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Life

Unlocking the Destiny of a Generation

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Twelve Essential Signs
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MANNA FROM *His* PRESENCE

Developing A Winning Mindset

"For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]."

—Philippians 4:8 AMP

You have to develop and maintain a winning mindset if you are going to embrace the blessed life; not just a new mindset but a winning mindset. You can develop a new mindset that may still be opposed to the will of God. But a winning mindset is a mind or a way of thinking that thinks like God. It is a mind that allows the thoughts of God, the will of God, and the Word of God to govern your daily lifestyle and applications. A winning mindset causes you to be victorious and to excel in life. The Scripture in Philippians 4:8 shows us what happens when we possess a winning mindset. Our thoughts become pure and lovely, and we only believe reports that line up with the will of God.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 1:2

At every given moment of your life, your spirit is either governing your thinking, or your soul is governing your thinking. When we get born again, we get saved immediately in our spirit, but we get progressively saved in our soul and ultimately saved in our body. Our soul is not immediately saved. The salvation of our soul comes through constant renewal of our mind with the Word of God. Satan gains access through our senses primarily through our thinking. To defeat him, you have to gain a new winning mindset to close his access to your mind. Our prosperity (advancement, growth, and healing) must be in direct proportion to the prosperity of our soul. If your mind, and way of thinking is not changing, your life is not changing.

The Concept of a Winning Mindset

There are five things to understand in gaining a winning mindset.

Mrs. John & Vickie Tetsola

For out of the heart come evil thoughts (reasonings and disputings and designs) such as murder, adultery, sexual vice, theft, false witnessing, slander, and irreverent speech.

Matthew 15:19 AMP

In the multitude of my [anxious] thoughts within me, Your comforts cheer and delight my soul!

Psalms 94:19 AMP

a) First, you are what you think. You can excuse your behavior and lifestyle all you want and blame others in your life for what happens to you. But the truth is, you are what you think, just as we are what we eat. When you truly understand this, then you'll begin to consciously monitor your thoughts and renew your mind through the Word of God.

[That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot.

So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

Romans 8:7-8 AMP

b) Second, every wrong thought is dangerous rebellion and puts you in agreement with the devil. At every given time and moment, your thoughts are either in alignment with God or the enemy.

To the latter it is an aroma [wafted] from death to death [a fatal odor, the smell of doom]; to the former it is an aroma from life to life [a vital fragrance, living and fresh]. And who is qualified (fit and sufficient) for

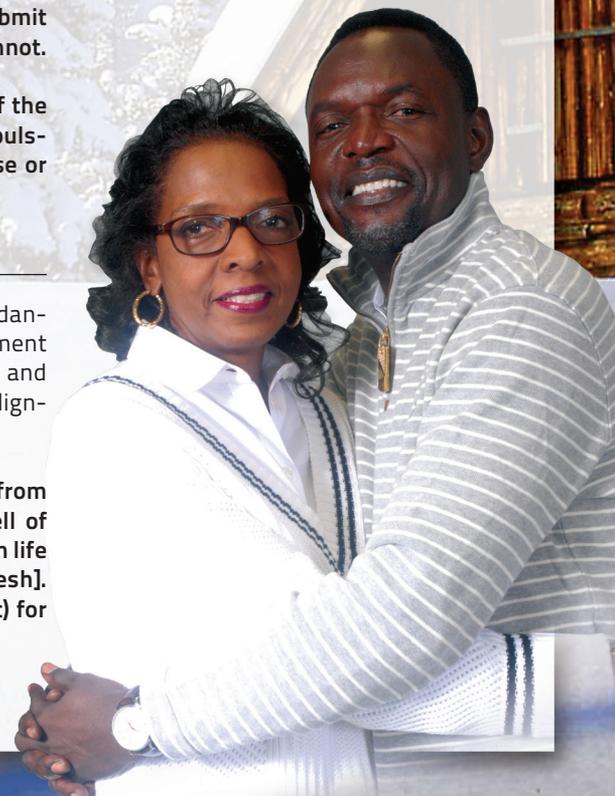
these things? [Who is able for such a ministry? We?]

2 Corinthians 2:16 AMP

c) Third, understand that as believers, we have access to the thoughts of God. You can think the thoughts of God and possess His mind. It is a choice that you must be willing to make if you want a winning mindset.

d) Fourth, understand that your decisions and behavior in life are all determined by either right or wrong thinking.

e) Fifth, understand that if you work on your thoughts, making sure that they are pure, lovely, and in line with God's Word, you can work out your behavior, your pursuit, your vision, your lifestyle, and your appetite rightly. **R**



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Dr. John A. Tetsola

We all make decisions every day. Some of them are minor, like what to wear and where to go for lunch. Others are major, requiring much thought and prayer. No one makes the right decision all the time, no matter who we are. However, with the help of the Holy Spirit we can avoid catastrophic decisions that can permanently alter our lives.

Twelve Essential Signs of Apostolic Leadership 06

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PURPOSE

Reformers Life magazine provides the highest balanced quality spiritual food for the Kings 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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AVOIDING ISHMAEL DECISIONS

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, See here, the Lord has restrained me from bearing [children]. I am asking you to have intercourse with my maid; it may be that I can obtain children by her. And Abram listened to and heeded what Sarai said. So Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her Egyptian maid, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his [secondary] wife. And he had intercourse with Hagar, and she became pregnant; and when she saw that she was with child, she looked with contempt upon her mistress and despised her.

Genesis 16:1-4 AMPC

By Dr. John A. Tetsola

Life is like a road. There are long and short roads; smooth and rocky roads; crooked and straight paths. In our life many roads will come our way as we journey through life. There are roads that lead to a life of fulfillment, purpose, and manifestation. There are also roads that lead to frustration, discouragement and pain that we will have to face long after our choices have been made. The ability to make good decisions can make or break us. Yet, a really bad decision can derail our pursuit instantly.

We all make decisions every day. Some of them are minor, like what to wear and where to go for lunch. Others are major, requiring much thought and prayer. Godly decision making begins with a willingness to submit our intentions to God’s perfect will and humbly follow His direction. It requires us to be willing to trust in Him and to wait on His timing for the manifestation of His promises. The decisions we make today will determine our tomorrow. No one makes the right decision all the time, no matter who we are. However, with the help of the Holy

Spirit we can avoid catastrophic decisions that can permanently alter our lives.

WHAT IS AN ISHMAEL DECISION

An Ishmael decision is a decision that we choose out of fear and impatience, that causes us to produce an alternative to God’s will for our lives. They are decisions that the enemy, and sometimes our own souls will present to us as alternatives to the plans God has for us. These decisions can appear in many different forms such as who to marry, what job to take, or where to live, and we all face them. They can even appear as God ordained decisions that produce His plans for us, which is why it is vitally important that we constantly commune with the Holy Spirit to receive His guidance before making any decisions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ISHMAEL DECISION



There are three primary characteristics of an Ishmael decision that we must be aware of.

And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Genesis 16:12 AMPC

An Ishmael decision is unmanageable, uncontrollable and causes stress & frustration.

And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.

Genesis 16:4-5 AMPC

An Ishmael decision always causes strife an unrest

And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Genesis 17:20 AMPC

An Ishmael decision resembles an Isaac decision, but it can only produce a replica of the promise.

HOW TO AVOID AN ISHMAEL DECISION

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Philippians 4:4-6 NLT

The first way to avoid making an Ishmael decision is to seek the mind of God in prayer. Just as it is important that

we communicate with God in prayer when we are not faced with important decisions, it is even more important that we hear from Him before we make any decisions in our lives. Too often believers cut off the lines of communication with God when facing important decisions because they are afraid that He will say no to what they want. The Scripture tells us that we are to 'pray about everything'. We must be sure not to avoid God regarding the decisions in our lives.

For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 24:6 AMPC

The second way to avoid making Ishmael decisions is to seek counsel. The greater the decision, the greater the need for advice. Even wise, capable decision makers—whether common people or rulers need counselors. Simply because I am willing to listen to other's opinions doesn't mean I have to follow through with their advice. However, when we listen to the view points of others, we give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to speak to our hearts and to show us things we may be blind to. Notice that the above Scripture speaks of a 'multitude of counselors'. This means we should have multiple people in our lives that we allow to scrutinize our decisions. In order to avoid making Ishmael decisions we must be sure to find people who think, understand, and operate differently than we do, and be willing to run our decisions through the gauntlet of constructive criticism and disagreement. We are in very dangerous territory if the only voice we ever hear is our own or of those who only tell us what we want to hear.

Another way to avoid making Ishmael decisions is to make sure your decision lines up with God's Word. Decision-making can be a daunting task for anyone, but Christians have the unique advantage of making decisions that are informed by God's Word. You and I must always obey the moral will of God as it is revealed in Scripture. If one of the options in your choice causes you to neglect something God specifically commands you to do, or if Scripture prohibits the action in question, your decision is easy: don't do it.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered

themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Samuel 8:4-5 AMPC

The fourth way to avoid making Ishmael decisions is to never make a decision based upon what others are or aren't doing. When we examine the decisions of both Abram and Sarai and the children of Israel, what they did was not technically wrong. According to the culture of the time, it was very common for a husband to take his wife's maiden as a second wife if his wife was unable to bear children. And establishing a leader over a nation as king was also very common, even expected during those times. However, it was wrong for them because it was not God's best and outside of His will for them. Simply because a thing works well for someone doesn't mean it will work out for you, or that it is what God desires for you. We cannot make decisions based upon others; instead we must seek God's plans for our lives alone.

He that believeth shall not make haste.

Isaiah 28:16C AMPC

The fifth way to avoid making an Ishmael decision is to never make a decision in haste. Sometimes we make decisions in the spur of the moment, under times of stress when the adrenaline is pumping. These are not the best circumstances to make any decision, big or small. You've likely been in situations like that. By simply taking more time to think about the pros and cons of your decision and weigh out the consequences, you can help stop yourself from making a catastrophic mistake.

Finally, to avoid making Ishmael decisions we must never make decisions out of our emotions. Whether it be starting a new business, working on a personal project, buying a home, or beginning a new relationship, try to keep your emotions under control. Not only do we need to manage our emotions, we need to manage our decisions. Continued on top of p. 9





A PARTNER'S 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 blessings that is accumulating to your account]."

- **Philippians 4:17 AMP**

Partnership 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 individuals 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 individuals 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.

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This is Your Day

God loves you no matter who you are and no matter what your past is. God loves you so much that He gave His one and only begotten Son for you. The Bible tells us that "... whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." If you would like to receive Jesus into your life, pray the following prayer out loud and mean it from your heart.

Prayer of Salvation

Heavenly 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. Amen



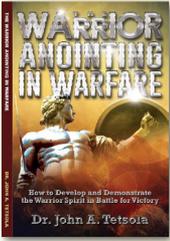
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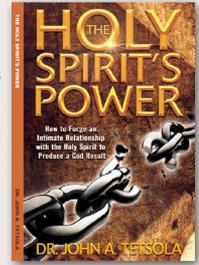
THE WARRIOR ANOINTING IN WARFARE



Walking with God in every area of life often involves conflicts, struggles, and battles that you have to triumph over in order to accomplish the purposes and agendas of God. Our success as believers in these conflicts and battles are dependent on processing the right mindset for warfare. It is in this mindset that the warrior anointing is released for victory.

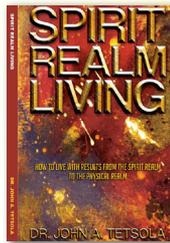
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THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER



One of the most forgotten, neglected, and unheralded Person, yet the most important in our life and in the church is the Holy Spirit. The average church member's understanding of the Holy Spirit is really vague. It is nearly non-existent. The Holy Spirit is the least taught, the least mentioned, and the least celebrated in the Godhead.

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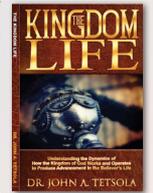


SPIRIT REALM LIVING

God desires the earth to look and operate as heaven does. It is His will that we duplicate heaven here in the earth realm. Jesus prayed, "Your kingdom come." As kingdom citizens, God charges us to establish His kingdom in the earth realm. God desires to see the kingdom fully manifested in the earth, but in order for that to become a reality, we must understand our role and the mechanism to manifest the kingdom, and that mechanism is through spirit realm living.

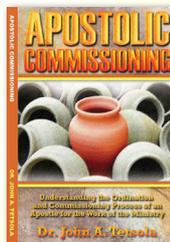
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THE KINGDOM LIFE



The need for the knowledge and understanding of the working of the Kingdom of God has never been as important as it is for the church today. It is very important that the church come into the full revelation of the dimension of the Kingdom of God and Kingdom living. The Kingdom of God is the essence of the church's message and life. We are called to the Kingdom life and power in the present, while still anticipating its final fullness and consummation in the future.

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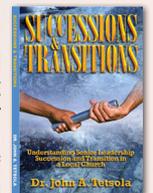


APOSTOLIC COMMISSIONING

Apostolic commissioning is something that most believers and churches are unfamiliar with. It is easier for most Christians to relate to pastoral, bishopric, and eldership ordinations than it is for them to relate to the ordination of an apostle. Part of the reason for this is most Christians have not witnessed apostolic ordinations and commissioning and also because most apostles today that are functioning in the office have not been duly ordained before their peers or before other people.

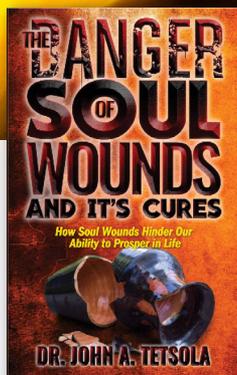
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SUCCESSIONS & TRANSITIONS



Unfortunately, leadership succession and transition is usually one of the sloppiest things that ever happens in the local church. Most of the time there is no real plan. If there is a plan, usually it is not well thought out and a person is prematurely installed as a senior leader and falls on their face. Dr. Tetsola shares some very key principles in understanding the process of senior leadership succession and transition in a local church.

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THE DANGER OF SOUL WOUNDS AND IT'S CURES

God's ultimate desire is for the believer to prosper, but for prosperity to really take place in our lives, we must first prosper and remain prosperous in our soul. The hindrance to soul prosperity is soul wounds. Soul wounds are the damage that were and are inflicted in our soul as a result of the negative experiences, pain, and molestation against our soul that were never dealt with, which eventually remains lodged in our soul and produce wounds.

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12 ESSENTIAL SIGNS OF APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP



Winter 2018 • Vol. XIX, No. 46

By Dr. John A. Tetsola

Apostolic leadership is extremely essential to the continued development and advancement of the Kingdom of God. Yet many are unaware that they are apostolic leaders. Often, people serve in an apostolic house, but view the apostle of the house alone as an apostolic leader. It is important that those who lead in an apostolic environment understand what sets them apart as apostolic leaders as well. Apostolic leaders carry God's message and equip other members of God's body to fully become what God has called them to be. They carry a great responsibility, and must be fully aware of the weight of the call upon their lives.

WHAT IS AN APOSTOLIC LEADER?

A person who embraces the

office and function of the five fold ministry gift as mentioned in Ephesians 4:11; they may or may not use the title but they have both apostolic revelation and apostolic fruit that includes the mentorship of others, and the flow of the apostolic anointing in their individual area of function. It is important to understand that not every apostolic leader is an apostle in title. Leaders who serve under an apostle are apostolic leaders as a result of their position under true apostolic covering. Psalms 133:2 tells us that the anointing on a leader flows down to those who serve under them. Leaders who serve under an apostolic mantle receive a portion of their leaders anointing upon them in their areas of function.

ESSENTIAL SIGNS OF AN APOSTOLIC LEADER

And Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great

men hold them in subjection [tyrannizing over them].

Not so shall it be among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.

And whoever desires to be first among you must be your slave—Just as the Son of Man came not to be waited on but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [the price paid to set them free].

Matt. 20:25-28 AMPC

Apostolic leaders are servants first. Servant leadership is best defined by Jesus Himself: 'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'. In the Christian realm, all leadership should be servant leadership. The bottom line to the application of apostolic leadership is that

they don't emulate the examples of the world; their example

is Jesus, who came as a servant. Therefore, their mission is to serve others, to give of themselves. Christ came to give His life. Apostolic leaders give of their lives not only in service to



God but to their fellow man, including those in the church and outside of it.

I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord—but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.

If I alone testify in My behalf, My testimony is not valid and cannot be worth anything.

There is Another Who testifies concerning Me, and I know and am certain that His evidence on My behalf is true and valid.

John 5:30-32 AMPC

Apostolic leaders do not testify of or draw people to themselves. Apostolic leaders direct people to God. The ultimate goal of all apostolic leadership is that other people might come to know God, that is, might so feel and think and act as to pursue God and not the leader. Apostolic leaders know that God will take care of all of their needs, and their affirmation comes from Him alone, so there is no need to draw people to themselves for selfish or egotistical gain. They are content to see others truly pursuing after God and experiencing the fullness of His promises in their lives. Seeing God glorified is their focus, not themselves.

Pattern yourselves after me [follow my example], as I imitate and follow Christ (the Messiah).

I appreciate and commend you because you always remember me in everything and keep firm possession of the traditions (the substance of my instructions), just as I have [verbally] passed them on to you.

1 Cor. 11:1-2 AMPC

An apostolic leader compels people to follow him/her by the example they set rather than by the directions he/she gives. They understand that people are more inclined to follow someone who is doing rather than simply directing. People can never be apostolic leaders and truly mature until they come to realize that God has called them to be examples to others. Leadership is influence. True spirituality, or godliness (or lack thereof) is revealed in our actions and such actions

will of necessity influence others either for good or for evil. Students, sons, daughters, and those who follow spiritual leadership, tend to emulate their leaders, parents, guardians, teachers, or heroes. The tendency is for some to shy away from this responsibility and reality, but in order to be truly mature and an apostolic leader; one must accept this as a reality of leadership.

Moses' father-in-law said to him, The thing that you are doing is not good.

You will surely wear out both yourself and this people with you, for the thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it all by yourself.

Listen now to [me]; I will counsel you, and God will be with you. You shall represent the people before God, bringing their cases and causes to Him,

Teaching them the decrees and laws, showing them the way they must walk and the work they must do.

Moreover, you shall choose able men from all the people—God-fearing men of truth who hate unjust gain—and place them over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, to be their rulers.

And let them judge the people at all times; every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they shall judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.

If you will do this, and God so commands you, you will be able to endure [the strain], and all these people also will go to their [tents] in peace.

Exodus 18:17-23 AMPC

An apostolic leader functions most effectively in order. Apostles are people of order,

and those who serve under them function most effectively in order. They function within the boundaries of their defined roles, and seek to maintain proper structure within an organization. They understand that God is a God of order, and they excel in environments of godly structure.

And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by.

Habakkuk 2:2 AMPC

Apostolic leaders are visionaries. Not only are apostles visionaries, but apostolic leaders are visionaries as well. Leaders who serve under an apostolic mantle, and operate with an apostolic anointing set visions for their individual areas of function. They understand that it is not enough for their covering to have a vision, but they must also set vision for their sphere of influence that tie into the larger vision.

Apostolic leaders are always looking for ways to improve themselves & their spheres of influence. Apostolic leaders are faithful people with a passion for improvement. It is not enough for them to simply maintain the status quo. They are constantly looking for ways to grow and improve so that those who they lead will grow and improve as well.

Apostolic leaders are time conscious and mindful of what's needed at the present time. They maximize every moment to accomplish the necessary task at hand. Apostolic leaders know that maximizing and managing their time isn't just a matter

Continued on bottom of p. 20





BUILDING STRONG LEADERSHIP RELATIONSHIPS

Make every effort to come to me soon. For Demas has deserted me for love of this present world and has gone to Thessalonica; Crescens [has gone] to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very helpful to me for the ministry.

2 Timothy 4:9-11 AMPC

The life of a leader is often a lonely one. Leaders endure betrayals and competitions, accusations of withholding God's best from others, as well as the pressure to compromise, and it doesn't happen only in the world. It's in the church, and it hasn't crept in—it has stormed in, designed by the enemy to strip leaders of their power to pursue. Many leaders work hard to empower the people around them and build authentic community. However, there is an element to leadership that is lonely. Whether it's leadership in a church, leadership in the workplace, or even leadership in your home. Leadership is one of the greatest privileges given to any human being. I'm sure that many of us in leadership would agree that leadership is one of the most fulfilling experiences in life. But, in leadership you carry a weight and responsibility which can drive you to a very lonely place. This is why strong leadership relationships are so important.

Do you remember when Jesus talked about a demon leaving a man? He said that when the devil leaves, he roams the earth to find some friends and then brings seven demons worse (stronger) than him to occupy that man again. Isn't that amazing? The devil will roam the earth to find seven strong friends to overcome a situation, but many leaders will hardly roam a street block to find a strong leader relationship to help them overcome their struggles in ministry.

The most meaningful relationships in our lives are often the hardest ones to maintain, but when leaders pursue strong relationships with other leaders it becomes a source of encouragement and strength for the journey ahead. Many leaders are so entwined with the cares and responsibilities of ministry that they can hardly find the time to relate even to other leaders. However, identifying and cultivating strong relationships with other leaders is one of the secrets to navigating a lot of the pitfalls that derail otherwise well-intentioned leaders. Leaders will never become all God intends for them to be without sound relationships with other leaders in their lives.

HOW TO BUILD STRONG LEADERSHIP RELATIONSHIPS

And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities,

Hebrews 10:24 AMPC

- First, we must understand the purpose of the relationships. As with anything, when the purpose of a thing is not understood, that's when you will abuse or neglect that thing. Many leaders neglect to give adequate attention to relationships because they do not understand the purpose. I have found that the purpose of a relationship is to create a power or a strength that was not there before. Strong leadership relationships can challenge us to grow in ways we haven't before, help us to maintain focus during times of instability, as well as birth new fresh ideas in ministry. When leaders understand the purpose of their relationships no one has to convince them to relate.
- Second, leaders must get rid of all unforgiveness in their hearts. Leaders, like everyone else, experience hurt and pain too. Many leaders retreat into themselves vowing never to extend themselves in relationships again as a result of past wounds. When we are offended at someone, we prevent the flow of power that comes from our relationships. We also open the door to a root of bitterness in our heart, which hinders our ability to hear from God and, prevents us from opening up to new leadership relationships God brings into our lives. Forgiveness is one of the most important ingredients in relationships. People fall short; people hurt us; people

mistreat us. We must forgive them, and determine not to judge others by the actions of some in our past.

- Next, leaders must lower their expectations of people, and raise their expectations of God. One of the main reasons many leaders have problems in their relationships is that they put too much dependence on people coming through for them in times of crises. In any relationship you will likely experience disappointment and potentially hurt, even in leadership relationships. But if your trust is in God as the source of your connection the relationship can withstand times of testing.

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

Proverbs 27:6 AMPC

- Lastly, leaders must understand the secrets of effective communication. Many leaders find no one around them that they can share their hearts with, so when in relationships with other leaders they lack the skill to effectively communicate. In order to practice effective communication skills, leaders must be willing to be open and honest, and be willing receive words of correction and adjustment. You cannot have effective communication without trust, and trust cannot be developed without honesty. Leaders are very often unaccustomed to hearing words that challenge their decisions and choices, but if we are going to build strong leadership relationships we must be open to not only words that encourage us, but also to words that correct us.

God has called us to be His leaders, but He has not called us to walk alone in our leadership. Each of us must ask ourselves today, 'as a leader, who am I sincerely in relationships with?' **R**



Avoiding Ishmael Decisions

Continued from p. 3

emotions of fear, worry or pain, but we also need to manage our emotions of happiness and excitement. Unmanaged emotions have the potential to cloud our judgment and hamper our ability to make sound decisions. Determine to never make a decision when you are either too high or too low. Level headed decisions are always best. **R**

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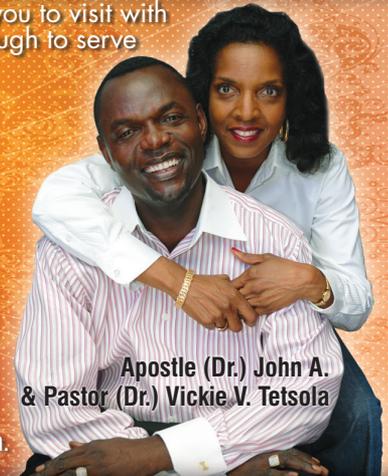
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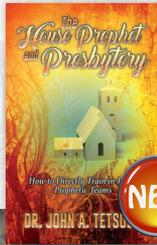
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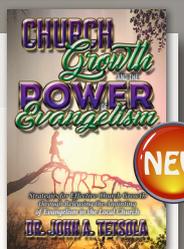


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Developing the Fruit of Self-Discipline

But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].

Galatians 5:22-23 AMP

By Dr. John A. Tetsola

Self-control is the ninth and last of the fruit of the Spirit listed by Paul in Galatians 5:22-23. Though it is listed last, there can be no doubt about its importance to Christian living. Can a believer be uncontrolled in his manner of life and still be a believer? Yes! However, true mature sons of God, as exemplified by Jesus Christ and the apostles, are models of lives controlled under the guiding hand of God without relinquishing their free moral agency. In looking at this Scripture, it quickly becomes evident that by reserving the mention of self-control to last, the apostle Paul is deliberately emphasizing it as the capstone of all the graces of the Spirit.

This last fruit of the Spirit is not at the end, as a sign that it is the least important of the nine. It is, in fact, essential to keep all the others from being perverted. Every virtue can become a negative thing if it is not controlled. Even love needs the balance that comes with self-control. It is the fruit of self-control that tells a believer when they are getting out of balance, and letting the flesh be their

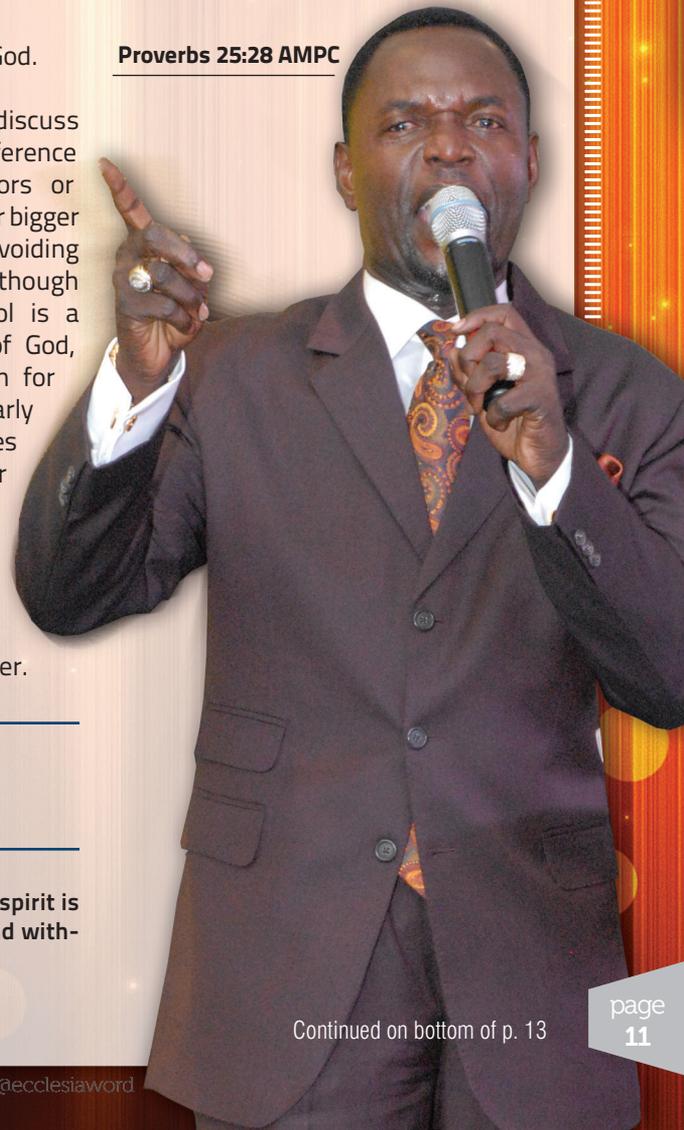
guide rather than the Spirit of God.

Most often when believers discuss self-control it's used in reference to sin, and negative behaviors or addictions, but self-control is far bigger and more important than avoiding sin or negative behaviors, although that is important. Self-control is a character trait of the Spirit of God, which has no fear or concern for sin so this character trait clearly extends beyond the boundaries of negative behaviors or avoiding sin. Self-control or a lack thereof is a fruit of the Spirit that affects our entire lives. Any area we lack self-control in is an area that God does not have rulership over.

Proverbs 25:28 AMPC

WHAT IS SELF-CONTROL?

He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls.



Continued on bottom of p. 13



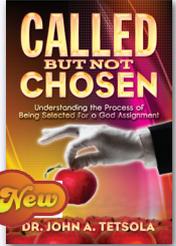
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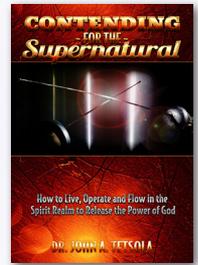
Every believer is presented with the opportunity to fulfill destiny, to accomplish an assignment, and to eventually answer the mandate of God for their life. But even though the opportunity is presented to all believers, not everyone eventually accomplishes the mandate of God for their life. It is never because God is partial and prefers one more than the other. It is often based on one's ability to embrace the process designed by God to bring us to the throne or to be chosen. For many are called, but only few of the called are chosen for their

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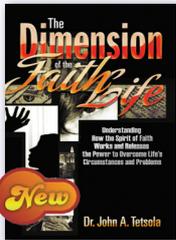


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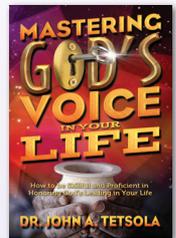
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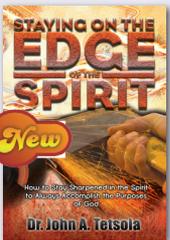
The totality of the Christian walk is based on this one statement from Jesus: "My sheep hear My voice and they obey." If you are not knowledgeable of the voice of God and fail to master it in your life, other voices will convince you.

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Developing Self-Control

Continued from p. 11

In Galatians 5:23, 'self-control' is the translation of the Greek word *enkrateia*, which means 'possessing power, strong, having mastery or possession of, continent, self-controlled'. It means 'holding in hand the passions and desires'. The word thus refers to the mastery of one's desires and impulses, and does not in itself refer to the control of any specific desire or impulse. It can be simply defined as the mastery of oneself, the capacity of individuals to so restrain their own emotions, desires, and impulses that they can serve others. Self-control is not as much about our inability to say or do things as much as it is about our ability to willfully restrain ourselves in necessary areas. It's about mastering one's emotions and cravings rather than being controlled by them.

FOUR PRIMARY AREAS WE MUST DEVELOP SELF-CONTROL

For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.

1 Corinthians 2:16 AMPC

The first area we must develop self-control in is our thoughts. We will never be able to get a handle on our lives if we can't control our thoughts. Many Christians struggle with this issue, especially in our highly technological world, but taking control of our thoughts is essential. Someone said that every action or behavior we exhibit, we practice twice, once in our thoughts and again when we act upon those thoughts. I can

never practice self-control externally that I haven't already established internally. It is easier to rid our lives of habits if we attack them at their fundamental thought level rather than waiting for them to become rooted in our lives by our actions and then try to pull it out. It is important to understand that when a thought enters our mind, we examine it based upon God's Word and determine if we should continue down that path or reject the thought and replace it with another thought. If we have already allowed a habit to form in our thought lives, it becomes more difficult to change the path of our thoughts, even as it is hard to get a car out of a deep rut and onto a new track.

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, he who rules his [own] spirit than he who takes a city.

Proverbs 16:32 AMPC

The second primary area we must develop self-control in is our emotions. However, we cannot control our emotions if we cannot first control our thoughts. How we think directly effects how we feel. People who lack self-control in their emotions can be dangerous to themselves and to others. Because of the unpredictable nature of our emotions, you can never be sure what you're going to get from them. Many believers have developed a belief that emotions are bad, but this is not true. God has emotions, but He isn't ruled by them and He expects us to exemplify the same level of control over our emotions. Uncontrolled emotions can lead to irrational decisions, unhealthy choices, and impulsive responses and reactions. When we lack self-control in our emotions we tend to impulsively respond to events, overreact to people and situations, and make decisions and choices that are not clearly thought out.

For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully devel-

oped character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.

James 3:2 AMPC

A man's [moral] self shall be filled with the fruit of his mouth; and with the consequence of his words he must be satisfied [whether good or evil].

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].

Proverbs 18:20-21 AMPC

The third area we must develop self-control in is our words. It has been said that the "tongue" is one of the most exercised muscles of our body. It has been estimated that in a typical week, the average person will speak enough words to fill a 500 page book! However, for the Christian, the use of the tongue must be a matter of careful forethought and discipline. The Bible warns that believers who do not bring restraint to their tongue and speech have been deceived — and without such control over their words, their religious acts are worthless and hypocritical. It is a deception for any of us to think that Jesus can be Lord over our life, without also becoming Lord over our tongue. When we refuse to practice self-control over our words we leave our tongue to function at its natural state which does not line up with God's Word.

The fourth primary area we must develop self control in is our finances. The Word offers proven financial advice and economic guidelines. The book of Proverbs alone reveals much about how to manage your personal finances. When we apply the principles we find in Proverbs, they usually add up to economic success, financial stability and peace of mind. Jesus talked about freedom from economic want: 'I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly' (John 10:10). Abundant life includes financial peace of mind. We cannot walk in this peace of mind if we lack self-control over





THE DANGERS OF MURMURING AND COMPLAINING



We should not tempt the Lord [try His patience, become a trial to Him, critically appraise Him, and exploit His goodness] as some of them did—and were killed by poisonous serpents;

Nor discontentedly complain as some of them did—and were put out of the way entirely by the destroyer (death).

1 Corinthians 10:9-10 AMPC

By Dr. Vickie V. Tetsola

What do you do when things go wrong? How do you react?

Are you a person who steps up and puts on a positive attitude or are you a complainer. Sometimes it is easy to fall into a murmuring state-of-mind, and there is a clear difference between talking out a problem and complaining without looking for a solution.

The Word has much to say about murmuring and complaining.

The Greek word translated 'complainer' means literally 'one who is discontented with his lot in life.' It is akin to the word grumbler. Complaining is certainly not a fruit of the Spirit and, in fact, is detrimental to the peace, joy, and patience that come from the Spirit. For the Christian, complaining is destructive and debilitating personally and only serves to make our witness to the world more difficult. Who, for instance, would be attracted to a religion whose adherents are dissatisfied with life and who continually grumble and complain? Sadly, many Christians are



murmurers and complainers. In the home, on the job and in the local church they grumble, murmur and complain. They can see nothing good. To them, everything is bad -- their life is miserable and they want to make it that way for everyone else. There is not a single one of us who appreciates murmurers. When another person engages in this behavior, we see its ugly quality. Trust me; it does not look any better in us.

MURMURING AND COMPLAINING IS A SIN

Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves],

That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world,

Philippians 2:14-15 AMPC

Make no mistake, murmuring and complaining is a sin. Sadly, murmuring is one of the most prevalent sins among some believers. Those who would never think of committing adultery or murder are guilty of this sin. Some who have the highest morals, adhere most closely to doctrine and are most liberal in their giving negate many of the good things they do by murmuring and complaining.

Yes, we have all complained from time to time. Things don't go our way and we are complaining about this and murmur about that. We make excuses. Yet the Bible clearly says that complaining is a sin. It shows an attitude that you are ungrateful and bitter. Complaining isn't just about identifying a problem. It's about not trusting God's decisions and direction for your life. That's why it often tests God's patience, because God doesn't ask us to be passive and wait around for things to just happen to us. He wants us to be active in our faith and our lives, and minister to Him while we await the manifestation of His promises.

When all we do is complain about our circumstances, we're not being grateful to Him for the things He has done for us, and that we trust that He will come through for us in our present circumstances.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF MURMURING AND COMPLAINING

There are several negative effects of murmuring and complaining that the believer must be watchful for.

When they came to Marah, they could not drink its waters for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah [bitterness].

The people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

Exodus 15:23-24 AMPC

The first negative effect of murmuring and complaining is that it causes us to forget and lose sight of what God has already done for us. The children of Israel had just come through one of the most miraculous experiences in human history in the parting of the Red Sea, and almost immediately they had forgotten the awesome display of God's power simply because they could not find a source of water. When we complain, we forget our past places of victory with God, and all we can see is what is isn't or hasn't done in our present.

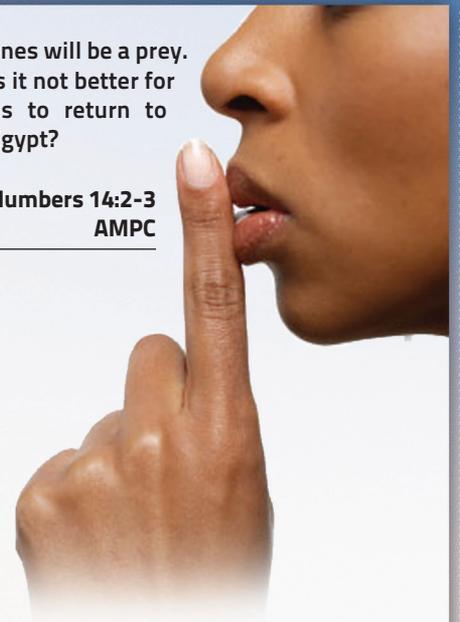
The second negative effect of murmuring and complaining is that it causes our situations to become bigger in our sight. When we murmur and complain we enlarge the problem, and begin to see it bigger than God. Our complaining causes the problem to get bigger and our Father to get smaller in our eyes, and our faith and trust that He can resolve it begins to diminish.

All the Israelites grumbled and deplored their situation, accusing Moses and Aaron, to whom the whole congregation said, Would that we had died in Egypt! Or that we had died in this wilderness!

Why does the Lord bring us to this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and little

ones will be a prey. Is it not better for us to return to Egypt?

Numbers 14:2-3 AMPC



Next, murmuring and complaining causes advancement to seem impossible. God promised the children of Israel success in their pursuit of the promise land, but their murmuring and complaining caused them to view that as an impossible feat. In their eyes, going any further would only lead to their demise. When we murmur and complain, moving forward seems impossible and we potentially fall into a place of stagnation.

And they said one to another, Let us choose a captain and return to Egypt.

Numbers 14:4 AMPC

The fourth negative effect of murmuring and complaining is that it causes us to desire to return to previous places of pain in our lives. Egypt was a place of bondage and persecution to Israel for approximately four hundred years. But now facing what seem to them as an insurmountable obstacle, they begin to wish to return to the place of their greatest pain. When we murmur and complain we begin to desire to go back to places in our lives we once begged God to get us out of.

And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among the scouts who had searched the land, rent their clothes,

And they said to all the company of Israelites, The land through which we passed as scouts is an exceedingly good land.

Continued on bottom of p. 19



Cultivating A Fresh FEAR of the LORD

All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God [revere and worship Him, knowing that He is] and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man [the full, original purpose of his creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun] and the whole [duty] for every man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 AMPC

By Dr. John A. Tetsola

The fear of the Lord is a theme that is mentioned throughout the Bible. But it is a subject that has been neglected by many pastors and teachers of God's Word today. The fear of the Lord is a very important aspect in a Christian's life because it is a characteristic of the Holy Spirit. A lack of the fear of God in a person's life means they have a lack of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. It is a gift from God, given through the Holy Spirit, which He puts in our heart to keep us close to Him. Without the fear of the Lord a person becomes unbalanced in their understanding of God and in their relationship with the Lord. The fear of the Lord causes His children

to run to Him, and His enemies to flee from Him.

The fear of the Lord comes from the knowledge of God, which is from knowing God. The Bible tells us that the beginning of wisdom and knowledge is the fear of the Lord. The greater our knowledge of God the greater our love will be for Him and the greater our fear (awesome respect) of Him will be also. However, many believers know of God by information, but do not have an experiential knowledge of Him, and it is displayed in their lack of the fear of the Lord. As God's presence is revealed to us physically and spiritually we stand in awesome respect of His power and majesty. Who

among people would not fear when standing in the presence of the Almighty Creator of the universe?

WHAT IS THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The main Hebrew and Greek words translated fear in the Bible can have several shades of meaning, but in the context of the fear of the Lord, they convey a positive reverence. The Hebrew *verbayare* can mean 'to fear, to respect, to reverence' and the Hebrew noun *yirah* 'usually refers to the fear of God and is viewed as a positive quality. This fear acknowledges God's good intentions.

This fear is produced by God's Word and makes a person receptive to wisdom and knowledge. The Greek noun *phobos* can mean 'reverential fear' of God, 'not a mere 'fear' of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him'. This is the type of positive, productive fear Luke describes in the early New Testament Church in Acts 9:31 'Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied'. One resource includes this helpful summary: 'The fear of God is an attitude of respect, a response of

reverence and wonder. It is the only appropriate response to our Creator and Redeemer”.

WHAT DOES THE FEAR OF THE LORD PRODUCE IN US

The fear of the Lord is an essential quality for every believer to have, and it produces four primary things in us.

Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!

Isaiah 6:5 AMPC

The first thing the fear of the Lord produces in us is sensitivity to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. When we walk in the fear of the Lord it's easy for the Holy Spirit to touch our hearts and bring conviction. A lack of the fear of God in a person's life means they have a lack of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Many believers have become desensitized to the conviction of the Holy Spirit because they lack a healthy fear of God. This is a very dangerous position to be in. When the Holy Spirit's power to convict has diminished in a believer's life, there is nothing they won't do. The fear of the Lord enables us to see ourselves for who we really are in relation to God, and produces in us a desire to change. This desire to change makes us open to the correction and

reproof of the Holy Spirit, and responsive to His convicting power.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Isaiah 6:8 AMPC

The second thing the fear of the Lord produces in us is a desire to please God. Pleasing God is, or should be, the goal of all believers, but when we lack the fear of the Lord we become more focused on pleasing our flesh. In the Scripture above we see Isaiah's first desire as a result of the influx of the fear of the Lord was a desire to please God. The more we walk in the fear of the Lord the more we desire to please Him. One of the attributes of the fear of the Lord is a reverential love for God. We naturally wish to please those we love. When we love God, we will want to please Him and obey His commands eagerly. If a believer's desire to please God has diminished it is a sign that their love has been redirected to something or someone else, and if their love has been redirected then their fear of Him will be affected.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took hold of the knife to slay his son.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! He answered, Here I am.

And He said, Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear and revere God,

since you have not held back from Me or begrudged giving Me your son, your only son.

Genesis 22:10-12 AMPC

Isaiah 1:19 AMPC

The next thing the fear of the Lord produces in us is a willful obedience to God. The fear of God leads to obedience of God, which gives us confidence in our heart before God. The Scripture tells us that Abraham didn't just obey God, but he did it willingly. Notice that Abraham's trip took him three days and God still declares that he didn't begrudge giving Him his only son. That means from the night God gave Abraham the instruction to the moment he lifts the knife to kill Isaac Abraham maintained a pure and willing heart towards God and what He asked of him. When I fear God not only do I obey Him, but I want to obey Him! God has no desire for unwilling obedience because unwilling obedience is simply legalism. Legalism is when we do something in our actions or out of ritual, but our hearts are not in what we do. However, God is looking for our wills and our actions to be in alignment.

The reverent fear and worshipful awe of the Lord [includes] the hatred of evil;

Proverbs 8:13a AMPC

These six things the Lord hates, indeed, seven are an abomination to Him:

A proud look [the spirit that makes one overestimate himself and underestimate others], a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

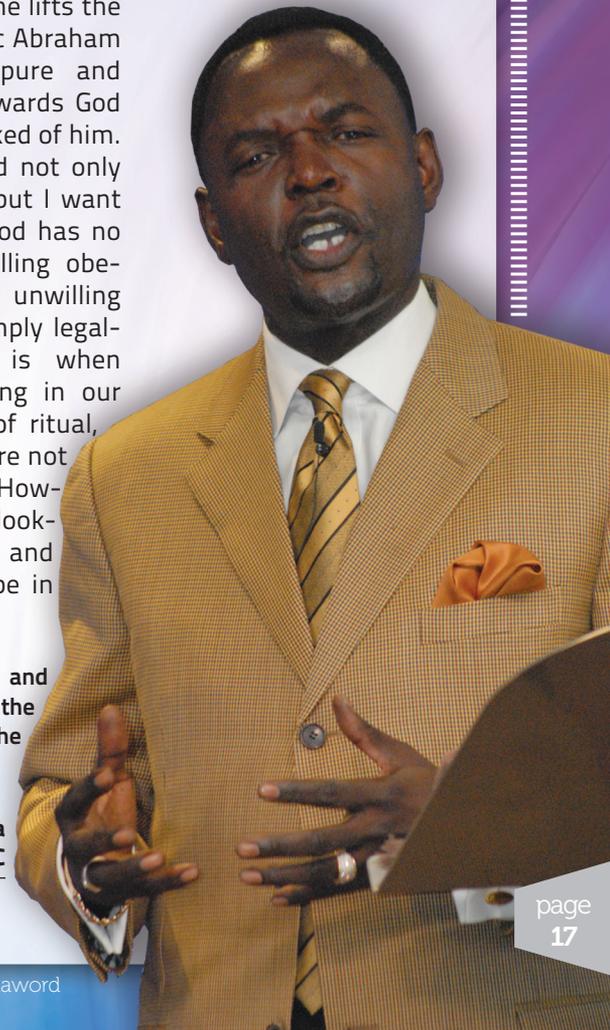
A heart that manufactures wicked thoughts and plans, feet that are swift in running to evil,

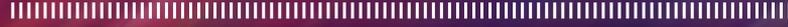
A false witness who breathes out lies [even under oath], and he who sows discord among his brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19 AMPC

The fourth thing the fear of the Lord produces in us is a hatred for what God hates. Fearing God means

Continued on bottom of p. 18





Cultivating a Fresh Fear of The Lord

Continued from p. 17

we hate the wrong things that by nature we want to do. People can have four levels of hatred toward sin.

- Level one is a person who doesn't sin because the consequences are too great. A person may lust after another, but doesn't commit the act because of the possible results—i.e., pregnancy, jail, sexually transmitted disease, addiction, etc. There's no fear of God, just a fear of the consequences.
- Level two is when people live at the level of the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would

have them do unto you." They do good deeds for others, but have little hatred of sin—such as selfishness.

- Then there is level three. People who live at this level are sincere Christians who don't want to sin. They are sensitive to sin, and confess quickly when it is committed. They feel badly when they keep confessing the same sins, but often find they are in defeat and failure in some areas of their life.
- Level four is when a person has faced the reason for sin, and has done something about it.

You are three-quarters

of the way through victory if you hate sin. You can have knowledge of the weapons of warfare, but they will not work if you don't hate sin. If on the other hand sin has any fascination to us, we do not yet fear the Lord as we should. **R**



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The Dangers of Murmuring and Complaining

Continued from p. 15

If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Only do not rebel against the Lord, neither fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their defense and the shadow [of protection] is removed from over them, but the Lord is with us. Fear them not.

But all the congregation said to stone [Joshua and Caleb] with stones. But the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meeting before all the Israelites.

Numbers 14:6-10 AMPC

The next negative effect of murmuring and complaining is that it can lead to strife and dissension. The children of Israel became so distraught as a result of their murmuring and complaining that they began to talk of stoning Joshua and Caleb. The very people who functioned

in positions of leadership over them became enemies in their eyes. When we murmur and complain it causes our attitude toward others who would desire to help us to deteriorate, and we begin to see them as people who desire to hurt us rather than help us.

Go not up, for the Lord is not among you, that you be not struck down before your enemies.

For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword. Because you have turned away from following after the Lord, therefore the Lord will not be with you.

But they presumed to go up to the heights of the hill country; however, neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses departed out of the camp.

Then the Amalekites came down and the Canaanites who dwelt in that hill country and smote the Israelites and beat them back, even as far as Hormah.

Numbers 14:40-45 AMPC

Finally, when we murmur and complain it causes the presence of God to life from us and opens us up to attacks from the enemy. The murmuring and complaining of the children of Israel tested the patience so much that it caused Him to life His hedge of protection from them. Without God's hedge and backing the children of Israel were defenseless against the enemy. When we murmur and complain it causes a breach to open in our hedge and gives access to the enemy in our lives. 



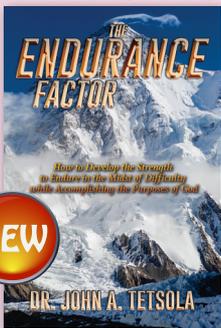
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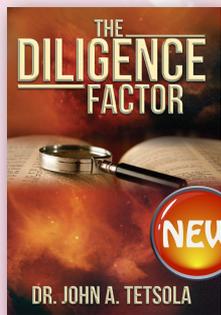
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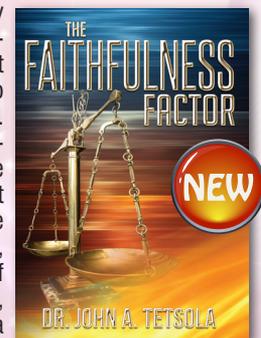
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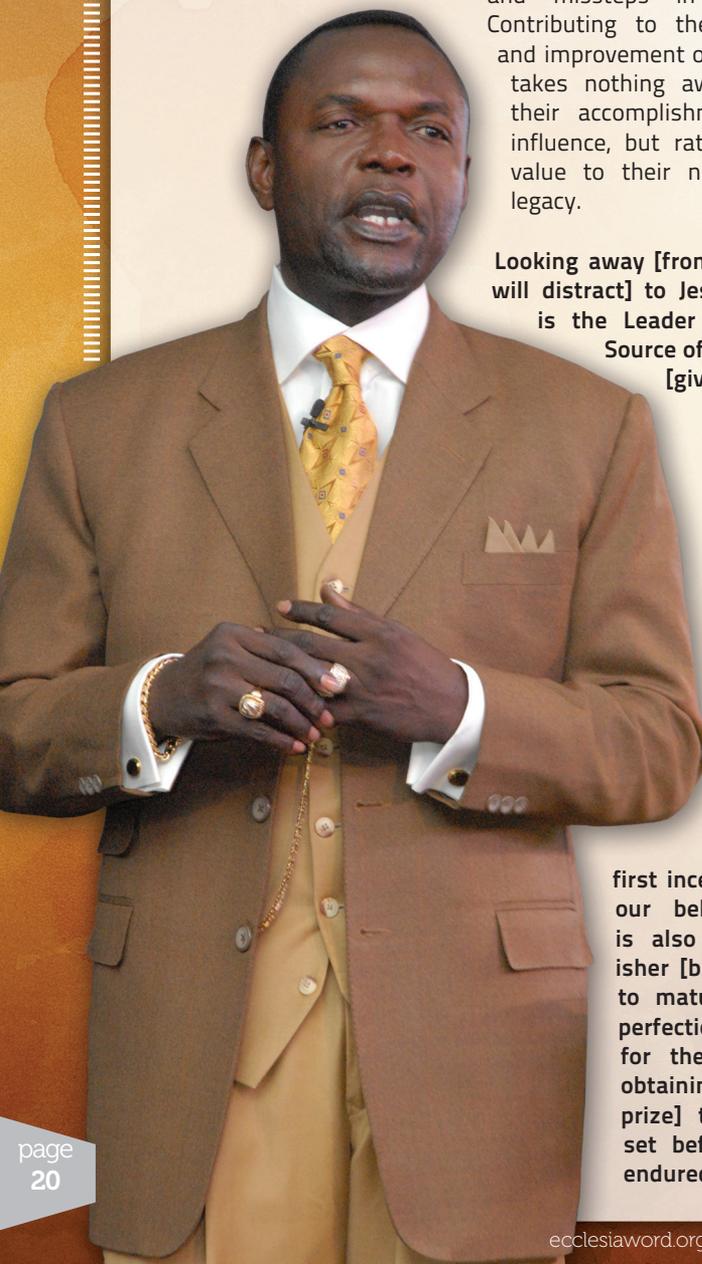


12 Essential Signs of Apostolic Leadership

Continued from p. 13

of completing tasks and responsibilities on schedule; it's also an important step in strengthening their areas of operation and modeling behavior for their team members. Every moment wasted is a valuable moment that cannot be recovered.

So you, my son, be strong (strengthened inwardly) in the grace (spiritual blessing) that is [to be found only] in Christ Jesus.



And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 AMPC

Apostolic leaders are not territorial over their areas, but rather are willing and desire to equip others as their successors. They are more than willing to share information with those they lead. They seek to duplicate themselves in others by sharing their successes and missteps in pursuit. Contributing to the growth and improvement of another takes nothing away from their accomplishments or influence, but rather adds value to their name and legacy.

Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the

first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the

cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2 AMPC

Apostolic leaders think and make decisions based on the big picture. They understand that many things will cross their path on the road of pursuit, but they remain focused on the overall vision. They don't allow small or even large happenings to throw off the overall goal. "The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been," Henry Kissinger said. Apostolic leaders understand that getting their people to a place where they have never been begins by painting the picture and then by charting the course. They regularly put forth the vision in order to impart confidence in their team members.

And Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, Come, and let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For there is nothing to prevent the Lord from saving by many or by few.

1 Samuel 14:6 AMPC

Apostolic leaders take risk and are willing to make mistakes. Apostolic leaders know that leadership always requires some level of risk taking. Risks are necessary to make changes happen and there will always be both personal risk, risk to followers as well as to the team or group involved. Apostolic leaders aren't afraid to fail or make mistakes. They view failure as an opportunity to learn and improve, and are willing to walk in faith in order to take their areas of influence to the next level.

Apostolic leaders are influential in any sphere they operate in. They lead no matter where they are. Their ability to influence others cannot be hidden, and their need for structure and order compels them to take charge in moments of chaos and confusion. In moments of uncertainty, apostolic leaders will always emerge to provide direction.

Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am.

I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want.

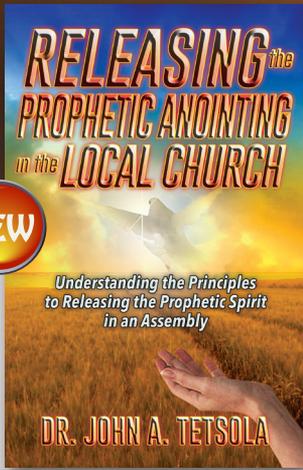
I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

Philippians 4:11-13 AMPC

Apostolic leaders do not crave for or pursue after the spotlight, but rather are content in whatever role their called to. They are grateful for the opportunity to lead and desire nothing more than what God has called them too. Notoriety and fame is not what they are after. Their ultimate goal is to see the fullness of God's will manifested in their lives and in the lives of those they lead, even if that call is to a role behind the scenes. **R**



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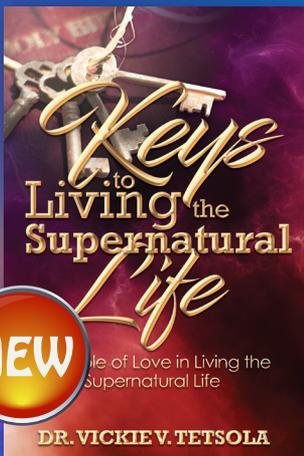
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THE Fearless LEADER

Then said David to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, Whom you have defied.

This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will smite you and cut off your head. And I will give the corpses of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.

When the Philistine came forward to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:45-48 AMP

By Dr. John A. Tetsola

Being fearless is not being strong; it is not putting on a smile no matter what; it is not feeling your fear and pushing through it, which is a definition of courage. Fearlessness is the total absence of fear. You must first be fearless for faith to manifest and rule. Faith and fear cannot coexist. Being fearless is the precursor to living in one hundred percent belief and faith in the Word of God and operating in the works of the Spirit upon the earth. We must have faith because it is the currency of the Kingdom that activates heaven to come into alignment upon the earth.

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7 AMP

God has not given us the spirit of fear, but He sometimes allows fear to illuminate the areas in which we don't believe Him. If He did not allow fear, we would think we were okay and have no internal barometer to clearly identify the areas in which our faith is lacking. The presence of fear is an indication of a

lack of faith in God in that area. Fear is a spiritual issue. It cannot be dealt with in the natural realm alone. It doesn't matter how many affirmations, memorizing bible verses, or positive self-talk you try to apply to fear, it does not work. You may get relief for a little while, but the fear will still be there.

When you move into fearlessness, you literally become untouchable by anything of the world. This includes the enemy, any man, any circumstance; you become unmovable to the things of the natural realm. There is no financial challenge, there is no health challenge,

there is nothing that can shake you. When you begin to walk through the gateway of fearlessness into the Kingdom of God, you begin to operate from your Heavenly position and begin to operate in oneness with Christ Jesus and the Father. This is where you are to live constantly as a leader of His Kingdom.

And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages;

They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.

Mark 16:17-18 AMPC

With fearlessness, leaders will move from a place where we stop praying to God for people to be healed and delivered into a place where we are doing the healing and deliverance as pure vessels. The scripture tells us as leaders and believers to deliver and heal His people. It is out of our fear that we continue to ask God to do it for us. He has already placed the dominion, power and authority within us and far too many leaders are not using it.

**FOUR AREAS
FEARLESS LEADERS
HAVE MASTERED**

There are the four areas leaders must master in their lives in order to move into fearlessness. Each of these areas stand in the way of the Lord being able to fully use His leaders as vessels.

And David went out wherever Saul sent him, and he

prospered and behaved himself wisely; and Saul set him over the men of war. And it was satisfactory both to the people and to Saul's servants.

As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the Israelite towns, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul with timbrels, songs of joy, and instruments of music.

And the women responded as they laughed and frolicked, saying, Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

And Saul was very angry, for the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed only thousands. What more can he have but the kingdom?

And Saul [jealously] eyed David from that day forward.

1 Samuel 18:5-9 AMPC

The first area is unresolved personal issues. This contains our feelings of inadequacy, insecurity, any remaining brokenness and unforgiveness. It also includes partially-healed past emotional wounds left over from broken heartedness, broken marriages, prodigal children, and all of the things the leave our inner self feeling wounded. Anything that whispers inadequacy from our past. This area is especially important because as leaders we often come to the Lord and are called out of our brokenness. There would be far fewer wounded believers if leaders resolved this area. Leaders would be comfortable with the gifts of those the Lord has entrusted to them because they would no longer be insecure or threatened by the gifts of

those on their own teams. Out of insecurity and inadequacy, we literally squelch the Holy Spirit from manifesting in its fullness through us. We must move through those personal unresolved issues.

Who shall go up into the mountain of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted himself up to falsehood or to what is false, nor sworn deceitfully.

Psalms 24:3-4 AMPC

Once we handle the unresolved personal issues, we must then move onto our uncleannesses. Uncleannesses is anything that stands in the way of the Holy Spirit manifesting His fruit in our lives. When we have any space for unclean spirits, thoughts, or attitudes, we create problems and emotional pain and scars for those we are called to serve. To remove uncleannesses, leaders need to go through the process of purifying their hearts and cleansing their spirits. It is very dangerous for people in leadership positions to abuse it because they haven't taken care of their uncleannesses. In order to purify our hearts, it is not as simple as decreeing and declaring that we forgive someone, there is a process that the Lord and His Holy spirit walks us through to have pure hearts. According to the scripture, if we ever carry any of these works of the flesh, we will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

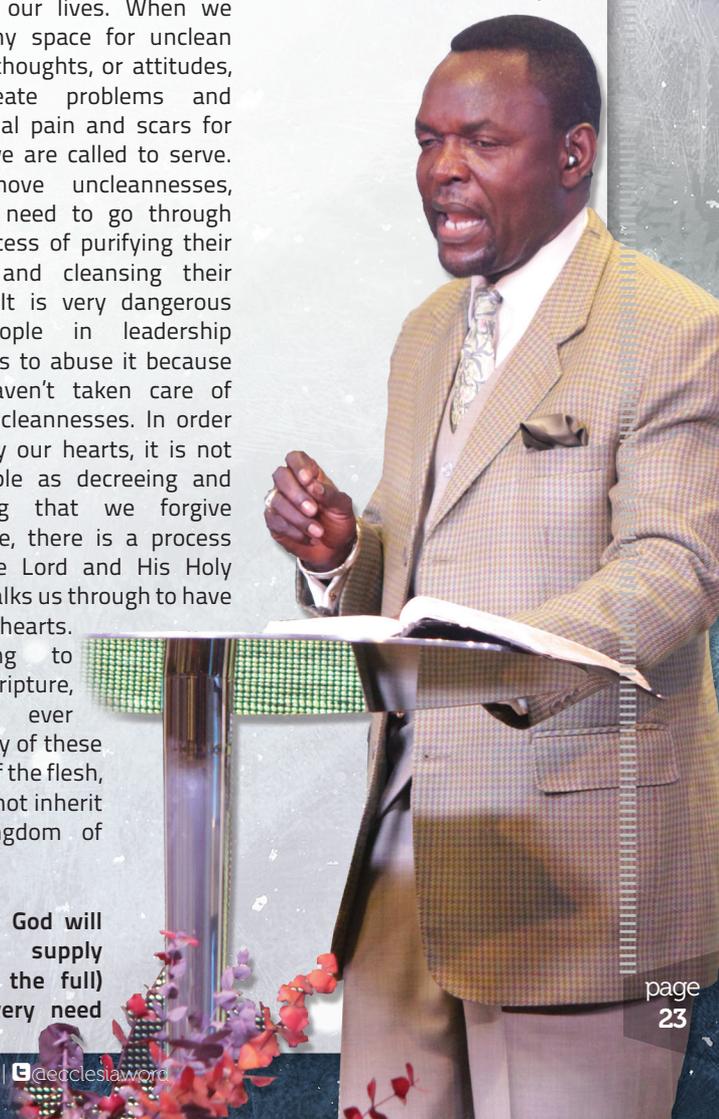
And my God will liberally supply ([fill to the full]) your every need

according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 AMPC

The third area represents the necessity of leaders to have no fear in the area of financial provision. I have lost count of how many ministers have confessed that they are afraid to begin what the Lord has instructed them to do because they were seeing their secular job as their main source of financial provision. Your job is not your source; God is your source! Fearlessness in this area means trusting God with your bills, income, financial obligations and lifestyle. It means learning how to move in the authority, power and dominion given to us in the name of Jesus over our finances. It means coming

Continued on bottom of p. 24





The Fearless Leader

Continued from p. 23

to a place in our walk with the Lord that we understand that God gives us the power to get wealth and how to command and steward the resources He entrusts in our hands. This is much easier when you are a pastor on a church's payroll or your mission is being funded by a church organization. It can be more challenging when your ministry is called to the Body of Christ and is responsible for bringing in its own funding. Once leaders become fearless in this quadrant, we are almost where we need to be.

So, being thus tenderly and affectionately desirous of you, we continued to share with you not only God's good news (the Gospel) but also our own lives as well, for you had become so very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 AMPC

The final area is called 'The Fish Bowl.' There is a unique necessity for leaders who have often come to the Lord out of brokenness to be open and transparent about our personal struggles. The more transparent you are, the more transparent and open those you teach and lead will be. This is critical to them breaking through their perceived limitations and

manifesting the good fruit of the Word of God in their lives. I call this feeling with your life as a minister is lived under a microscope, 'The Fish Bowl' because it often feels like your life is so open to others that you really have to put in some effort to keep parts of your time, schedule and family life private. The reality of 'The Fish Bowl' can cause quite a bit of stress and anxiety which are fruits of the spirit of fear. Especially when the Lord tells us to share aspects of our lives and failures with others. When we have not moved into fearlessness in the first two areas, unresolved personal issues and uncleannesses, it impacts our ability and comfort in handling 'The Fish Bowl' dynamic that goes hand-in-hand with being a leader.

STEPS TOWARDS DEVELOPING FEARLESSNESS IN LEADERSHIP

1. Be Objective. Take a good, honest look at your issues, insecurities and inadequacies. How are these issues affecting your ability to be the leader that God has called you to be? A great exercise is to make a list of each of the inadequacies you feel you are still carrying. You may need to ask those close to you for feedback on this as we always have blind spots about our own personalities. Once you make your list, take the time to identify a strategy to release each one from your life and function.

2. Ask Yourself the Tough Questions. Are you able to love and lead the way someone with a pure heart should be able to? Are you carrying fruits of uncleanness? Are you still carrying any past hurts,

emotional wounds or works of the flesh that you would be embarrassed to admit if they became public? How are these affecting your ministry and holding you back? Decree and declare your forgiveness for each and everything in relation to every person who has ever hurt you. Forgiveness does not only happen by forgiving the person; you must forgive each wound that they left in your heart. Remember to add yourself in this process because the most difficult person to forgive is yourself.

Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by [what is] evil and He Himself tempts no one.

But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions).

James 1:13-14 AMPC

Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency,

idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),

Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 AMPC

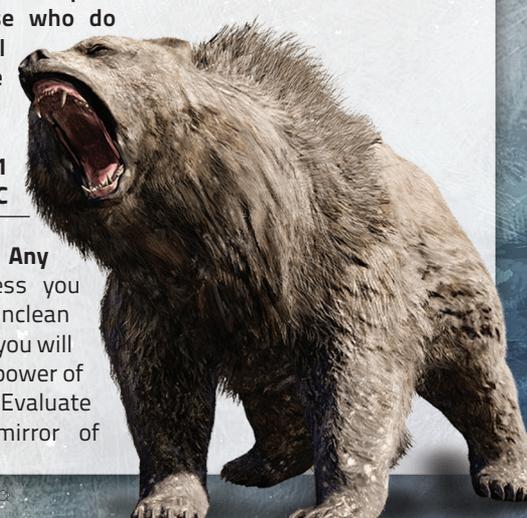
3. Cast Out Any Uncleanness. Unless you have cast out unclean fruit from your life, you will not access the full power of God in the earth. Evaluate yourself in the mirror of

God's Word and take inventory of any of the works of the flesh you may still be carrying. Speak directly to each of these unclean fruits in the name of Jesus and command them to leave your mind, body and life this instant. You must speak to the uncleanness directly and not ask God to do it for you. He has already given you everything you need in His name.

There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection].

1 John 4:18 AMPC

4. Move Forward in Love. God is love. The more you operate in the love of the Lord, the more we can move into oneness with Him toward those we are called to teach and lead. As you move forward to truly equip your flock (those you are called to lead and guide) to manifest the Word of God, remember that love is the key and people will receive the fullness of Christ when we demonstrate the profound love of Jesus to them. This opens the way for the miracles of the Lord to take place. R





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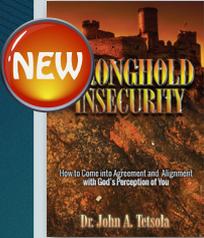
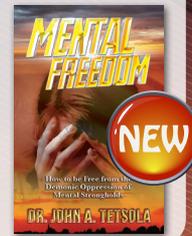
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