



## ATITA FROM WIP PRESENCE

#### **ENJOYING THE REST OF GOD IN YOUR PURSUIT**

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

-Matthew 11:28

he pursuit of a dream, vision, a call, or any Christian endeavor involves a lot and tends to take a great deal out of the believer when not handled properly. Many have lost their health, their marriage, and even their families in the midst of their pursuits. Doing too much at too fast of a pace can wear you down and cause you to lose your focus, thereby affecting your ability to see things the way God intends for you to see them. This is often a problem with visionaries. They tend to pursue vision without enjoying the rest of God in their pursuit. The Spirit of the Lord had to really help me in this area.

Sometimes, you feel like a locomotive

that is racing down the track. It is not that you want to move so fast, but in order to get it all done appropriately, you have to keep moving and stay on schedule. But the problem is that moving at that pace eliminates the joy of enjoying the rest of God. Most believers and leaders don't even understand the rest of the Lord.

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus gives us the opportunity to enjoy His rest in our pursuits. He says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Notice that Jesus begins the verse with "Come unto Me." This word literally means in Greek to "Come—come now! I am inviting you to come." It has the feeling of an exclamation which lets us know that Jesus joyfully welcomes us to come to Him. Jesus then says, "...all ye that labour." This implies that Jesus' invitation to come to Him is a special invitation directed to those who "labor." The word labor is the Greek word "kopiao" which describes a person who has become completely exhausted due to non-stop, continuous work.

Jesus doesn't only beckon the hard worker, but He also calls out to those who are "heavy laden." This is a person who is carrying a heavy load on their back. To anyone who responds to this invitation as they pursue a dream, vision, or endeavor, He promises that He will give them rest. The word rest in the

Greek means "to refresh, to rejuvenate, to reinvigorate, and to revitalize." You see, the Lord wants us to enjoy His rest in the midst of our pursuit. He wants us to take pleasure in doing what He has called us to do without destroying our marriage, our family, or our health while pursuing that which He has called us to. He wants us to be refilled so we can remain effective.

The only way we can remain continually effective is by making sure that we spend time with the Lord. But in order to truly enter His presence so that we can rest, get refreshed, and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, we must first quiet ourselves from the busy schedules of our pursuit and find a place to worship, pray, and read the Word. Don't just run in and out of the Lord's presence. Plan to settle there and stay there long enough to get everything you need to carry on. Once you have stopped long enough to really rest in His presence, you are finally in position where you can start receiving from Him the next set of instructions for your pur-

Learn to rest in God's presence. Don't leave until you receive the refreshing you need. Tarry there and let the Holy Spirit give you peace, joy, strength, and new direction. This is the key to remaining steadfast and strong enough to pursue vision and to stay on track with everything you need to do. Remember, spending time with the Lord is not an option. It is the answer.

Drs. John & Vickie Tetsola



Summer 2009 • Vol XV, Issue 19

Affecting the World for Christ



### Raising Steadfast Leaders to Establish God's Assignment in the Local Church

by Dr. John A. Tetsola

Building stronger ministry involves building steadfast leadership and believers who abound in the work of God. One of the worst scenarios that can happen in the selection of leadership is to place people in key positions, only to have them pull out at a dreadful moment. When this occurs, there is suddenly a giant gap in the church. A place of support has been vacated, causing all kinds of problems to erupt. We must view the church as something that will last for ages to come, hence we must use the most faithful, solid, and committed people we can find, making certain that they are trained and ready before we put them in positions of responsibility.

#### Developing a Stronger Appetite for Truth

by Dr. Vickie Tetsola

Truth is the foundation of the believer's success. It is one of the weapons of victory against the enemy. Walking in truth means walking in victory. Without the practicing of truth in our lives on a consistent basis, we open the door to the enemy's presence and attack in our lives. When God's Word has a central place in your life, you will have a sense of righteousness that covers you like a mighty breastplate. When God's Word dominates your thinking, it gives you peace that protects you from the attacks of the adversary and shields your mind like a powerful helmet.



#### Functioning As An Apostolic Community

by Apostle Alan Isaac

With the full restoration and functionality of the five-fold ministry gifting, we see an emerging global church with tremendous potential and kingdom velocity. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers all carry within their guts or bellies an anointing to impact the global church for change. This anointing is strongly connected with a divine enlistment or call into this area of gifting that enables them to move and function as a community





#### The Merging of Character and Gifting

by Dr. John A. Tetsola

The authenticity and strength of the anointing on a believer or leader is not found in his gifting. It is found in the strength of his character. Throughout the body of Christ, much of the emphasis has been on gifting. This has allowed so much of the spirit of divination, witchcraft, and control to slip into the church. Character is not primarily a task to be accomplished or an ideal to be achieved. Character in the true form makes for a life that is committed and dedicated to the things of God. There must be a strong balance of character and gifting in the lives of those demonstrating God's power.

#### **Our Purpose:**

The purpose of this magazine - Reformers, is to provide the highest balanced quality spiritual food for the King's household, to solidify and strengthen the local church, to strengthen present and future leaders and thereby create a forum for leaders to serve the Lord together in order to see authentic apostolic ministry restored upon the earth.

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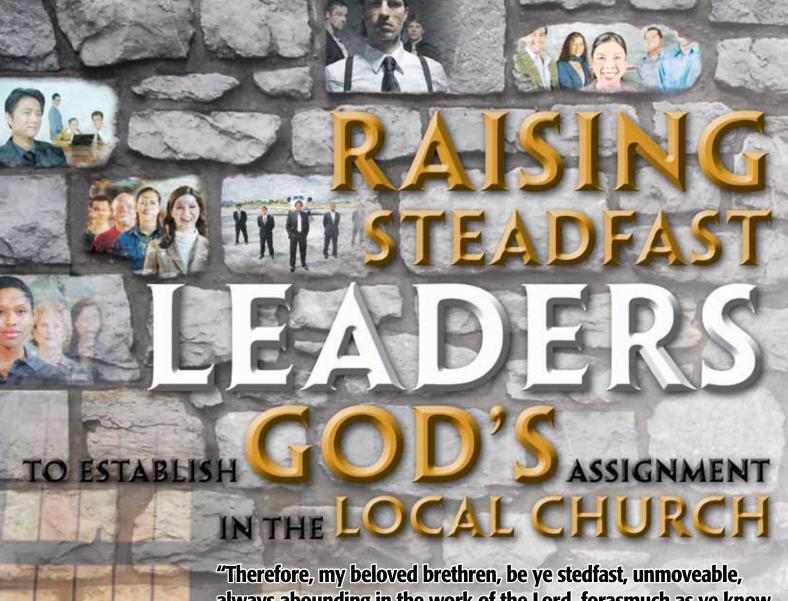
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always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

-1 Corinthians 15:58

by Dr. John A. Tetsola

od wants us to build steadfastly in what we have been assigned to. and to abound in it. To be successful in what you are building, it has to be built steadfastly. To be steadfast means to be stationary, such as something that sits in one place for a long, long time. It describes something that is firm and steady. It describes something that is strong, unbendable, unbreakable, and

permanent, such as a well built foundation for a large building or a strong column that holds up a roof. So when Paul urges us to be "steadfast," he is calling on us to be totally reliable, not shaky, or undependable. We shouldn't be quickly shaken nor easily lured to some other place or task. We must be like pillars, foundations, or supports in the house of God.

What would happen if you built a large building

without a foundation? That building might look cosmetically beautiful. But when the weather grew cold and the ground swelled from frost heave, that building would quickly begin to lean the opposite way. Eventually, there wouldn't be enough support underneath it to hold the building in place. Eventually, it will come apart.

When you build an extremely large building, the foundation must be bigger

and stronger than normal. The weight of a giant structure demands a larger foundation. If the foundation is not large enough or strong enough for that big building to sit on, it will crack and move, causing irreparable structural problems that make the building unsafe for occupancy. Likewise, when we build, we must build with a good foundation if that which we are building is going to endure throughout the ages. Our primary foundation is the Lordship of Jesus Christ, but we must be very careful how we continue to build upon it.

If you act as though you are building something that has to last only a few years, you will settle for a shabby structure that isn't built very well. But when our goal is to build the body of Christ to endure for ages to come, you necessarily become more careful and quality minded about the manner in which you build. You will seek to use good materials. You will take time in mixing them together properly and you will tediously put them in their proper places.

This is why we must be so careful as we select leaders and lay hands on people for positions of authority. We must view the church as something that will last for ages to come, hence we must use the most faithful, solid, and committed people we can find, making certain that they are trained and ready before we put them in positions of responsibility. Building stronger ministry involves building steadfast leadership and believers

#### "...potential leaders should be tested and proven faithful before they are placed in positions of responsibility."

able is rock solid, fixed,

grounded, established, and

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believer knows that God has

called him to do something,

he must develop that kind

of rock solid attitude about

that task or project because

who abound in the work of God.

One of the worst scenarios that can happen in the selection of leadership is to place people in key positions, only to have them pull out at a dreadful moment. When this occurs, there is suddenly a giant gap in the church. A place of support has been vacated, causing all kinds of problems to erupt. This is why potential leaders should be tested and proven faithful before they are placed in positions of responsibility. This is why Paul urges us to be "steadfast." In other words, once you know the place God has called you to serve, you must begin to look at yourself as a "pillar" or as part of the "foundation" of the church that is assigned and called to establish the heart of God in our hearts.

#### Committing to be Immovable

Part of being steadfast is the commitment to be immovable in your assignment, sphere, and responsibility. The word "immovable" in the Greek means "not capable of being moved from one place to another place." In other words, once you have said yes to the call of God, you should be a permanent fixture in the house of God. Something that is immov-

course from your intended goal.

This makes it even more imperative that a believer or a leader must make up his mind to be fixed, rooted, anchored, and unwavering in his commitment to accomplish the task God has set before him. For you to be effective and successful in your assignment, you must be thoroughly dedi-





#### "To fulfill one's responsibility in ministry effectively and successfully requires a person's fullest attention."

cated to your assignment, you must stick with your assignment, and you must carry out your assignment and accomplish it the way the Lord expects it to be done.

Paul tells us how much we should be involved in service to God's kingdom. He says that we should be "abounding in the work of the Lord." Notice that Paul refers to "the work of the Lord." Paul makes it absolutely clear that ministry is not just sitting on the sidelines and watching, rather, ministry is work. To fulfill one's responsibility in ministry effectively and successfully requires a person's fullest attention. If a person is inactive, slow moving, or casual in his approach to ministry, he will probably never build anything significant in his particular realm of responsibility.

Therefore you should want to know if you and a potential leader are compatible re-

garding a given assignment. Do we have the same work ethic, or will we find ourselves on different sides of the line on important issues concerning vision? Is the potential leader someone who watches the clock and punches his time card exactly when the minute hand strikes at closing time, or is he a person who is committed to getting the job done correctly, regardless of the hours he might need to devote to his assignment?

So before you choose and place a person into a higher





realm of responsibility and authority, take time to consider the following:

- Is this person a clockwatcher, or is he a person who is committed to getting the job done regardless?
- Does this person's work habits demonstrate that he loves the ministry, his assignment, and does it reveal a willingness to invest in it?
- Does this person display a servant mentality, or do you have to beg and plead with him to constantly participate?
- Is he dependable, or will you be left holding the bag alone?

Understand that from a distance that person may look good-very good-to your eyes. But sometimes those who work closely with a candidate for leadership have a totally different view. If you ever want to build a strong, powerful, effective organization that impacts the world for the Gospel's sake, you must first build a leadership team in which every member is willing to do the maximum. In other words, the entire team gives

their utmost, highest, and supreme attention to their responsibilities. As a result of this "maximum mentality," the team produces top-notch results that you can feel good about in the presence of the Lord.

Many people have a false impression about ministry. They imagine that ministry simply entails praying and reading their bibles all day long. But ministry is much more than prayer and bible study. It requires intense commitment to do the job well at any cost. Whatever assignment you feel called to, you will never be successful by just putting half your heart into it. To succeed at your assignment, you must put your all into it. You must take your assignment very seriously and work as though the total success of that organization rises and falls on your actions.

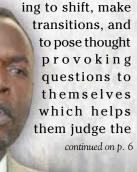
Understand that successful churches and ministries are led by people who know how to work and by those who are so committed to their vision that they give their whole lives to make it happen. It isn't just a job to them. It isn't just a position. It is their life. Everything they are, everything they do, everything they long to be and to fulfill is tied up in the ministry that God has entrusted to them. Therefore they have a sense of responsibility and an urgency to get up, get moving, and make things happen. I never apologize for asking people to work hard on their assignment. An individual who is

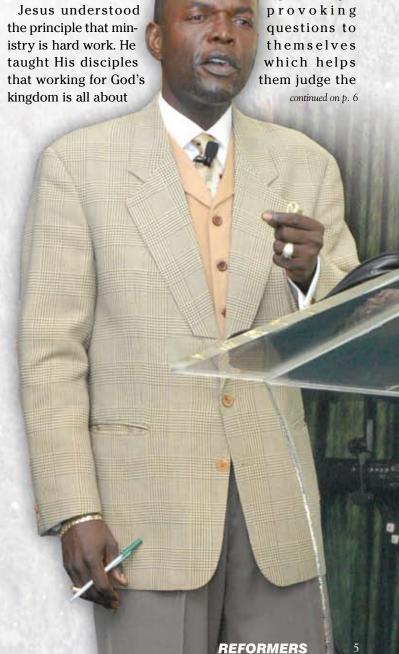
not willing to lay down his life for his assignment is not really qualified to lead.

But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto. but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. -Matthew 20:26-28

serving others. Even Jesus didn't come to be served, but to serve and to give His life for many. Leadership is "giving one's life for many" just as Jesus did. A believer must understand that if he agrees to embrace a leadership position, he is agreeing to invest his life, energy, time, and heart into the people who are following him.

Steadfast leaders are steadfast because they are will-





in the Local Church

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continued from p. 5

true value of their contribution to their local church or ministry where God has called them. It is always prudent and healthy to take the time for self-evaluation. There are six key evaluating questions that can assist in building steadfastness in areas and in positions to which you have been called in a local church.

- First, am I contributing anything of significance to my church, my team, or in the place where I have been planted?
- Second, do I simply take from my church and team, or is there something concrete

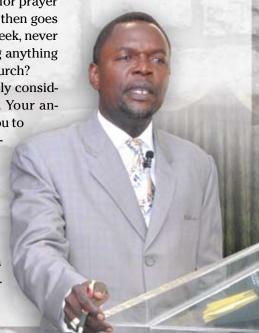
I am imparting that makes me needed?

- Third, if I were gone or absent, would anyone notice I was missing?
- Fourth, where am I serving and working in my home church?
- Fifth, does the success of anything in my church depend on me?
- Sixth, do others view me as a team player upon whom they can rely?

Finally, if I were someone else looking at me, would I think I am a contributor to the well-being of the church, or just a person who attends "Steadfast leaders are steadfast because they are willing to shift, make transitions, and to pose thought provoking questions to themselves"

meetings and asks for prayer when needed, and then goes home week after week, never really contributing anything concrete to the church?

Take time to really consider these answers. Your answers will assist you to know how steadfast you have been, or have not been to your local church. And then allow the Holy Spirit to adjust you and bring you to a place of stability.



### LIVING THE HIGH LIFE OF GOD

There is a place of abundance in the kingdom of God. It is a place where believers are destined to live in confidence, solidly positioned in the rarefied air of God's blessings. It is a place where no matter how quickly you are advancing in God, His blessings still manage to overtake you every day. God wants to boggle our minds with constant outpourings of His divine life. He wants to make us a living testament of His goodness and generosity.

Sadly, there are believers who yearn to see and experience the manifestation of these promises in their lives without wanting to meet God's conditions. Receiving a promise from God is not in itself a guarantee that the promise will come to pass if you are not willing to meet the condition of the promise.

The insight in this book will teach you the process and the stages a promise goes through before its manifestation. You will learn the following:

- · What God's high life is for the believer
- . The three processes to walking in the high life
- The obstacles to the high life of God
  - The six purposes of every satanic attack in the pursuit of God's high life
    - And much more

**Price: 10.99** 









## Developing the Mindset That Thinks God's Way

A reprobate mind is a mindset or a way of thinking that lacks proper judgement and that has lost all fear and regard for principles, decency and righteousness. It is a mind that is programmed to violating God's principles without conviction.

In this eight part series you will understand how to avoid and overcome a reprobate mindset by learning the following:

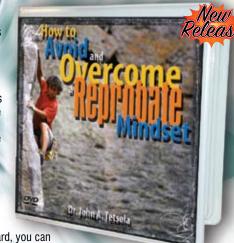
- Having an understanding of what a reprobate mindset is and its danger.
- The picture of a reprobate mind versus a sensitive heart
- The three forces that moves the believer into a reprobate mindset.
- The six signs of a reprobate mind and thinking.
- How to avoid developing a reprobate mindset.

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## A PARTNERS HARVEST

"Not that I seek or am eager for [your] gift, but I do seek and am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit [the harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account]."

—Philippians 4:17 AMP

artnership is about more than commitment. It is also about our unlimited supply of Holy Ghost power. And the combination of commitment and power in ministry knits the church together and makes it an unstoppable force. The anointing in partnership reveals God's plan for the success of the church in the last days. A partnership is defined as "A relationship between in-

dividuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of a specified goal." Healthy God-given partnership always gives the individual involved the ability to do more than they could ever dream of doing on their own. Notice he says, "...fruit which increases to your credit." These Philippian believers multiplied their efforts in reaching and teaching souls by sowing finances into Paul's

life and ministry through partnership. They gave that which is temporal, thereby converting it to the eternal. In the process, it is multiplied as well! When you enter into this type of partnership, Paul says you will have a "harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account..." This includes your heavenly account.

As you partner with Ecclesia Word Ministries International, you join with us as we touch

others through our many outreaches. Here is the exciting news: the more you invest, the greater your reward. Know this, God does not judge the gift so much by the amount, but by your faithfulness to sow. God the Father is looking for quality gifts of the heart. He loves and blesses our obedience. Discover how partnership truly releases the flow of His anointing power, by being a partner with this ministry today.

To become a partner, please call or write to request your partnership package.

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### NUGGETS OF WISDOM

- A wise leader is never offended by a fool.
- A true leader knows how to set his sails to catch God's gales, which will lead him to fulfillment of God's purpose.
- A careful leader knows there is no substitute for God in the life of his people, and he never attempts to take His place.

## EVELOPING RONGER ETHE Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; —Ephesians 6:14

by Dr. Vickie Tetsola

ruth is the foundation of the believer's success. It is one of the weapons of victory against the enemy. Walking in truth means walking in victory. Without the practicing of truth in our lives on a consistent basis, we open the door to the enemy's presence and attack in our lives. The Bible admonishes us to "stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth..." A loin belt on a Roman soldier does not look important. Certainly no soldier would have written home and told his friends or family about how incredible their loin belt was. They might talk about

their shield, their sword, and their breastplate, but no one gets excited about the loin belt. Nevertheless, it was the Roman soldier's most important piece of weaponry. Why was this so? Because the loin belt held many of the other pieces of weaponry together. If a soldier's loin belt wasn't in place, he was in big trouble.

This is even more true of our modern day clothing attire. The belt worn around our waist is not something people notice. They might mention how great, nice, and beautiful your tie, suit, shirt, and even your shoes are. But hardly anyone would walk over

to you and say with great excitement how great your belt is. However the belt is very important, but not very flashy. If you remove it from your waist, you will find out how important it is because your pants would fall off. That makes your belt quite a vital part of your attire.

In the same way, the Roman soldier's loin belt was the piece of armor that held all the other pieces together. His sword hung in a sheath that was clipped to the side of his loin belt. When not in use, his shield was hung on a special clip on the other side of his loin belt. The pouch that carried his arrows rested on a small



ledge attached to his loin belt on his backside. Even his breastplate was attached in some places to his loin belt.

The soldier's ability to use his other pieces of weaponry depended on his loin belt. If he had no loin belt, he had no place to attach his massive shield or to hang his sword. Without a loin belt, there was nothing to rest his shield upon and nothing to keep his breastplate from flapping in the wind. The armor of a Roman soldier would literally come apart, piece by piece, if he didn't have the loin belt around his waist. You can see why the loin belt was absolutely essential to the Roman soldier in order for him to be confident in battle. With that belt securely fastened, he could be assured that all the other pieces of his equipment would stay in place, enabling him to move quickly and to fight with great fury.

Now consider all of this in light of what the Spirit of God is conveying to us in Ephesians 6:14 where Paul says, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth..." For the child of God, the loin belt of his spiritual armor is

the written Word of Godthe Truth. When God's Word has a central place in your life, you will have a sense of righteousness that covers you like a mighty breastplate. When God's Word is operating in your life, it gives you the sword you need. When God's Word dominates your thinking, it gives you peace that protects you from the attacks of the adversary and shields your mind like a powerful helmet.

As long as the loin belt of Truth, the Word of God, is central in your life, the rest of your spiritual armor will be effective. But the moment you begin to ignore God's Word and cease to apply it to your life on a daily basis, you will start to lose your sense of righteousness and peace. You will find that the devil will start attacking your mind more and more trying to fill it with lies and vain imaginations. When you remove God's Word from its rightful place at the very core of your life, it won't be long before you will begin to spiritually come apart at the seams.

If you want to stay clothed in your spiritual armor and maintain daily victory with the Lord, you must begin by taking up God's Word and permanently applying it to your life. You have to give the Word a central place and dominant role in your life, allowing it to be the "loin belt" that holds the rest of your weaponry together.

There are some very simple, key principles to developing a stronger appetite for truth as believers.

 First, find and connect with a solid Bible based church or ministry. Understand that not every continued on p. 11

**REFORMERS** 







## While visiting our website, we encourage you to:

- Check the itinerary of where Dr. John Tetsola will be ministering.
- Check the new releases of our books, tapes, and videos.
- Check the "Father's Heart," a monthly article on the web.
- Check our online prayer ministry and feel free to submit your prayer requests.
- Check out our Magazine Archive section.
- Check for the date of our next life changing conference.
- Check out the opportunity to sow a seed.
- If you are a leader, check out our bi-monthly Leadership Café teachings and be imparted by powerful leadership principles.



#### **Becoming A Great Person For Leadership**

What really qualifies a person to be a great leader? Most natural leaders don't aspire to be great leaders. Instead, they aspire to be great people. Personal qualifications lead to leadership qualifications. When leaders lead their own lives well, others naturally want to follow. True leaders never set out to be great leaders, yet by determining to be the person God created them to be, that is what they become. If you want longevity in leadership, you must be willing to pay attention to four crucial elements of life:

- First, learn to watch your character. Who you are and what you do when nobody is really around you is the true you. Character is the bridge that great people walk upon to become great leaders. Character enables us to do what is right even when it seems difficult.
- Second, watch your per**spective.** Perspective is how you view and see things. You must always
- view and see things from the lenses of the will of God for your life. That is what makes you a great person and that is how you eventually become a great leader. Perspective enables you to understand what must happen in you and around you in order to reach a goal.
- Third, watch your courage. Courage is determination and confidence demonstrated in the face
- of adversity and difficulty. The courage that is learned and practiced during the hidden seasons and times of your life is the courage that you will boldly display during the public manifestation of your greatness. Courage enables you to initiate and take risks to step out toward a worthy goal.
- Finally, watch out for favor. Walking genuinely

with the Lord activates favor on your behalf. Favor is an anointing bestowed on a believer which generates blessings towards them. Part of being successful as a leader has to do with the manifestation of God's favor in our life and endeavors. Favor enables you to attract and empower others to join you in the cause you are embarking on.



- Second, commit yourself to God's great forest of truth. God's forest of truth is the Word of God. Begin by giving time to the study of the Word. Begin with shorter books of the Bible with shorter chapters. As you do, also give time to meditate on the truths that you have studied and learned.
- Third, be eager to practice known truth. As opportunities present themselves in your walk with the Lord, always commit to walk in present truth. As you walk in known truth, the results produced from walking in it causes you to develop a stronger appetite for more truth.
- Finally, invest and avail yourself of materials that are important that will continually feed and strengthen your spirit. Get a hold of sound books, CDs, DVDs, and tapes, and then feed your spirit with the truth gleaned from them.

As you practice these principles, you will notice God's Word dominating your thinking, and as God's Word dominates your thinking, there is a release of peace that protects you from the attacks of the adversary and shields your mind. Make the truth of God's Word a priority in your life and never ignore it.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### **SUNDAYS**

Morning Worship Service: 10 a.m. Evening Worship Service: 5:30 p.m. Children's Church and Teen Fellowship are available during Sunday morning service only.

#### **TUESDAYS**

Believers' Bible Study Class: 7 p.m.

#### -THURSDAYS

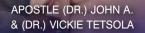
Evening Service: 7:00 p.m

#### **FRIDAYS**

Youth Ablaze Youth Service: 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAYS**

School of Healing and Deliverance Service: 10 a.m.



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICE SUNDAYS

Afternoon Worship Service: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

—1 Timothy 3:1

QUALIFICATION FOR TOTAL

APOSTOLIC

by Dr. John A. Tetsola

here are several qualifications in Scripture for leadership. But as much as each of them are important in leadership development, there is one quality that is supremely significant that true leadership must possess and it is the power of "desire." Once, while meditating in prayer, the Holy Spirit began to emphasize this quality in my spirit, and really reveal to my heart how significant this quality is in the effectiveness of true apostolic leaders. The truth of the matter is that there was never a leader in Scripture who was successful in his assignment and in serving God, including Jesus Christ, who

never possessed this awesome leadership quality.

In first Timothy 3, the apostle Paul instructed Timothy on how to choose leaders for his church in Ephesus. As Paul began listing character qualifications that every leader must have, the first

quality he listed as supremely important for leadership was the power of "desire." The word "desire" is the Greek word "orgidzo." It describes a longing, craving, urge, and yearning ambition to achieve something or to become something. It por-

trays a person so fixed on the object of his desire that his whole being is stretched forward to take hold of that goal or object. Paul put the qualification of desire as foremost above anything else on his list of requirements for true apostolic leaders. I look for this in any leadership team. No desire means that in spite of all of the great qualities that the person may possess, they would never be able to perform consistently and persistently. It takes only a few personal experiences with desireless people to make it perfectly clear why Paul said

Through the years, I have learned the wisdom of look-

ing for people who have desire and are willing to sacrifice in my leadership team. There is nothing more dreadful or irritating than to have a supposed leader on a team or over an area of function in a church who doesn't even possess enough initiative to get up and do his job. One of the greatest frustrations I have experienced, whether as an overseer or working on a peer level with other ministry gifts, is working with peo-

ple who have great potential, but are apathetic about life and about the direction of vision. It's even more frustrating when these are peer level ministry gifts.

These people don't possess a deep desire to be excellent in everything they do. They grew up in an environment where low level thinking was viewed as normal, so that is the standard that they have accepted for their own lives. Desireless people stroll through life at their own pace, accepting standards and practices that would never be accepted in the business or secular world. Desireless people are like dead people. You push, shove, beg, plead, and pray for them to get involved in kingdom work. Eventually they respond "How a person responds when unexpected needs arise often reveal the intensity of their desire to be in the inner circle of leadership."

to your constant requests and volunteer to do something in the church. They even do it for a while, at least until they feel a little opposition or are just too tired to come to church. At that point, they give up. It has always been a mystery to me how someone can claim to be indwelt by the Spirit of God and yet be satisfied with a low level existence.

Every potential leader must demonstrate this quality of strong inward desire. Obstacles will come as you grow in the Lord and proceed with the assignments of God. From time to time, hindrances will try to knock you out of your spiritual race, and if you don't have a strong desire to be used by God, it won't take too many of these obstacles and hindrances to make you give up and back out of your commitments. That is why it is important and essential to develop an inner desire strong enough to overcome the forces that come against you along the way. Apostolic leaders don't quit. They don't easily give in, because of the inner desire that they possess for their pursuit.

A leader's desire will tell you about their future. Often it will reveal the fact that they will eventually become a mighty instrument in the hands of God. They may do some immature things now and then, but it's easier to correct and adjust someone like this than it is to try to use someone who has no desire at all. Believe me, it is much easier to work with the living than it is to raise the dead.

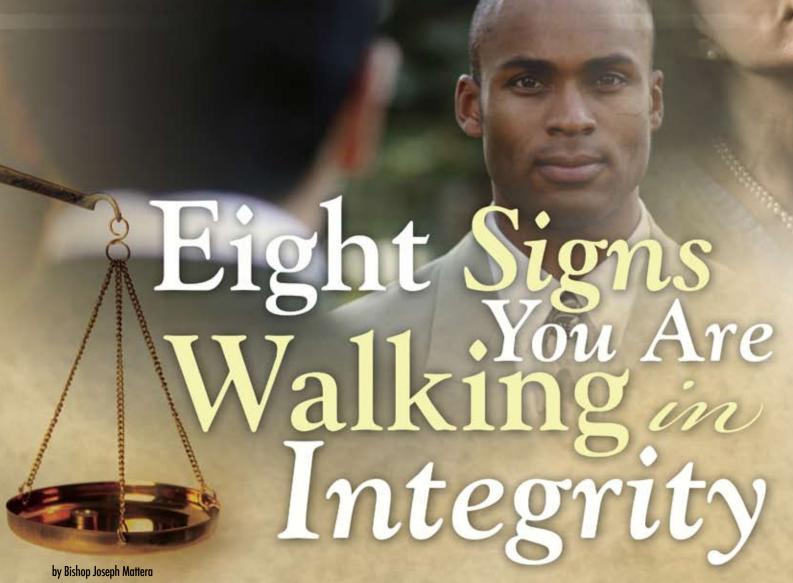
There are three key things you cannot tolerate while raising apostolic leadership:

Be mindful of a person who does just the required minimum when considering them for leadership. If there is a need and no one else is meeting it, you should expect that person to step forward to fill that position. Watch to see if he jumps in without being asked. You shouldn't have to beg and plead with anyone. If that is what you do, there is a problem. Leadership comes with responsibility.

A potential leader should be on his feet the instant a need arises because they are able to recognize needs. That kind of immediate response reveals that they are serious and professional in their responsibilities.

How a person responds when unexpected needs arise often reveal the intensity of their desire to be in the inner circle of leadership. Therefore, a potential leader's attitude towards the continued on p.16

13



n light of all the scandals in the church and the intense scrutiny all leaders in society are presently under, my proposal is that one of the primary vows leaders make should be to walk in integrity. What is integrity? Integrity is basically wholeness or perfect condition. One root word of "integrity" means "soundness, wholeness." Also the root word "integer" means "whole," that is to say, it has to do with a person living a simple life in which their public and private lives are the same, because their public persona lines up with their interior life and

motivation.

Too often people live divided lives in which they do not practice what they preach because, as Jesus said, they are whitewashed on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean (read Matthew 23:27-28). This is a season when God is dealing severely with leaders and ministers of all walks of life which should lead all of us to contemplate who and what we really are.

The following are symptomatic of ministers who walk in integrity:

- I. You pursue personal, informal, mentoring relationships with people
  - 1. One of the qualifications

for serving as an elder in the New Testament church was to be hospitable (Timothy 3). Leaders who avoid allowing people entry into their private homes may have something to hide regarding the way they live and act, and in regards to the condition of their family life.

One of the greatest blessings leaders can have is to allow people to spend time with them in their homes to pour Christ's life and wisdom into them. Letting folks live with you under certain circumstances (under the leading of the Lord) is perhaps the greatest way to impact younger people who need the security and model of a leadership home to frame their view

of life and family.

2. Having young leaders travel with me has been one of the great thrills in my life! I love spending time pouring into emerging leaders by taking them with me to preach or on longer trips so that we can get to know each other. A leader impacts people more with their life than with their words. Truly, our life is the real message people follow and emulate!

## II. You value your name more than making money or ministry success

Proverbs 22:1 teaches us that our motivation for living should be based on having and emanat-

ing a godly influence more than having a desire for possessions and monetary wealth. Unfortunately, with some people, their payoff in ministry is more in dollars and cents than in spreading the gospel and changing people's lives. There are many ministers who won't even consider preaching in a church unless they receive a huge honorarium along with numerous bells and whistles. The first question we need to ask before we take an invitation to minister somewhere should be "Is the Lord sending me?" If the Lord is sending you, then He will cause the proper provision to come your way. (This is opposed to the posture of making sure the financial obligations are met first and then asking God to bless your ministry)!

#### III. Your standard for devotion and commitment to God in your private life is no different from what you portray in your public ministry

Our lives should be very simple. Complicated interior lives with various allegiances and distractions replete with ungodly habit/patterns will eventually cause ministry burnout, severe family issues, or a moral collapse. Our motto as ministers should always be to people "what you see is what you get!" We can be real with our congregations without acting ungodly and without coming off as super religious or perfect! People can usually tell when someone is being authentic; authenticity is a carrier of the true anointing and authority of God!

IV. Your spouse and children will say you are a person of integrity who keeps their word and loves God at home I always say, if you want to find out if a person has integrity, you need to ask their spouse and children. The pressures of life and family are too great for anyone to hide from those closest to them. If family members call a person godly then it is safe to say they are living a life of integrity.

#### V. You prioritize character development more than the development of your gifts and talents

The books of Proverbs, Kings, and Chronicles show that leaders who want to have an enduring, lasting effect in regards to their lives and legacy need to be people who build the foundation of their lives on strong godly character. These scriptures teach that those with enduring success were those who walked in integrity and feared the Lord. Those who build their lives only on the charismatic gifts of the Spirit, talents, and abilities will eventually fail in every aspect of their lives. Many are the young ministers whose anointing has taken them to places and given them platforms their character was unable to sustain. Remember: the height of a tree is always determined by the depth of its roots.

#### VI. You value and respect each individual as a child of God irrespective of whether or not they can benefit you or your ministry

In thirty years of ministry I have seen other leaders gravitate toward me if they thought I could do something for them or their ministry. But these are the same people who will avoid or sidestep me if they think someone else is available that can bring them further. Jesus valued

the lepers, the lame, the sinners, and harlots. He took time for the down-and-out, not just those called to be apostles. Those who have an understanding of the significance of the act of God when He made people in His own image have no problem addressing even the vagabonds in the street as "sir." People of integrity understand that the ground is level at the cross and that we are not to love a person for their title but because of who they are as an image-bearer of God.

#### VII. You are more passionate about knowing and seeking God than making Him known

Because of the sinfulness of humanity we need to constantly seek God and expose our true sinful hearts to the blazing fires of holiness. When we live a life in which we value activity for God more than being with and receiving from God, then we are already on the wrong track. The first call of the apostles, before they were to preach or heal the sick, was to be with Jesus (read Mark 3:14). The greatest and highest calling any of us have in our lives is to be lovers of God. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it or is a derivative of it. When we have these two commandments reversed, and love our neighbor more than we love God, we fall into humanism. lose our effectiveness, and our interior lives begins to fall into shambles (read Matthew 22:36-40). We need to seek God to know Him and know Him so we can seek Him, and continue this exciting cycle on and on for eternity!

VIII. You surround yourself with other leaders who hold

#### you accountable

- 1. You can tell how far a person will go in life by the closest friends they have. If you surround yourself with shady people who are only out for themselves, then that is a picture of who you really are.
- 2. Those with integrity surround themselves with people not afraid to speak the truth to them.
- 3. Those with integrity want open, transparent relationships with key people as a protection because they know and understand their own sinful hearts and the potential they have to fall into sin.
- 4. Pastors need a pastor or pastors over them to hold them accountable in regards to their ministries and personal lives. Also, they need trustees and/or elders serving alongside them to help them hear from God and handle the finances of the ministry.
- 5. The more influence a person gets, the stronger their base of accountability needs to be in legalities, in finances, in their personal life, in ministry, etc. Those who have ministry without accountability beyond their family members or small circle of blood-sucking leeches will have a difficult time experiencing personal and ministerial longevity with integrity and are in danger of destroying their legacy.



Bishop Joseph Mattera has been in ministry since 1980 and is the Presiding Bishop of Christ Covenant Coalition and Overseeing Bishop of Resurrection Church in New York. To contact him (718) 436-0242 ext. 13.

continued from p.13

unexpected must be thoroughly observed. Ministry is often filled with the unexpected. If he is happy to sit on the sidelines and watch everybody else play the game, don't expect him to be effective on your team.

I probably can understand why Paul put "desire" at the top of his list of leadership qualifications. Timothy was in the midst of a leadership selection process in his church and Paul wrote him a letter to help him make right choices. I am quite sure that Paul had experienced believers with low-level desire in the course of his own ministry. Therefore, he did not want Timothy or you and me to make the mistake of putting desireless people into powerful positions of leadership. Paul was teaching Timothy how to raise true apostolic leadership.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's

beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

-Psalm 133:1-2

Understand that whatever is on the head is exactly what will flow down to affect the rest of the body. This means if you put a desireless person in charge of a division of your ministry, his low level desire and passion is exactly what will be replicated in that entire division. It is important to choose leaders wisely because whatever is inside of them is precisely what they are going to reproduce. Never over spiritualize the selection process when choosing potential leaders. Don't ignore telltale signs in a candidate's natural life that alert you of their lack of desire.

There are seven key indicators of desireless people that we must watch for.

 The first indicator is being unconcerned. Desireless people have no driving motivation to be concerned about anything.

- Second, being unemotional. Desireless people don't have enough passion to feel emotion about what they are doing.
- Third, being indifferent. They often have a "take it or leave it" mentality.
- Fourth, being nonchalant. They are of the opinion, "what will be will be, so why try to do anything about it?"
- Fifth, being detached.
   They are not genuinely connected to any kind of commitment.
- Sixth, being unresponsive. They often sit and look at you when you are talking as if you haven't said a word.



The power of desire is key to the success of any endeavor. If one's desire is small or weak, it won't take a very strong attack from the devil to knock them out of the race. But when a person is so desirous to become all that God wants them to be that they refuse to quit, they end up becoming who God intended them to be in the kingdom. Desire propels people forward to become more than they are. Apostolic leaders must pay great attention when they find people who demonstrate this kind of loyalty and fierce determination to be used in the ministry, and take notice of those who refuse to be easily moved and will not give up. The fact that they are so determined means that they have the kind of desire needed in a potential leader.



# THE NATIONS ARE

John or Dr. Vickie Tetsola to your church, meeting, or conference for a speaking engagement, please feel free to contact us at:



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#### A PRAYER OF SALVATION

eavenly Father, I come to You admitting that I am a sinner. Right now, I choose to turn away from sin, and I ask You to cleanse me of all unrighteousness. I believe that Your Son, Jesus, died on the cross to take away my sins.

I also believe that He rose again from the dead so that I might be forgiven of my sins and made righteous through faith in Him. I call upon the name of Jesus Christ and confess Him to be the Savior and Lord of my life. Jesus, I choose to follow You and ask that You fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit. I declare that right now, I am free from sin and full of the righteousness of God. I am saved in Jesus name.

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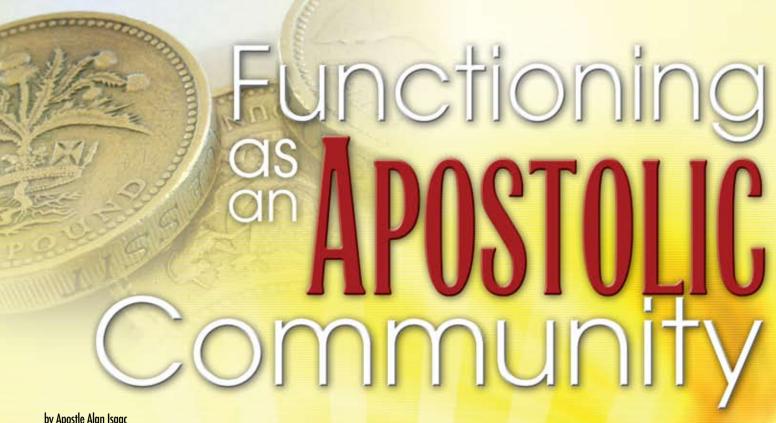








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by Apostle Alan Isaac

ith the full restoration and **function**ality of the Five-Fold Ministry giftings, we see an emerging Global Church with tremendous potential and Kingdom velocity. Apostles, Prophets, Evangebellies or spirits, an anointing to impact the Global Church for change. That anointing <mark>is str</mark>ongly <mark>connec</mark>ted w<mark>ith a</mark> divine enlistment or call into this area of gifting. The call ment of functionality. But the end result is always the releasing of grace

to those impacted. This grace is what we call impartation.

The apostle Paul told the believers at Rome.

strengthen and establish you" -Romans 1:11; AMP

The word "gift" (Greek: Charisma) here means "grace-results" like gratuity, deliverlous faculty." The apostle wanted them to know that being called to function as an apostle, he was supernaturally enabled by the accompanied anointing, to administer or activate or actuate grace experiences within them. He wanted them to become enabled with the grace on his life, in order to become enablers of others through the activated grace that was in their lives. This is the nature of the capacity that a fivefold minister carries within his spirit. He becomes a conduit of the vastness of God's grace.

This grace must be reciprocal. Jesus told the early apostles,

"As you go, preach, saying,
The Kingdom of Heaven is at
hand! Cure the sick, raise the
dead, cleanse the lepers, and
drive out demons. Freely (without pay) you have received,
freely (without charge) give".

-Matthew 10:7-8

They were empowered to release from within their spirits, the same grace that was imparted into them by others. To maximize their releasing potency, and operate as an apostolic community, they needed to become fully equipped by the fivefold ministry anointings. How is this done?

Remember the power-rangers? Five different individuals with their skills and powers combining to make one giant and unbeatable fighter! Remember also Captain Planet? Five planeteers and their powers combining to form one super hero! Borrowed? Certainly! Got the picture?

Just for one moment look at God's apostolic warrior fully equipped for works of service.

An apostolic warrior is one who has received the impartation of apostolic grace through an apostle, adding an *apostolic dimension* to his life. He has received prophetic grace through the impartation of a prophet, adding a prophetic dimension to his life. He has received evangelistic grace through the impartation of an evangelist, adding an evangelis**tic dimension** to his life. He has received pastoral grace through the impartation of a pastor, adding a *pastoral* dimension to his life. And, finally, he has received teaching or didactic grace through the impartation of a teacher, adding a teaching or didactic dimension to his life.

Envision these apostolic warriors, functioning within an apostolic community, and impacting their homes, their churches, their communities, their nations, and their regions, with a five-dimensional punch! Imagine with me the thrusting forth of these apostolic warriors into the nations of the earth, causing the demolition of strongholds, and ushering in an unprecedented harvest of souls. Imagine entire families, communities, villages, and nations, coming into covenant with our Great God!

Mere imagination? Certainly not! This is the exact picture God has in mind concerning you and I and the deposits that are within us for global impact. Look at the foreseen results through the eyes of the apostle John:

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands".

—Revelation 7:9: NIV

Do you remember what the apostle Paul identified as one of the purposes for the impartation received through fivefold ministers? Look at it:

"For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its needs] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love".

-Ephesians 4:16; AMP

In other words, the equipping through fivefold ministry deposits, must enable the apostolic warrior to engage in...

"works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up".

-Ephesians 4:12; NIV

...or caused to grow, become multiplied or increased.

When apostolic warriors develop and function within the apostolic community, several results will be seen:-

They exalt the Lord

through their escalating and impacting praise and worship.

- They utilize the Word of the Lord, whether it is the Logos, the Rhema, the Sperma, or the Prophetic word, to cause an acceleration of growth and prosperity within the apostolic community.
- They engage evangelism as a process of expansion and increase.
- They do spiritual warfare strategically and on purpose.
- They tap into the replenishing resources of Heaven through individual and corporate prayer and intercession.
- They are guided by a dynamic corporate vision that is being fleshed out by a church strategist, who works closely with a church tactician to make the vision happen.
- They do not encounter financial problems, but they do have all the problems that growing churches would have.

R

Apostle Alan Isaac is the Senior Pastor of Rivers of Living Water Christian Center on the Island of St.Kitts. To contact him please call (869) 466-7481.

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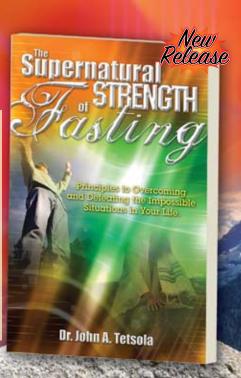
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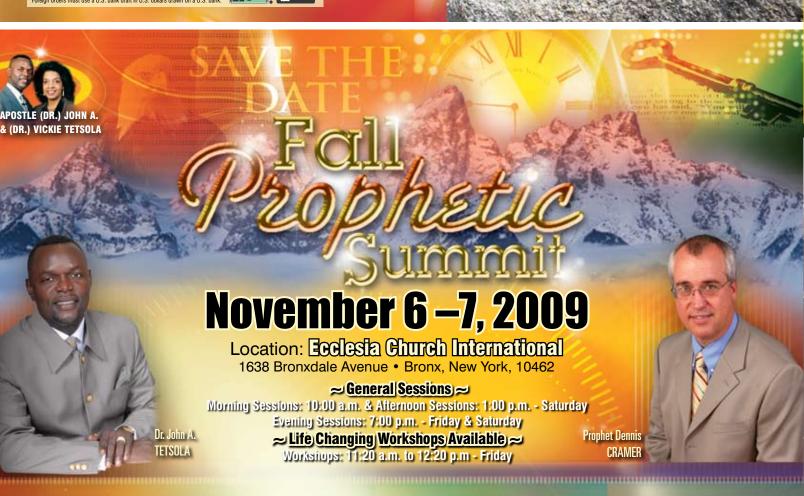
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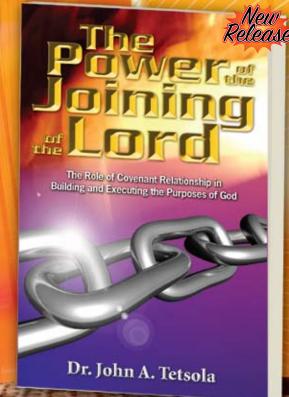
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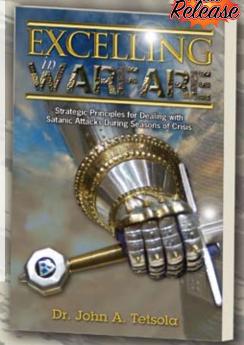
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# Merging Character

Demonstrating
The Power
Of God

by Dr. John A. Tetsola

he authenticity or the strength of the anointing on a believer or leader is not found in his gifting. It is found in the

strength of his character.
Throughout the body
of Christ, much of the
emphasis has been on

gifting. This has allowed so much of the spirits of divination, witchcraft, and control to slip into the church. Just what is character? The word "character" comes from a Greek word which means a "notch or indentation, a sharpening, scratching, or writing on stone, wood, or metal, an embossing stamp for making coins." It is that distinctive element that identifies us. Character is exhibited in our look, our mannerisms, our customs, and styles. Character not only involves a person's acts, but it involves a person's inner thoughts, motives, and attitude. We find that thoughts

that are hidden indicate the real character of a person. Character is not primarily a task to be accomplished or an ideal to be achieved. It is to be lived out as expected by God. Our behavior, for one, should be different and noticed by others around us. Character in its true form makes for a life that is committed and dedicated to the things of God.

This is exactly what God is asking for. There must be a strong balance of character and gifts in the lives of those demonstrating God's power. The church has been experiencing the opposite of this. Because of the restora-

tion of the apostolic and prophetic anointings, there has been so much emphasis on the giftings. A prophet with no character has no right to impart. Impartations do not come from the gift. Impartations come from the character of a prophet. A thought from Wesley and Calvin is that sanctification and justification master a big role in one's character. One cannot be separated from the other.

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

-1 Corinthians 3:1

Justification is what God does for us through His Son, whereas sanctification is what He works in us by His Spirit. According to Vine's Expository, sanctification is a separation to God's holiness of one's life; it is sacredness or inviolability; it is safety from profanation. It involves a right relationship to God. Justification restores us to the favor of God, but sanctification brings us to the image of God, His character. The spiritual gifts of a believer without character abuses God's glory, compromises His power, and reduces the church to nothing more than a spiritual social club. Your possession of a spiritual gift does not mean or make you spiritual or anointed of God. The Corinthian church was an excellent example of this. There was immorality, division, and believers were taking each other to court. Their inappropriate use of their spiritual gifts brought about

disorder in the church. Paul called them "babes" in Christ and worldly.

For many in the prophetic today, the "gifts" are the major focus, thinking that this is evidence of the anointing or approval of God upon a person's life. Advocates of church growth placed a great emphasis on the gifts as a means to effect numerical church growth and as a tool for effective ministry. Because the Spirit of God dwells in us individually and corporately, we are to represent Christ here on earth through our lives and character. Jesus wants to prepare believers to become vessels of the expression of His life by empowering us to challenge the works of darkness. We cannot do that in our flesh. To live the life Jesus lived, we must become vessels of honor which will enable the anointing of God to flow freely through us.

In the Corinthian church, the missing element was character. This is also a major missing ingredient in the lives of most believers who demonstrate the power of God. Character is so essential in the lives of those that work for God. If our spiritual gifts are to bring glory to God, and if we are going to bring credibility to the church, and the anointing to people, we need to examine the gifts in relation to our character.

If you are not living a life set apart for God, you cannot be walking in integrity of character. You cannot separate one from the other. The problem with most believers working for God or with those who flow in the prophetic or apostolic is not a lack of gifting, but a great lack of character. Great damage has been done to people, marriages, families, and finances because of men with no character. They had gifts, but they lacked the necessary lifestyle that exhibited character, which gives credibility to the gifting.

Gifts are special notable capacities, talents, or endowments that are either inherited, acquired, or given by deity. You don't' work for it. It is bestowed involuntarily on a person without any compensation. Character, on the other hand, is quite different. Character involves some making. In the making, there is pain, disappointment, separation, and even isolation. It is the character that produces the impartation. To release and demonstrate the power of God with impartation, character and gifting must be merged to demonstrate and administer the gift effectively, without defilement, with power, trustworthiness, dependability, strength, impact, and producing great reception, long-lasting, and life changing results in the impartation of the gift to individuals.

And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

—Judges 16:20

Here we find the story of a man who did not understand the importance of character. Samson said, "I will go out as at other times before and shake myself." He did not know that the Lord had departed from him. He failed to realize that the favor of God was gone. The favor of God is found in our character. Character is the ability to talk and walk in the nature of Christ. It is the character path that maps our destiny. Strong anointing with impartation only flows from people with character and integrity. Samson lost the anointing that he once had, but was so confident that he did not know when the anointing departed from him.

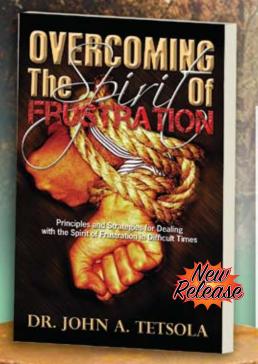
Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

-Ecclesiastes 10:1

Character is the deciding factor for success. Often, in our eagerness to be successful, we forget the essential ingredient for success. That ingredient is character. Many define success in different ways. I define success as "obtaining a measure of satisfaction in line with what God has purposed." Our success cannot be determined by the size of the structure in which we worship. The degree of success is always in proportion to the degree of the purpose of God being fulfilled. How many, how much, and how long are not genu-

continued on p.25

## Dealing with the Spirit of Frustration



**Overcoming The Spirit of Frustration** 

One of the prevalent forces that is a source of destruction to most believers is the spirit and force of frustration. Frustration is a spirit that is easily overlooked by many people. It has not been given the proper attention because its tendencies are not easily noticed, yet it has destroyed marriages, businesses, ministries, and has caused leaders to abandon their posts and ministry for other ventures and interests. It is a spirit that when not recognized and handled, can become the beginning process of your destruction. Frustration is a response that the enemy takes advantage of to manifest his purpose. It is an intense state of feeling created by an occurrence which causes one to relinquish the very dream of God.

This book will teach you the principles and strategies for dealing with frustration in difficult times. You will learn the following as you read this book:

- The true spirit and intent of frustration
- · The major sources of frustration in the life of the believer
  - Ways frustration sabotages our destiny
  - How to defeat and overcome frustration
  - And much more

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## **How to Build An Apostolic Team that Releases Vision**

#### **Building an Apostolic Team that Wins**

Building a healthy and effective vision that is successful demands that we build with an apostolic team spirit. An apostolic team spirit is a joint action by a group of believers in which each person subordinates his or her independent interests and opinions to the unity and efficiency of the team. The most effective team spirit is produced when all the individuals involved harmonize their contributions and work toward a common goal. As great as we might be, we cannot accomplish alone what God has called us to do. There has to be gifted, talented, and great people that are willing to connect with us to make vision work.

This book will challenge and teach you how to build an apostolic team spirit that wins. In this book you will learn the following:

- The concept of an apostolic team
- The process and criteria for choosing true apostolic teams
- · The obstacles and hindrances of an apostolic team
  - The blessings of apostolic team partnership
  - And much more

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ine criteria for determining the success of a thing. The question should always be, "how closely is this aligned with God's purpose?" This determines success.

Because of this age, we have access to more information than any other generation. We have more technological advances than during any other time. We have a demand to produce like never before, but these advances only create a mixture of the longing to produce at "any cost." However this cost almost always neglects our character. With the availability of compact discs, books, DVD's, television, and conferences, we are more apt to learn on our own. The problem with this is that most of us go unchecked in the area of character. Understand that wherever you get in life, if it is not solidified on the pillar of character, it is subject to collapse at any moment. Character becomes a deciding factor. It brings longevity.

#### The Character Difference

Samson and Joseph were noted great men and leaders in Scripture. Both men started off well. Both men were called of God. Both men were born to barren women, which signified something special that God was doing. Both men had distinct testimonies of how God was on their side. However, both men scored very differently on a similar exam they took. The test is called the "charac-



ter trial." Joseph scored well on his test, whereas Samson scored horribly. Why such a difference?

The difference was not in the gift. They were both bound for success in God. The call of God was obvious. The difference was in their root system. The root system is what brings forth the character needed to pass a given trial. Joseph was modest, hardworking, honest, wise, and devoted to his superiors. These are signs of character. All of these qualities contributed to the rapid rise of Joseph through promotion. In comparison, Samson is seen with hints of defects in his character. We see in Judges 14:1-3 how Samson ignored the customary traditions, the will of God, and his parents wishes by looking outside of his tribe for a wife.

Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines?

-Judges 14:3a

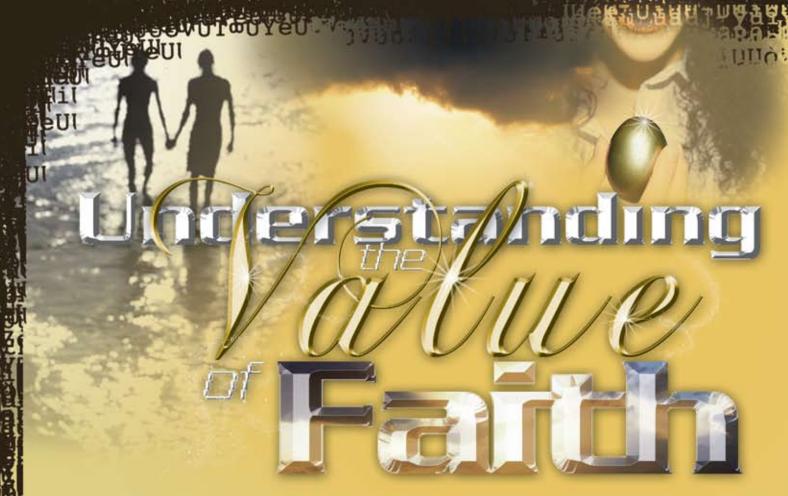
The fact that Samson outrightly ignored the will of

God and his parents was not an indication of weakness, but rather, it was indicative of a character flaw that was destined to explode. Both Joseph and Samson were tested in a similar way. Both were pursued by women of power and beauty. Although they both demonstrated various dimensions of the gifts of God, their individual approach to a similar trial was

quite different. Remember, Joseph walked in prophetic dreams. What a powerful gift. Also the gift of the interpretation of dreams was at his disposal. At various times the Scripture says "the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him (Samson)." So Samson was also mightily used by God. But the deciding factor in facing

their trials was their root system—their character. When Potiphar's wife approached Joseph, the Bible says that Joseph refused. Joseph said, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" He saw the wickedness as "great." Understand that Joseph was not operating on his own strength and might, but the nourishment that came from his roots (character) kicked into gear. In comparison, Samson did not fare as well. Our gifting must be mixed with character in order for it to excel. We can only stand the test of time with well established root systems of character.





**NOW FAITH** is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

-Hebrews 11:1 AMP

#### by Sheila Freeman

What is your faith worth to you? As believers, we know the definition of faith. Hebrews chapter 11, verse 1 opens our understanding to the power of seeing beyond this natural plane. By faith we live in a realm where what is spoken comes into glorious view, because we believe God and take Him at His Word. However, the notion of value (what something is worth) can be personal and subjective.

> What is your faith worth to you? What is of great value to one person may be considered worthless trash to a neigh-

bor. Jesus tells a striking parable about the kingdom of heaven in Matthew chapter 13, verse 44. He describes how a man found something very precious buried in a field. He hides it again for safekeeping. Then he joyfully sells everything he owns, returns and buys the entire field with its hidden treasure and all. The man values the field based on what is hidden in it. He determines the price tag is everything he owns. The man is willing to barter all his possessions just to own that field. A child may ask why didn't the man just buy the precious treasure from the owner of the field? Why buy the whole field

when it's obviously the treasure he is most interested in obtaining? Because what was buried in that field was far more precious than the field itself, and vastly more expensive than the sale price of all he owned. He couldn't afford to buy the precious thing, but he could buy the field in which it was hidden. Wise man.

No one can afford the price Jesus paid to ransom His beloved from the clutches of the enemy. No one can pay the price equal to the value of His precious blood. Yet anyone who desires to know Christ as Savior and worship Him as Lord can come into fellowship with Him by sell-

FUTURE MERCHANISCO LE LESTINY OF A GENERATION

ing everything in exchange for the whole field. The field is representative of the work Father has given to everyone who comes into His kingdom. The treasure signifies the Christ and His saving power. There is a price tag on salvation and it is called faith.

In order to realize kingdom purpose, he must surrender his entire life to the work of God.

The man stashes the treasure and goes away with the intention of returning with the full price for the field. He is prepared to give it all for Jesus. He discovers what is precious, but he cannot take it from the field. He cannot separate the precious thing

from the field in which it is found. He must buy the whole field. He cannot partially commit in this venture. He must give everything in order to appropriate what is more precious than he can imagine, than he can ever afford to pay, even if he sells everything single thing he enemy. Are to appropriate to appropriate works is Lord no is Lord no imagine, than he can ever afford to pay, even if he sells everything single thing he

The kingdom of heaven is like something precious buried in a field, which a man found and hid again; then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field.

owns. Are you prepared to

pay this price?

-Matthew 13:44 AMP

He must have been searching and snooping around in that field in order to discover what was buried in it, and he must have had some sense of the value of what he found in the field to sell all of his possessions in order to own that field.

This is a divine picture of what happens when the faith-filled, sold-out believer comes into the knowledge of his or her kingdom purpose. The Scriptures describe our faith as being "more precious than perishable gold" in 1 Peter 1:7, and again in 2 Peter 1:1, the Apostle writes to those of "like precious faith." Isn't it just like God to hide something precious in plain sight so that anyone with the desire to search for it can find it? Isn't it also like God to require everything in order to obtain what is precious? We are so precious to God that He, being the loving Father that He is and in spite of our rejection of His love, was willing to sacrifice what was most precious to Him in order to redeem us from the

enemy. And all we need to do to appropriate what He has done for us is just to believe, to walk in faith and in the knowledge that Christ Jesus is Lord now and forever.

For 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

First in chapter 12 of Romans, verse 1, the Apostle Paul strongly appeals to us his fellow believers to each make a decisive dedication of our bodies to God. For the rest of our lives we are to live in constant voluntarily surrender of our person and power to Father God. And not out of a sense that we're doing God a huge favor for which we should be rewarded or an act that gives a believer cause to revel in self-exaltation, but with the knowledge that our complete surrender to God is merely a reasonable service, what is expected of us by God, and service that He receives as worship. This is key.

How often do we spend time with God and then expect Him to bless our socks off because we spent hours in prayer, meditating on and studying His Word or telling others the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as if we've done something over and above what we've been placed on this earth to fulfill for His glory. This is not to say that God does not acknowledge everything we do through and for Him but rather that we should

not expect His acknowledgment in the form of a pat on the head for something that He fully expects of us as His children.

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#### The Dangers of Reward

Those who are parents understand the dangers of rewarding your children for doing what is expected of them, i.e., bathing each day, changing underwear and getting dressed, etc. If you gave your children candy and gifts for bathing and brushing their teeth each day, not only would their teeth rot but it would send the wrong signal to them that this is something out of the ordinary for which they should be amply rewarded. How much more does our heavenly Father desire that we understand there is a style of surrendered life under the Lordship of Jesus that requires making a quality decision to live for and by Him the rest of our lives. Worship is to be done without the expectation of a reward, because it is reasonable service. The only true "return" of worship is the joy of worshiping the One Who is worthy.

Next, the Apostle Paul teaches about the dangers of being molded to the template of this world system. What a wonderful teacher! He tells us how to worship and then reveals the dangers that are at work to stop us as believers from being able to walk fully in the will of God. We can be constantly and supernaturally transformed in our minds, renewed each day through the power of God's Word. The

Apostle knew that only the Word of God has the power not only to save us, but to continually work the power of inner spiritual transformation to the ultimate end that we will be like Christ when we behold Him in His glory face to face. Only those who have been transformed by His Word and His power will be able to face Him on that day -- the day when He will see Himself reflected back in the face of His Beloved.

Apostle Paul goes on to write in verse 3, acknowledging the grace (God's enabling power) is the force behind his ability to declare this truth to us. He is acknowledging his sphere, not bragging in his grace gift or ability. This is also key. No one in the Body of Christ should ever get inflated in self-estimation. There is a proper sphere and province of operation given to each believer by God Himself, and the acknowledgment of this sphere is essential in order for the believer to operate within

continued on p.28



continued from p.27 his or her boundaries.

There are endless possibilities within the sphere of our boundaries. The Western mindset sees any boundaries as hampering development or inimical to the world's view of freedom. Satan was only able to deceive Eve when she believed his lie that God was withholding something from her. By a maliciously crafted question, satan got Eve to see God as a taker, instead of the magnanimous Giver that He truly is. It is dangerous to see the boundaries of one's God-given habitation as restrictions to one's ultimate place of fulfillment. On the contrary, the kingdom reality is that freedom exists within the boundaries of voluntary submission to God's com-

Apostle Paul talks about this sphere of operation that has been set by God Himself for all men in Acts chapter 17, verse 26. There is a perimeter of our assignment set by God in which our faith functions to its highest level. Why would I believe God to travel the world as an apostolic gift when the Lord has made me a teacher and fitted me with gifts to propel the teaching ministry to its optimal level? This is a great danger for anyone in the body of Christ -- to try to exercise our faith in a sphere that has not been given to us.

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

-Acts 17:26

Worse, it is dangerous to be



lifted in pride over a gift that has been given to us. The Apostle Paul was given great revelation, some of which I believe was not revealed to the Church in his writings. Even Jesus spoke to His disciples and said many things that are not recorded in the Scriptures.

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

-John 21:25

It is my belief there are words of Jesus that are revealed to those to whom He has given the ability, those who walk by faith with Him in great revelation by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

—John 16:12

No one was more aware of the dangers of prideful behavior based on one's revelation knowledge of God's Word than the Apostle Paul. He had asked God to deliver him from a thorn in the flesh and the Lord had told him no. That thorn was there to protect Paul from becoming over-inflated with pride that would destroy him and make all of his work for the Lord Christ ineffective in his life.

Every man has been given a measure of faith, faith in the form of a seed that can be cultivated and increased by use. Every man ministers and walks in his gifting according to his measure of faith. We must position ourselves to develop our faith.

Farmers use fertilizer to make the soil more arable. able to support life. The "manure" of life are those hard times, those circumstances that seem unbearably difficult. Yet, God uses those situations to sharpen us, to make us a better and more effective threshing instrument in His wonderful hand. We can look back with thanksgiving (and relief) and see that goodness and mercy were always present with us, even in the eye of the storm.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

—1 Peter 2:5

The 'lively stones' that Apostle Peter wrote about in 1 Peter 2:5 can sometimes have jagged edges. Stones in the water need ample time to become smooth and rounded. The Greek word lively [za] in the Scripture speaks of movement. Can you imagine a house built with stones that are in constant motion? That house would be rocking. Good thing it is built on a firm foundation. It takes faith to live in a house in motion. faith that pleases God.

#### How Much Do You Want To Please Him?

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

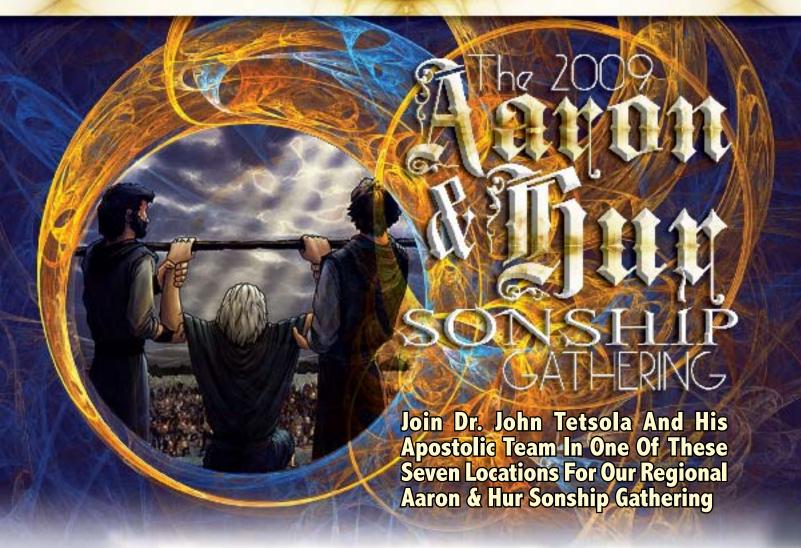
-Hebrews 11:6

Bringing pleasure to God requires faith. We can develop and grow our faith by putting it in motion, into action. Faith that is active and alive and in constant use is faith that pleases the heart of Father God. When we place extreme value on our faith, we will work it to increase it and be willing to sacrifice to that end. The Rewarder is keeping good account of our lives and efforts to pleasure Him. We begin simply by believing that God is — a first step toward life in His presence and that His rewards come to those who are willing to pursue Him with focused abandon.

The ability to please God, and to seek Him with the whole of our hearts is the greatest human adventure with the surest reward. Allow your faith to take you where your dreams alone cannot, and make the adventures of faith your top priority.



Sheila Freeman is a prophetic teacher, psalmist and member of The Leadership team of Ecclesia Church International. To contact her please call (718) 904-8530



The Aaron & Hur Sonship Gatherings are training sessions and seminars being held in regions throughout the United States and abroad. They are designed to strengthen, develop and raise supportive leadership teams, armor bearers, spiritual sons and daughters, in local churches around the vision of the set man to help undergird and uphold the work of the ministry to release vision. Isaiah 9:6 states that the government, God's structure of operation, is placed on the shoulders of His Son Jesus. The principle is, when you raise strong healthy sons/daughters and, supportive leaders, you will eventually build strong centers of vision.

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Take NJ Turnpike (I-95N) or Parkway to George Washington Bridge. Continue north to Cross Bronx Expressway (I-95 N). Get off at exit 5B onto Castle Hill Avenue. Make a left and go to the very end, (E. Tremont Ave). Make a left on E. Tremont and a quick right onto Bronxdale Avenue. Look for 1638 Bronxdale Avenue.

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## Staying on Course to Fulfill Destiny

#### Destiny Robbers

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