was discussing with the elders of the tribes concerning Canaan, Joshua was among them.  
**Read Proverbs 13:20.** Every leader must walk with other leaders in order to receive Godly counsel.
- 18. Joshua caused others to Receive their Inheritance. Deuteronomy 1:38; Joshua 21:43-46, 11:23, 18:10 and Ephesians 1.**  
By Joshua entering into the Promised Land, he caused others to inherit it.  
A leader must not only be involved with his ministry but he also needs to be helping others to fulfil their calling. **See notes on Mentoring in Book 1.**
- 19. Joshua was able to Receive Encouragement from others. Deuteronomy 3:21-28.**  
He received encouragement from Moses.  
Many of God’s leaders today are too proud or full of self-pity to receive from others.  
Every leader needs words of encouragement from time to time.
- 20. Joshua had a Progressive Revelation of his Ministry. Exodus 17:14; Numbers 27:17, Deuteronomy 31:7, 34:8-9; Joshua 1:1-9.**  
God did not reveal the full extent of his ministry to him all at once.  
First we see him as a warrior, then as a leader, then as a man who caused Israel to possess their inheritance and now finally as the chief shepherd over Israel.  
Every leader should realize that the revelation of his ministry would be progressive.  
God does this in order to prevent pride entering our hearts.
- 21. Joshua was filled with the Spirit of Wisdom. Deuteronomy 34:9; Ephesians 1.**  
He received the Spirit of Wisdom through Moses laying hands on him and also by observing his mentor.  
Every leader needs to observe other leaders carefully and gain as much wisdom and knowledge from them.
- 22. Joshua had a Covenant Relationship with God. Joshua 1:1-9.**  
In Joshua 1:2 he refers to the Covenant God made with Abraham.  
Every leader needs to understand covenant relationships and be able to stand on them.
- 23. Joshua learnt from Bad Experiences. Joshua 2.**  
He had learnt not to send in twelve spies so he sent in only two in order to receive a good report. Every leader needs to learn not only from their own mistakes but also from the mistakes of others.  
Do not harbour the past – learn from the past and push forward.

- 24. Joshua functioned with Organisation upon Principles. Joshua 3.**  
 He was organised when it came to crossing over the Jordan. The priests went in front carrying the Ark and the people followed a distance behind. Twelve stones were erected in remembrance of the crossing.  
 Every leader needs to be able to both organise and to hear from God.
- 25. Joshua could take Promotion. Joshua 3:7; 1 Timothy 3:6.**  
 In Joshua 3:7 God said to Joshua “today I will magnify thee”. Joshua did not become proud.  
 God wants to promote or cause His leaders to increase. Unfortunately pride is the greatest stumbling block in promotion.  
 Every leader needs to remain humble before God.
- 26. Joshua a Preacher of Victory. Joshua 3:9-11.**  
 He was always positive even in the midst of great trials. He encouraged people to possess their inheritance.  
 Every leader needs a fresh and living vision of the Church of Jesus Christ as a Victorious Army.
- 27. Joshua removed reproach by Covenant Obedience. Joshua 5:1-11.**  
 Even though the enemy fainted at the sight of Israel, Joshua never became self-confident. He still obeyed the Covenant conditions.  
 Every leader needs to remain faithful and obedient to God and His Word.
- 28. Joshua could handle God’s Test of Blessing. Joshua 5:10-12.**  
 After the crossing the manna ceased and the people were able to live off the land again. Would they still remain faithful to God now that they no longer depended on God to feed them? Joshua was able to handle God’s Blessings.  
 Every leader must realize that the times of Blessings can also be the times of great temptations.
- 29. Joshua received a Visitation from the Lord. Joshua 5:13-15.**  
 Before the crossing, Joshua had an encounter with the Lord of Hosts. Joshua fell down, loosened his sandals and worshipped the Lord.  
 Every leader needs to have an encounter with the Lord by His Holy Spirit at some time or the other. The leader needs to receive a fresh revelation of the King and His Holiness.
- 30. Joshua Obeyed Instruction even though it went against his own natural understanding.**  
 Joshua could not understand how marching around a city could cause them to take the city but **he obeyed**.  
 Every leader needs to be obedient. He must not rely on his own understanding but needs to just obey God at all times.
- 31. Joshua felt discouragement over Israel’s sin but knew the proper source of Comfort and Strength. Joshua 6:17-27, 7:1-26.**  
 After the sin of Achan, Joshua tore his clothes and fell upon his face before the Lord.  
 Every leader needs to go before God and find out why his people are not receiving the blessings. He needs to ask the Lord what to do.  
 Remember God has not changed and He cannot bless sin.

- 32. Joshua allowed God to use that with which he had been trained. Joshua 8:18.**  
Moses had a rod (Shepherd) whilst Joshua had a spear (Warrior).  
God will call upon His leaders to use the resources that they have gained from life.  
Talents, knowledge, training, skills and experiences – God will take the little that we may know and multiply it.
- 33. Joshua never forgot the Lord during the times of Blessing. Joshua 8:26-35.**  
After each victory he would erect an altar to give God the Glory.  
Every leader needs to remember that the Victory is the Lord's and all the Glory must go to Him.
- 34. Joshua who fell to the sin of Self Confidence. Joshua 9:1-27, 14, 15.**  
After two great victories, Joshua did not seek counsel from the Lord but allowed the Gibeonites to lie to him.  
Self Confidence has been the downfall of many great leaders in the Church today.
- 35. Joshua exercised Faith with Authority. Joshua 10:1-4.**  
During the battle that came after disobeying God, Joshua told the sun to stand still until the battle had been won.  
Leaders must not become discouraged by mistakes that they make. They can still speak with authority and faith. God is a God of Grace and Mercy.
- 36. Joshua gathered Israel into a Place of Visitation. Joshua 24; Genesis 12:6-8, 18-20.**  
When Joshua was old in years, he gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem along with all of their heads, judges and officers. There he rehearsed what the Lord had done for Israel and made a covenant with the people that they would serve the Lord.  
Leaders must never forsake Biblical Truths of the past. Each generation needs to have its "Shechem" experience.
- 37. Joshua had a Prophetic Gift and used it, with History, to edify and admonish the people of Israel. Joshua 24:1-28.**  
At Shechem he prophesied over the people and also spoke of the things God had done in the past. He encouraged the people this way.  
Every leader needs to use his gifting to exhort and encourage people in their callings.
- 38. Joshua could look back over a life of successful ministry. Joshua 24:29-31.**  
Joshua died at the age of 110 with a good testimony.  
Every leader, on his deathbed, should also be able to look back and say with confidence like Paul "I have run the race and fought the good fight of faith".

### **Lessons to learn:**

1. Complete and total obedience on the part of the leader.
2. A concern for people to inherit; yet allowing them the freedom of choice.
3. Like Elisha, he was prepared to learn from a man (Moses) by spending a lot of time with him. At times one cannot only learn from a manual. To be mentored is far better.
4. Most times Joshua followed Moses a part of the way up the mountain. Remember no one except Moses was allowed past the boundaries that God had set.

5. When Moses had finished communing with God in the Tabernacle, Joshua would stay behind. He not only did what Moses did, but went a little further. You need to be mentored and go the extra distance if you want to be better than your mentor.
6. Joshua learnt from the failures of the past. He only sent two spies and not twelve like Moses had done. It is more likely that the less there are, the more positive the report.
7. Other people did not influence Joshua. Whilst spying out the land, he and Caleb would not deter from the promises of God.
8. He was a warrior and was aggressive in getting hold of the promises. Moses was an excellent shepherd and saw to the needs of the people. Joshua made people fight for their own inheritance. Many times Pastors will carry people for years and the people never have a chance to grow up.
9. Do not harbour the past – learn from the past and push forward.

There isn't much written about the life of Joshua or on his preparation for his ministry. As we read between the lines about his ways and character, I am sure that you will agree with me that this is the kind of leader that Churches need today.

**Questions that you must ask yourself:**

1. Are you a Moses or a Joshua? Passive or aggressive?
2. Are you going to carry people or teach them to carry themselves?

**PASTORS ARE NEEDED FOR THE NEW  
CONVERTS OF TODAY.  
JOSHUAS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTIANS  
WHO HAVE BEEN GOING AROUND  
THE DESERT FOR YEARS.**

- Strengths:**
1. He remained positive at all times.
  2. Brilliant military strategist.
  3. Faithful to ask God's direction in the challenges he faced.

- Weaknesses:**
1. He did not complete the task of possessing all of the land.
  2. He did not raise up a leader to take over.

# Elijah and Elisha

## Lesson 4

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**Read about them in 1 Kings 17:1 – 2 Kings 2:11**

### **Key Verse – 1 Kings 18:36-39**

<sup>36</sup>And it came to pass at *the time of* the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou *art* God in Israel, and *that I am* thy servant, and *that I have* done all these things at thy word.

<sup>37</sup>Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again.

<sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

<sup>39</sup>And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God.

### **A. Lessons to learn**

#### **1. Single-minded in purpose.**

##### **Read 1 Kings 18**

Elijah was single-minded in his commitment to God and sometimes his way of doing things can be inclined to shock us.

He was a confronter not a comforter. He was not a popular prophet during his time but today is known as the most famous and dramatic prophet in the Old Testament.

Elijah was a “loner” and paid the price for it by experiencing isolation from others who were faithful to God.

God will at times raise up men who prefer to work alone. They feel that the job must get done and to wait for someone else to do it will take too much time. These men are confident in themselves and know their calling. They are strong leaders. Many times, the loneliness they experience is unbearable and will have an effect on their life and ministry. Every person does need someone to lean on, and this can often be your spouse.

#### **2. He knew God.**

##### **Read 1 Kings 21:17-27**

Elijah knew God. He was full of zeal for God, he never compromised and was able to judge and confront issues with boldness. Elijah confronted King Ahab on a number of occasions but the king chose not to listen to him.

The servant of God must KNOW his God. Know His Ways – Character – Grace – Mercy and Loving Kindness. If we only see God as a harsh judging God then that

is what will be portrayed to the people. Knowing God can put you in a position where you are not dependant on others. This can, at times, be detrimental to the ministry as the purpose of every leader is to raise up others to take over the work.

3. **Keep focused on God.**

Elijah also upset Jezebel. Elijah was possibly affecting her relationship with Ahab and her control. After Elijah's conquest at Mount Carmel it seemed that it was "the last straw"! She then **threatened** him with death.

After every great victory, there is a time of "heaviness". Many pastors will say that the worst day for them is Monday. They feel drained and exhausted. Facts prove that Pastors are more vulnerable on Mondays than on any other day. If you ever go against the Prophets of Baal, believe me the enemy will not be pleased with you. The man of God needs to clothe himself in God's Armour daily.

4. **God keeps His eye on you.**

**Read 1 Kings 19:4**

Elijah fled and went into a state of depression. Feeling very sorry for himself ("I am the only one ....") and even suicidal as he desired death.

There will be times of loneliness in your ministry. Thoughts of failure will enter your mind. A strong desire to give up the Ministry and to run away becomes inevitable. This is not a bad time but rather the best place to be in.



God has to, and will, draw this type of leader aside to communicate with them. These men (like Elijah) are very dramatic and loud and feel that is the way that God communicates with His people. God needs to show us that it is NOT in the fires, the storms or even the gusting winds that He speaks but rather in a still quiet voice. (Remember the desert experience.)

5. **A father who disciplines.**

**Read 1 Kings 19:9**

Do you notice that God neither comforts nor seems to feel sorry for Elijah? (*What are you doing here?*) He gives the soldier instructions to go and anoint Elisha so that the ministry will continue.

**THE GREATEST GOOD YOU CAN DO FOR ANOTHER  
IS NOT TO JUST SHARE YOUR RESOURCES  
BUT TO REVEAL TO HIM HIS OWN**

God will, at times, treat us as soldiers in His army. In the world's army the man that shows the most potential as a soldier will have more attention than the others.

We are all in the Army of God. Paul wrote to the Church and in 1 Corinthians 16 said these words: <sup>13</sup>Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. <sup>14</sup>Let all your things be done with charity.

**DOMINEERING SOMEONE DOES NOT MAKE YOU A MAN.  
HEARING, OBEYING GOD AND GIVING PEOPLE  
DIRECTION MAKES YOU A MAN.**

**This can only be found in LOVE**

**6. Finally – obedience.**

**Read 1 Kings 19:19-21**

Elijah obeys God and anoints Elisha. Notice that Elijah is not at all pleasant towards his successor. He throws the cloak over him and proceeds on his way. Elisha asks him to wait and Elijah's reply is very rude, "What have I done to thee?" This is revealed throughout the fourteen years of Elisha's preparation. At the end of his training, Elijah instructs Elisha to remain behind in certain cities. Elisha disobeys and follows Elijah.

Ask yourself this question.... "Was Elijah raising up a wimp or a soldier?" Many times in the ministry we pamper Christians to make them happy. This results in people who run away from battle, never overcome and never achieve their goals and visions

**B. Elisha got a double anointing**

**Read 2 Kings 2:9**

**DOUBLE PRESSURE WILL  
BRING DOUBLE ANOINTING**

**Lessons we glean from Elisha:**

1. He burnt his past – had nothing to go back to. Decisions we make should be final.
2. He kissed his Mother and Father goodbye. This is not rejection but rather an acceptance of a whole new life.
3. He persevered through many hardships for the double portion. Never give up.
4. He focused on God – not a man, not a Church or a system. God has a plan for you and it will be achieved if you persevere with your dream.
5. He never pushed himself into the front – he waited for Elijah to throw the mantle onto him and then he went forward into his calling.  
God is the one who opens doors for your ministry. You do not have to do anything to get promotion.
6. Elisha performed exactly double the amount of miracles that Elijah performed.

Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire – Appeared with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration.

I believe that when the Church starts to operate as a Soldier, having integrity, with no compromise, working against the enemy and not with the enemy, then it will be raptured in a blaze of Glory.

At the beginning of this lesson I said that God would raise up men who would choose to be “loners”. This needs to be seen as a weakness rather than a strength. God wants us to raise up other ministries in order for the work to continue when the leader passes on.

God wants us to “mentor” others or, as we see in the Old Testament, to have armour bearers. Jesus had twelve followers who continued His work.

### **Let us look at the attitude of Elijah in his ministry:**

**1 Kings 18** – A great victory is wrought at Mount Carmel. Fire from heaven, much rain after the three-year drought and then to run ahead of a chariot, only to “crash” into a woman called Jezebel. At times God has to cause us to “crash” and to bring us to a place of despair to get our attention.

**1 Kings 19:11** – The Lord is quite firm with Elijah and takes him to a cave and has to explain to Elijah that He is not in the explosive things of life but rather in a still quiet voice. Maybe God had been trying to tell Elijah that He wanted him to raise up someone to take over the ministry.

**1 Kings 19:16** – The order that was given to Elijah was to go and raise up Elisha. Elijah’s attitude towards Elisha was not very pleasant. Elijah threw his cloak over Elisha and walked on. He did this five times and each time Elisha was told to stay behind and continue a work. Elisha refused on all occasions but walked with Elijah until God took Elijah.

I believe that Elijah was harsh because he wanted to do it his way and not God’s way.

Realise that every one of us are here for a short space of time and it is every leaders’ responsibility to raise up others to take over the ministry. The person who takes over, I feel, should carry a double portion of the anointing.

**RAISE UP A PERSON GREATER THAN YOU  
AND THE FATHER WILL BE PLEASED WITH YOU**

**JESUS SAID WE WILL DO GREATER  
WORKS THAN HE DID.**

**JOHN 14:12**

### **Notes:**

1. Are you a confronter against unrighteousness?
2. Are you prepared to be a follower like Elisha was?

# David

## Lesson 5

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### Read about David in 1 Samuel 16 – End of 2 Samuel

David was known as the greatest king of Israel. There is much to learn from the life of this great man and I would recommend that you, as an individual – if called into full time ministry – do a thorough study on the life of David. In this study we will be covering most of the important issues of God’s Preparation in David.

God always knows what is going on in the heart of man. He knows the beginning from the end and always makes a way for His plans and purposes to be fulfilled.

**IF YOU DO NOT AVAIL YOURSELF FOR GOD’S PLANS  
GOD ALREADY HAS SOMEONE ELSE IN MIND**

Saul was a man pleaser, not a God pleaser. The result was that he lost his kingdom and it was given to another, whose heart was after God.

### Lessons to Learn:

1. **God sees the heart.**

**Read 2 Chronicles 6:30; Matthew 15:8**

David was the least in his family. Jesse did not bring ALL his sons to Samuel. David was forgotten in the fields. Only when Samuel asked if there was another, was David remembered.

People consider age, talents, wealth, appearance, education and position before giving promotion. God looks at the heart of man. Joseph was the least amongst his brothers. Moses had to become a “nothing” before being used. David looked after the family’s sheep.

God sees abilities that man cannot see. Humility allows God to work through you, which will make you a powerful man of God. Pride does not need God – you are therefore sufficient in yourself.

If you are self-centred and cannot look after God’s Sheep – do not consider the work of caring for them.

**GOD CAN DO MORE WITH A “NOBODY”  
THAN ANYONE ELSE CAN DO WITH A SOMEBODY**

2. **Faithfulness.**

**Read 1 Samuel 17:15**

David considered his job as being very important and showed integrity and commitment

to the work that his father had called him to. He endangered his own life by killing a lion and a bear to protect his father's sheep. Even after Samuel had anointed him, notice he went back to his father's sheep. Some people, after they have been called by God, immediately want to take over a Church of a few thousand people.

God will test each one of us in the area of commitment. If we cannot be trusted with small issues how can we possibly be trusted with the greater things of our Father.

If we are not faithful in studying the Bible at College, how can we be trusted with teaching the people truth? Studying the Bible discovers truth.

If we cannot be trusted with ten people, how can we be trusted with 10,000?

### 3. **Training ground.**

#### **Read 1 Samuel 17:33-36**

There are two reasons why David had to kill the lion and the bear. The first one we have dealt with and the second was for preparation to confront Goliath (Satan).

Many men and women of God will not even confront the lion and the bear because of fear. Most leaders will not confront Goliath. They choose not to have anything to do with the devil as they consider him more powerful than the God that lives within them. Matthew 16:18 speaks of a Church going against Hell. See also Mark 16:17-18.

David was a warrior, commanded by God to conquer the land and to hand it over to his son, Solomon.

Typical of the Church today as we are called to Possess the Land by preaching the Good News

### 4. **Oppositions.**

You will have to learn to confront the Goliaths of your Ministry. If you do not learn to stand against the three metre dwarfs - you will never increase in your Ministry.

**Let us look at some points:**

#### **Read 1 Samuel 17:40-58**

David was on top of the hill; Goliath was in the valley. He ran down to meet his adversary and as he descended the giant grew bigger. Every time you want to confront issues - your giant will increase in size. David did not consider the size but rather spoke a word from God... "I am going to cut your head off" (he did not even have a sword). "I am going to feed your flesh to the birds of the air". Goliath was not dead yet and must have been very angry with David!

The size of the God in you will determine the size of the Goliath in your life.

<p style="text-align:center"><b>THE GREATER GOD IS IN YOU – THE SMALLER THE GOLIATH THE SMALLER GOD IS IN YOU – THE GREATER THE GOLIATH</b></p>
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In your ministry, never focus on the circumstances; rather keep your focus on the end result. God said it, so therefore believe it.

Before David went to meet with his adversary, there were two areas he had to face up to and deal with:

- a) 1 Samuel 17:28-29 – His brother, Eliab (obviously jealous of his calling) asked what he was doing there and had he come to cause trouble. **David ignored petty arguments.**
- b) 1 Samuel 17:38-39 – Saul wanted David to fight in the same way he fought (“try on this armour, use my sword and spear”). David heard from God and used the armour of God and a slingshot. Nothing can penetrate the armour of God and remember that a stone released by the Spirit of God is charged with awesome power and will find its mark.

## 5. **The beginning of promotion.**

**Read 1 Samuel 19:1-2, 9-10**

After this great conquest, David became popular and Saul became jealous and began throwing spears at him.

When God begins to promote, those that are close to you may become jealous and begin to accuse you and many times ridicule you or try to break you down. Dodge the spears and **never throw them back**. You do not have to justify yourself – you are called by God and you should be dead to self.

**Note:** David remained faithful in his calling to minister to Saul – even amongst flying spears.

## 6. **Opposition comes from the flesh.**

**Read 1 Samuel 19:1-2**

Saul did not recognise the calling upon David’s life. Instead of assisting God’s plans for Israel, he chose to try to block them - the result was death. God will remove all obstacles that hinder His purposes for His people.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A SIGN OF A GOOD LEADER IS THE ABILITY TO RAISE UP LEADERS THAT ARE BETTER THAN THEMSELVES</b></p>
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Good leaders will raise up other leaders that are more effective than themselves.

Ask God to enable you to discern another person’s gifts and callings and, instead of being a hindrance to the purposes of God, rather become an assistant.

## 7. **The Desert.**

**Read 1 Samuel chapters 20 to 22**

David was eventually cast out of the Kingdom. Saul hunted him down for eight years **during** which time there were opportunities to kill Saul – yet he would not touch God’s anointed. He did not touch Saul with the sword or even with words.

After a calling upon your life – there is a “desert” that one may have to go through. Doubts will enter your mind and confusion will come in. “I am called so why am I having to hide?” “Why am I running away?”

**The answer is that you are waiting for God to promote you.**

**Habakkuk 2: 2-3** *The Lord’s Answer.*

Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay”.

David waited for 8 years and Moses waited 40 years in the desert.

## **8. God will send people to encourage.**

**Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4**

David had a very close friend - Jonathan - who was the son of his enemy, Saul. Jonathan recognized the call of God on David’s life. Being different from his father, he chose to encourage the call rather than to discourage it.

All men need a male friend. Every woman needs a female friend – Someone that we can depend on, turn to in difficult times and know that they will support us. Unfortunately, we all have, or will, experience hurts or disappointments in our Christian walk. Seek out a true friend and you will be blessed.

**IN PROSPERITY – OUR FRIENDS KNOW US  
IN ADVERSITY – WE KNOW OUR FRIENDS**

There were many times that David experienced discouragement.

**Read 1 Samuel 30**

**Note the following points:**

David was on the run at this time and had gathered to himself 600 men. After returning home they discovered that they had lost everything. The discouragement was so great that there were 600 men who wanted to stone David. David drew away from “negativity” and focused on the “positive” – which was God. God gave him direction and he pursued the enemy.

Along the way he had the privilege of ministering to one of his enemies. There were no grudges. In the midst of strife, never forget God’s grace that operates through you. They retrieved back everything, plus all the enemies’ wealth.

**IN YOUR DARKEST SITUATION GOD HAS A PLAN**

**Key Verse: 1 Samuel 30:6**

*“And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God**”.*

**9. Second promotion.**

**Read 2 Samuel 2:4**

Saul was finally killed in battle and David was made king of Judah. He could have questioned God ...“but Lord you said that I would be king of **Israel** – not just **Judah!**”

We need to look at the heart of David. First of all, after being hunted down for many years his adversary is killed and when it should be a time for rejoicing, he mourns.

2 Samuel 1:11-12. Jesus commanded us to love and bless our enemies.

Secondly, David was never in a rush as he waited patiently for God to promote him. The Bible says he “enquired” of God whether to go to the cities of Judah before being crowned as a king. 2 Samuel 2:1.

Thirdly, realize that David was not just tested once but God continued to test him during his reign. His attitude towards Saul’s descendants was tested. 2 Samuel 9 tells us about Mephibosheth, a descendant of Saul.

David remained faithful in the situation that he was presently in. In order to remain faithful, learn to be content, realize that the Lord will promote in due time.

**Psalms 37:34** *“Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it”.*

**10. Testing.**

**Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5**

Everyone knows about Bathsheba. Some have laughed at the story and many have mourned. There is much for the man of God to learn from this story.

David was at the peak of his “ministry”. Confidence, Assurance, Idle Hands and Prosperity can make a man vulnerable.

David had a number of concubines - yet he looked upon another man’s wife. Instead of running, he enquired.

Never try to “test” the devil to see how far you can go. Bathsheba fell pregnant. God will eventually expose sin. Please note that this was not a one-off occasion but this affair went on for a while.

David tried to hide his sin by trying to get Uriah to sleep with his wife. That did not work so David had him killed. To think that such a great man had to stoop so low after all that he had been through. You can never cover up sin. If you are not open to repentance, God will eventually expose it.

The Prophet Nathan was used to expose the sin. **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14.**

Two things were spoken over David's life at this time.

- i) Verse 10 The sword would never depart from David's House.
- ii) Verse 11 David's wives and concubines would be seduced in front of him in the daylight.

All this was fulfilled in the time of David. The child died soon after birth and whilst the child was sick, David was fasting and praying for the child's welfare. The servants were concerned about telling David as he was in distress. After receiving the news, David asked for food, bathed and changed his clothing. One looks at this and considers it very unusual, yet it is not at all unusual. David had partly reaped what he had sown and now it was time to get on with his duties. 2 Samuel 12:15-25.

The second thing that came to pass was Tamar of David's household was raped by Amnon, her own brother. 2 Samuel 13:1- 22. Absalom ended up killing Amnon.

The third incident was that Absalom tried to take the kingdom away from David by drawing the people to himself. Things got so bad that David had to flee from his own son. 2 Samuel 15:13 – end. Absalom seizes the throne, but God was not in it and Joab killed Absalom.

David mourned his rebellious son's death. Once again David recognized Sowing and Reaping.

### **Read Galatians 6:7**

Many times the people of God go through hard times and complain, but they never look back and see what they have sown. Fruit is not produced the day after the seed is planted. The fruit tree only begins to produce after five to seven years. Always remember this. There will be bad seed sown in your ministry. Do not blame God – reap and then move on with your ministry. David did.

Division in the Kingdom continued as Nathan had prophesied ... “The sword will not depart from your house”. 2 Samuel 12:10.

David's life was fulfilled in the birth of his son Solomon. The woman that he obviously loved so much and had gone through so much trouble for, gave birth to the next king of Israel. 1 Kings 1:16-17.

Out of every tragedy comes something that is so wonderful that we cannot comprehend or understand God's ways. True repentance always brings the Blessings of God.

**Read Psalm 51** and see David's heart of true repentance for this sin.

## **BLESSINGS FOLLOW GENUINE REPENTANCE**

Solomon: the second wisest man who walked on this earth. He was used to build the temple and he brought honour to his father, David.

**IN EVERY DARK SITUATION, THERE IS A LIGHT  
THAT ALWAYS SHINES  
WE MAY NOT SEE IT, BUT IT IS THERE  
SIMPLY BECAUSE GOD IS THERE**

# Timothy

## Lesson 6

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### Read about Timothy in Acts and in 1 & 2 Timothy

Of the many team ministers, one who takes on a special significance because of his relationship with the Apostle Paul, is the man Timothy.

#### **Background.**

1. He had a godly heritage.
2. His mother, Eunice, was a Jewish Christian. Acts 16:1.
3. His father was an unbelieving Greek. Acts 16:1.
4. His grandmother, Lois, added to his spiritual background and his knowledge of the Scriptures from the time of his youth. 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15.

#### **The meaning of the name – Timothy.**

1. One who honours and worships God.
2. Honoured and Valued of God.

### **A. Timothy's Character**

When we look at Timothy's character we get a picture of why Paul chose to mentor him. (For instructions on Mentoring refer to Book 1.)

1. **A Teachable Spirit.**  
Paul told Timothy to "continue in the things which you have learnt". 2 Timothy 3:14. Timothy was always open to Truth and Instruction.
2. **A Kindred Spirit.**  
Paul speaking about Timothy said "I have no one else of a kindred spirit", Philippians 2:20. Timothy's heart was united with Paul's and that is why Paul could send him.
3. **A Sincere Spirit.**  
Paul told the people that Timothy would be genuinely concerned for their welfare. Philippians 2:20.
4. **A Caring Spirit.**  
Paul told the Church that Timothy would be concerned for their welfare. Philippians 2:20.
5. **A Servant's Spirit.**  
Timothy never sought his own interests but rather the interests of others. Philippians 2:21- 22.

6. **A Faithful Spirit.**  
Timothy faithfully served in the furtherance of the Gospel. Philippians 2:22.
7. **A Proven Spirit.**  
Paul said to the people “But you know of his proven worth ... in the Gospel”. Philippians 2:22. Timothy endured trials, temptations and persecutions and overcame.
8. **A Submissive Spirit.**  
Timothy had a submissive and obedient attitude towards the Lord and towards Paul. Paul said “He was like a child serving his father”. Philippians 2:22c.

Every leader should allow the Lord to change his heart and spirit that he, too, would exemplify the same qualities.

### **In 2 Timothy 2: Timothy is also figuratively described as:**

Verse 1 Son; Verse 2 Teacher; Verse 3 Soldier; Verse 5 Athlete; Verse 6 Farmer; Verse 15 Workman; Verse 20-21 Vessel; Verse 21 Man; Verse 22 Seeker and Verse 24 Servant.

## **B. Paul’s Exhortations to Timothy**

1. **Spiritual Warfare.**  
**1 Timothy 1:18**, *“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare”*.  
  
**Ephesians 6** – No one is exempt from Spiritual Warfare.
2. **Conscience.**  
**2 Timothy 1:19**, *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity”*.  
  
Leaders sometimes get falsely accused. They need to have a clear conscience before God.
3. **Behaviour.**  
**1 Timothy 3:15**, *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”*.  
  
Leaders should be good examples, not only to the Christians but also to the heathen.
4. **Godliness.**  
**1 Timothy 4:7-8**, *“But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come”*.

To practice Godliness is to become like God in every area of our lives.

5. **Age.**

**1 Timothy 4:12**, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”*.

Remember God is looking for men after His own Heart. Age does not matter.

6. **Example.**

Meaning: a Stamp, Shape, Statue, Style, Model, Image and Pattern of Christ.

**1 Timothy 4:12**, *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”*.

**1 Peter 2:21**, *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”*.

The greatest accusation that the Church of Jesus Christ has against it today is that we do not handle our lives according to the Word of God.

7. **Gifts.**

**1 Timothy 4:14**, *“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery”*.

Each leader needs to cherish the Gift given to him by God. The Church not only needs Godly character but also for the gifts to increase.

8. **Discipline.**

**1 Timothy 6:11**, *“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness”*.

Leaders need to live disciplined lives. To be an example of Christ, we have to overcome habits, get our thoughts under control and overcome sin.

**Read Romans 12:1-2**

9. **Faithfulness.**

**1 Timothy 6:20**, *“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called”*.

No matter how small the task or how menial it is – remain faithful and God will bring about the promotion.

**Notes:**

1. Allow God to work in you.
2. Acknowledge the areas in your life that need to be improved on. Go before God and confess them and ask Him to help you.
3. You may not have been brought up in a Christian environment but if you humble yourself before your Heavenly Father, He will teach you His ways.

# John the Baptist – Peter the Disciple

## Lesson 7

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### A. John the Baptist (Read Matthew to John)

Read Matthew 3:1-12

In the lives of many Christians today, the words of John the Baptist ring in their hearts:

**“HE MUST INCREASE AND I MUST DECREASE”**

Read John 3:30

At the time that John spoke these words, he was at the peak of his ministry. People from all walks of life were coming from far and wide to hear him. When they heard the truth, they repented and were baptised. There was nothing to attract the people into the desert except the truth of God’s Word. John’s outward appearance was not at all attractive. He never wore a three-piece suit or ate gourmet meals. He spoke with harsh words and at times insulted some of the leaders of that day. The words that he spoke in those days would have “emptied” rather than “filled” our churches of today.

John’s strength lay in knowing who he was, his calling, his purpose in life and of course his relationship with God. He was independent of people. He was a voice crying in the desert and not in a crowded room.

**LIES DISPEL LIGHT  
TRUTH DISPELS DARKNESS**

1. Many leaders today would rather choose not to speak the whole truth to their people for fear of losing members of their congregation. There are a few, like John, who choose to speak the truth for fear of losing them to the devil!
2. Many times we base our success on the amount of followers we have or our popularity, but our success should also be based on how many souls we are taking to heaven with us one day and how many people we have impacted with the Word of God.
3. In order for Christ to increase in our lives, we need to decrease and, when we decrease, the flesh begins to die. The things of this world become insignificant and the Kingdom of God becomes more real to us every day.

When a person becomes a Christian, they begin a dying process as Christ begins to increase in their lives. If Christ does not increase in you, then you will not grow in Him.

4. Thousands of Christians are drawn to leaders because of their mannerism, dress and anointing or gifting. People are inclined to function more in the flesh, so the outward becomes more attractive than the heart of the man.

5. Many leaders would rather feed the flesh than the Spirit of man. The result is that many become “give me” Christians instead of “giving” Christians.

John had forsaken the pleasures of the world, the popularity of people and the desires of the flesh in order to feed the people with the truth of God’s Word. His ministry only lasted for one year and then Herod had him killed. Jesus said that there was no one greater than John the Baptist and God blessed him.

- a) He was the one to introduce Christ as the Lamb of God.
- b) He was the one to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God.
- c) He was the one to baptize the Son of God.
- d) He heard the voice of the Father speak and confirm Christ’s Son ship.
- e) He saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus in the form of a dove.

**GOD WILL USE A NOTHING TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING  
A SOMETHING MUST FIRST DIE AND BECOME  
A NOTHING IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING  
IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

As in the life of Christ, we see people travelling into the desert to hear his words. These people were hungry for truth.

**You are not hungry for God:**

- a) If you continuously complain about the services.
- b) If you cannot attend the service because of the weather or any other weak excuse.
- c) If you continuously find fault with the Pastor or the musicians.
- d) If you feel that your “wants” are more important than the things of God.

**SO THAT CHRIST CAN INCREASE  
I NEED TO DECREASE**

**Lessons from John’s life:**

- 1. God does not guarantee a safe or easy life for those who serve Him.
- 2. Doing what God desires is the greatest possible life investment.
- 3. Standing up for Truth is more important than life itself.
- 4. He was a fearless confronter.
- 5. He never compromised.
- 6. His theme was Repentance.

## **B. Peter the Disciple (Read Matthew to Acts)**

There are many leaders today who have been raised up by others who have looked at the outer appearance and not seen the heart of man. We listen to the words that are spoken and not what the heart of man is saying.

2 Chronicles 6:30 tells us that God knows the heart of man.

### **When looking for people to Disciple:**

1. **Where to focus.**

We need to ask God to show us the heart of a man.

When Jesus came to Peter He did not see a fisherman but a fisher of men. He did not see a reed swaying in the wind, but a rock.

2. **Never dwell on a man's past.**

When we delve into a person's past sin and failures, we many times dwell there. We may never consider a new heart. Peter failed a few times but remember that Jesus saw a man with a heart for more of God.

3. **A man who is prepared to take chances for the sake of the Kingdom.**

In the midst of a storm, Peter dared to step out of a boat and walk on water. This was a sign that He wanted what Jesus had.

When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, Peter was the one to pick up a sword to protect his Master. This is a sign of a man who will lay down his life for the King.

As Jesus was taken into the courts to be tried, it was Peter that was there with Him. This is a sign of a man picking up his cross to follow Jesus.

4. **Never look at their level of education.**

The best person that God can use is one who is totally dependant on God. God at times sees a donkey more of use than a human being created in His image. God can use a fisherman just as well as a theologian. It is not the certificate you carry, the title you hold or even from where you have descended. **It is the anointing that you carry.**

### **Lessons from Peter's life:**

1. A man who continuously seemed to jump into "the deep end" because of his enthusiasm. The Church needs more leaders with enthusiasm.
2. Enthusiasm has to be backed by faith and understanding or it will fail.
3. Later found it hard to treat Gentile Christians as equals.
4. Often spoke without thinking; was brash and impulsive.
5. It is better to be a follower who fails than one who fails to follow.

**A GOOD MENTOR IS ONE WHO:  
WHEN HE MAKES MISTAKES, REPENTS.  
IS PREPARED TO LEAVE THE MAJORITY IN THE BOAT AND  
STEP OUT OF THE BOAT IN A STORM AND WALK ON WATER,  
IS PREPARED TO PICK UP A SWORD AND DEFEND THE KING.  
IS PREPARED TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH HIS MASTER.**

# Pitfalls in Leadership to be aware of

## Lesson 8

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**Teacher's Note:** Ensure that the students understand that they can use this lesson **as a guideline** and perhaps have a discussion about this and any other points that they may raise.

There are many warnings in the Bible of traps that leaders can fall into. This Lesson will help you to become aware of these and also help you to guard your heart.

### **Beware and take heed:**

1. **Ostentatiousness.** (this means “the attempt or intention to attract notice”)  
**Matthew 6:1**  
Leaders are servants and do not need to draw attention to themselves. They are there to take the people to God.
2. **Legalism.**  
**Matthew 16:6 and 12; Mark 8:15**  
Leaders have been known to become so legal and religious at times that it has prevented people from coming to Church.
3. **A child rejecting spirit.**  
**Matthew 18:10**  
Leaders have been known not to “have time” for children. God considers it a sin.
4. **Being deceived by men.**  
**Matthew 7:15, 24:4; Mark 13:5; Luke 21:8**  
Do not accept all teachings – search the Scriptures for yourself, be led by the Holy Spirit and adhere to Truth.
5. **Not hearing God's Word.**  
**Mark 4:24**  
Every leader needs to hear from God himself and feed the people that have been given to him to care for.
6. **Hearing the Word incorrectly.**  
**Luke 8:18**  
Ask God for a Spirit of Discernment when listening to others.
7. **Laziness.**  
**Mark 13:9; Luke 17:3; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 4:16**  
Leaders can become too relaxed in the ministry and begin to fall backwards. Set yourself a number of goals. Have a vision for the present year and set yourself a five and a ten-year goal.

8. **One's light turning to darkness.**  
**Luke 11:35**  
Every leader needs to examine himself at times to see if he is growing stronger or weaker in the Lord.
9. **A covetous spirit.**  
**Luke 12:15**  
Be careful not to covet another man's ministry or gifting. Each leader is unique and has his own purpose in his lifetime. Coveting can also include wealth, car, Church, etc.
10. **An overwhelmed spirit.**  
**Luke 21:34**  
The things that are happening in this life can become so overwhelming that we speak more about the negative side of what we see instead of remaining positive and speaking about the things of God.
11. **Overlooking the flock.**  
**Acts 20:28**  
No matter what size your Church is – God has given you that responsibility and He expects you to do the job properly.  
David was faithful in caring for his father's sheep even after being anointed as king.
12. **Presuming upon God's grace.**  
**Romans 11:21**  
Leaders must never take advantage of God's Grace. They are going to be judged more harshly than the sheep.
13. **Building one's life improperly.**  
**1 Corinthians 3:10**  
Being in the forefront, leaders need to plan and build for their lives. People will be looking at them and many weaker Christians will follow after their pattern.
14. **Allowing one's freedom to be another's stumbling block.**  
**1 Corinthians 8:9**  
Recognise another person's weakness and remember your strengths. He may not have overcome in life what you have overcome.
15. **Thinking that one could never fall.**  
**1 Corinthians 10:12**  
The sin of pride is the thing that makes us think that we will never fall.  
Judging others can also be pride entering our hearts.
16. **Destroying one another through criticism.**  
**Galatians 5:15**  
All Christians are called to build and not to destroy. Words can build or destroy the family of God.
17. **Not fulfilling one's ministry in the Lord.**  
**Colossians 4:17**  
Be faithful in all that God has called you to.

18. **Listening to fables, endless genealogies and commandments of men.**  
**1 Timothy 1:4; Titus 1:14**  
 Leaders can be caught into the trap of listening to other men's ideas, which do not line up with the Word of God.
19. **Listening to seducing spirits and doctrines.**  
**1 Timothy 4:1**  
 Leaders need to know the Word of God and nothing should cause them to waver or become double minded and unstable in their ways.
20. **Forsaking Christian doctrine.**  
**1 Timothy 4:16**  
 When in doubt rather ASK advice from many counsellors.
21. **Letting what we have learnt in Christ slip away.**  
**Hebrews 2:1**  
 In a world that has much ungodliness, it is easy to forget the things that we were grounded in and slip away.
22. **Having an evil heart of unbelief.**  
**Hebrews 3:12**  
 God wants us to be totally dependent and reliant on Him. During hard times it is easy to receive doubt that will eventually cause us to fall from the Faith.
23. **Rejecting the words of prophecy concerning Christ.**  
**2 Peter 1:19, 20:21**  
 If we can even begin to doubt these prophecies then we have already begun to discredit God. When we begin to discredit God then we are no longer in the Faith.
24. **Trusting in outward pretentiousness.**  
**Mark 12:38**  
 Dress and Titles do not make a leader. A heart after God makes a true leader in the body of Christ.
25. **Revelling in pride and man's praise.**  
**Mark 12:38-39**  
 Promotion comes from the Lord, not from man. Fear God before you fear man.
26. **Following after rituals instead of Christ.**  
**Philippians 3:2**  
 Leaders need to be aware of not leading their people back into rituals. The Spirit is free and God should be able to do as He wants to in any service.
27. **Believing in man's vain philosophies.**  
**Colossians 2:8**  
 Men can, and will, come up with wonderful new doctrines. If these do not follow the teachings of Christ then stay away from them.
28. **Falling away from one's own steadfastness.**  
**2 Peter 3:17**  
 Remain in that on which your faith is grounded.

## **Flaws that can eventually destroy a Ministry:**

1. **A hardened attitude** will prevent you from feeling the conviction of the Holy Spirit.  
**Mark 8:17.**
2. **An impatient attitude** will cause a leader to make demands on God in a selfish way.
3. **A critical attitude** will cause a leader to become negative and a root of bitterness can develop.
4. **A defective character** eventually causes a leader to stumble and fall.
5. **A double minded leader** will be unstable in ALL of his ways. Instability can never lead effectively.
6. **A discouraged attitude** causes a leader to become self-centred.
7. **A doubtful attitude** causes a leader to think that he is unable to do the job and others can do better than he can.
8. **A competitive attitude** will prevent a leader from receiving from other leaders.
9. **A slothful attitude** will cause a leader to waste a lot of precious time.
10. **An unloving attitude** will cause a leader to become bitter, angry, selfish and frustrated.
11. **A recollecting attitude** puts a leader into bondage by recollecting past failures and mistakes.
12. **A non-discerning attitude** leads a man of God to inaccurate interpretations of the facts of his life.
13. **An overly-confident attitude** will lead to a separation from his brethren and he can possibly fall into error, as he no longer has a multitude of counsellors.
14. **An impatient attitude** in a leader is when he refuses to see the value of time delays and causes him to miss the valuable insights that God has for him during such times.
15. **An undisciplined attitude** leads a man of God to waste his time, money and energy on less valuable activities.
16. **A negative and critical attitude** will cause a leader to look for the bad in other people and binds his spirit in such a way that the love of God cannot flow through him.
17. **An inconsistent attitude** will cause a leader to quit when the going gets tough. It spreads into every area of his life until he no longer is a dependable person, even in the least important areas of his life.
18. **A non-transparent attitude** will permit a leader to cover up all his bad habits with self-justifications and will not allow him to mature in the Lord.

19. **An insensitive attitude** will cause a leader to be aware of only his own thoughts and feelings and not those of others. It will decrease the effectiveness that he has in ministering to the needs of others.
20. **An indifferent attitude** will cause a leader not to care about people or his work.
21. **A proud attitude**, which is an overestimation of one's own abilities and importance, closes a leader off from hearing God's voice and others from listening to him. Proverbs 6:16-17, 8:13.
22. **An unrealistic attitude** that centres on things that are not truly realizable causes a leader to be constantly frustrated because what he sees is not what he really wants to see.
23. **A non-spiritual attitude** that is satisfied with the present extent of one's relationship with the Lord lessens a leader's ability to reach others because he demonstrates no depth in his own spiritual experience with the Lord.
24. **An unfriendly attitude** that does not care about anyone else except itself and its own clique of friends closes people's hearts to that leader.
25. **A disrespectful attitude** that does not value the attitude or life style of any other leader isolates such a person inwardly from others because he thinks he has sufficient character in himself.
26. **An unbelieving attitude** that has no confidence in God, His Word or His work, degenerates a leader's faith level to such an extent that he sees himself going backwards spiritually.
27. **A comparative attitude** which sizes up what one leader has or does with what another has or does, leads a man of God into a life of envy or bitterness because he is never content with what he has.
28. **A presumptuous attitude** that does not recognise any weakness or limit to one's abilities in God causes a leader to be cut off from his brethren because he believes that God has given him everything.
29. **A non-son ship attitude** will cause a leader to think that he never has to be corrected because he is a leader. It will slowly close off his relationship with God.
30. **A non visionary attitude** that takes on the feelings of a fatalist: "What will be, will be", decreases a leader's ability to see beyond the present to what God wants to do in the Church in the future.
31. **A closed attitude** which thinks that one does not need anyone else's counsel, decreases a leader's wisdom and understanding because he is not making himself available to learn from others' knowledge and experience.
32. **A non-trainable attitude** will cause a leader to feel he has no need to be linked to older ministries. It will cut him off from valuable insights.

33. **A non-organised attitude** will cause a leader to waste a lot of time and lose many opportunities to help other people.
34. **An imbalanced attitude** which does not give a rightful place to the different responsibilities of a leader causes him to be frustrated and unfulfilled because of not allowing God to develop him in a well rounded way: spirit, mind, emotions and body.
35. **A non-listening attitude** that does not care to take the time to listen to other people's problems or joys will cause a leader to become ineffective in his ministry to others.
36. **An unrestrained attitude** that allows a leader to say anything he wants to at any time decreases the people's respect for him and his counsel.
37. **A subjective attitude** that places a leader's own personal whims above the mandates of the Word of God causes a man of God to fall into pure subjectivisms, rationalizations and justifications of his own behaviour. Numbers 22:9-20.
38. **A jesting attitude**, which is a spirit of constant teasing, sarcasm and cynicism towards the character or unchangeable parts of a person's life, will cause people to lose respect for that person.
39. **An unmotivated attitude** which causes leaders to be slow and lazy in all areas of their lives, not only makes God unhappy but also the leader himself because of his lack of accomplishment.
40. **An overly-sensitive attitude** that is hurt and/or shocked by criticism or disagreement cripples a leader emotionally, mentally and spiritually because he takes everything that he hears in a personal way.
41. **A non-follow able attitude** that causes people not to be willing to follow a particular leader disenables him to lead others.
42. **A vain attitude** which puts its affections on the external things of this life, trips up a leader in his efforts to walk with God spiritually because it bends him to a spirit of materialism and covetousness.
43. **An indiscreet attitude** that does not maintain Scriptural priorities causes a leader to digress out of the Will of God.
44. **A hasty attitude** that uses no wisdom in its desire to do things for God causes a leader many hurt feelings, wrong decisions and regrettable memories.
45. **A neglectful attitude** that postpones obedience to the inner voice of the Holy Spirit in a leader's life causes him not to be able to follow the Lord closely or hear what the Spirit is presently saying to the Church.
46. **An indecisive attitude** that waits too long in making decisions can put a leader or a Church into bondage and fear of making a mistake.
47. **A fearful attitude** that is a feeling of possible danger stops a leader from doing all that God has for him to do.

Various fears are: Fear of the future, failure, persecution or what God may have for him.

48. **A non-studious attitude** that prevents a leader from spending time and energy in the Word of God leads a man of God into a very shallow ministry with regard to feeding the flock or giving them direction.
49. **A condemned attitude** that is an inward feeling of being constantly unable to enter into God's Presence because of guilt prevents a leader from being free in the spirit to minister to the Lord and to others.
50. **An unestablished attitude** that a leader has when he does not know his place in Jesus Christ as a Christian, causes him to be unstable about basic doctrine, counsel to others, and in his daily walk with God.
51. **A compromising attitude** that is unsettled on basic Christian issues, gives a great feeling of instability and inferiority to the people of God because they do not know what to believe or why they have to believe it.
52. **A hypocritical attitude** which a leader has when he does not submit every area of his life to Jesus Christ but continues to preach to others that they should, eventually leads his ministry to become very hollow and ineffective because the real life of the Holy Spirit is not flowing in and through it.
53. **A judgemental attitude** that is a form of pride. God does not call a leader to judge but rather to lead and to guide into righteousness. **Mathew 7:1-2.**  
When you point a finger, remember there are three pointing back at you.

**REMEMBER THE THREE FINGERS POINTING  
BACK AT YOU**

**My Prayer for you is:**

**That you be a leader that will pass through the furnaces, trials, testing and valleys of Godly Preparation and come out unscathed, just as many of the great men in the Bible did.**

**May God give you the ability to equip other leaders for service unto the King so that His Kingdom may increase here on this earth.**

**May you be humble enough to learn from others' mistakes. May God grant you wisdom in your life and in your dealings with His Sheep and cause not only your ministry to increase but that Christ may increase in you and the people you lead.**

**I pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen (so be it).**

