

# THE WAY OF TRUE MINISTRY

Understanding Biblical Servant  
Leadership & Purpose

**Written by Eddie**

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## FOREWORD

Foremost, I would like to thank the Living God through Christ for the gift of life. On top of it all, the Holy Spirit has been the fuel of our day-to-day activities and the guide of our steps in life.

From the time I met Eddie, I came to know him as a person who is eager to work and always willing to give his best for the good work. The Lord has been far more than kind to him, filling him with the Holy Spirit and enabling him to write the interactive pages that you are about to open and read.

When this book was first presented to me, I had many schedules and activities to attend to on a daily basis. However, I thank God, for He gave me the desire to open these pages whenever I found the time. Let me assure you that I never regretted doing so. As I read through them, I found myself being transformed and witnessing God at work through the messages contained within these pages.

It is my belief that these writings will not only inspire you but also help you see God working in ways you may not have expected. The truths shared here have the potential to encourage, challenge, and strengthen those who read them with an open heart.

Well, take your seat and enjoy opening these pages. My prayer is that, through Christ and by the help of the Holy Spirit, you too will be transformed as you journey through this book.  
Amen

EXAUDI ISDORY CHOTA  
TANZANIA.

## INTRODUCTION

By the grace of God, this book is written as a practical guide to understanding biblical ministry, defining clearly what true ministry is, and what it is not. While other authors have addressed various aspects of this topic, the insights shared here are born out inspiration of the Holy Spirit to address a critical need in the body of Christ today.

This message is not limited to those called into the fivefold ministry (Ephesians 4:11). Rather, it is written for every believer. Scripture reveals that every Christian is called to be a minister serving not merely for the approval of men, but ultimately unto God Himself.

This book comes from a deep spiritual burden and a careful observation of how many leaders and ministers have turned from servants into masters over God's flock. In the absence of true Christ like leadership, we now see false doctrines, worldly practices, and compromise creeping into the church all carried out under the banner of "ministry."

It is my prayer that as you read this book, God will grant us all the grace to walk in the true path of biblical leadership as He has called us to follow.

*Amen.*

# CHAPTER 1: THE FOUNDATION OF A MINISTER

**IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION:** A minister is fundamentally defined as a servant (diakonos or doulos in Greek) called by God and authorized by the church to lead, teach, and serve others in imitation of Jesus Christ.

We must first of all note that every minister of the gospel/preacher is first of all a Christian not by religion but the true definition which is “Christ like” which they were also in one way or the other entangled with the cares of this world.

Before title and church post, the minister of the gospel was just a member of the church and a citizen of heaven working in the ordinances of God.

We are called into Christ to be perfect, and just like Apostle Paul said he die daily, it is expected that every one of us need to die daily, As a matter of fact our spiritual growth is meant to be constant not once in a month or twice in a week.

As a minister of the Gospel you are called to become a Shepherd unto Sheep’s (God’s people), and to be an example for them to follow your steps.

Do you know that the measure of fruits the minister of God bears determine how he/she will lead those that God has place under their authority?

## **1 PETER 5:1-4 [KJV]**

*<sup>1</sup>THE Elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. <sup>2</sup>Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; <sup>3</sup>Neither as being lords over God’s heritage but being examples to the flock.*

As a minister of the Gospel we are burdened with different responsibilities which one of it is to be an example to the flocks. The era where people do what they hear their leaders speak but not doing what they see them do, that dispensation is over. This was the same matter Jesus talked about when he urged his disciples and the multitude to hear the words from the Pharisees & Scribes but not to do what they are doing.

That is to say their preaching is not in truth though they may say what is true. The behavior of the leaders can affect those they are leading and that way it leads them astray, this is because the preaching by action speaks louder than the preaching by words.

## **MATTHEW 23:1-2:3 [KJV]**

*<sup>1</sup> THEN spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying. The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses seat <sup>3</sup>all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.*

As a minister of the Gospel your actions matter not just by what you say.

Before we move further I will speak on some reasons why the church today is not trusted by the people of the world.

The world now sees the opposite of what is preached. The words say one thing, but the character shows something different from what was preached.

Satan main aim is to pull down true leadership in order to cause the wrath of God upon the people. This is why he moved David to number Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1) and the act of the King affected the whole nation.

This is to say the actions of those in authority can affect the growth of the church, organization and community. Meanwhile Satan is the brain behind the fall and failure of great leaders, it is expected for us to walk in the spirit so we will not fulfil the desires of the devil.

We are meant to be exemplary Christians as leaders for God's people to follow our steps, it is important for us to be observant of our ways so our disciples will imitate Christ through us.

In our today's church it's awful to hear the things that is now named among leaders these things have become one of the major reason why the true growth that was meant to be seen is not visible in our churches and in the society, our light is meant to shine for men to see and glorify God.

The scripture clearly states what must not be named among Christians.

Remember we started by saying every minister of the gospel is first of all a Christian not by mere religion but the true definition of Christianity which is "Christ like" as a minister of the gospel you are not exempted on those things that must not be named among Christians.

### ***EPHESIANS 5:1-4 [KJV]***

*<sup>1</sup>BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God to a sweet smelling savor <sup>3</sup> But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints*

It is unfortunate that in our today Christianity these things are now named among the saints not once not twice but in different occasions and most times the pioneers of these things are the ordained ministers of God.

It is unfortunate that those that are meant to draw men and women to God are now drawing lust to them. There are different stories that if it was to be said or written, a whole book written by an author won't be enough to express the uncleanness that has now been named among believers and leaders. We must know that the Ministerial Gift was given for the perfecting and maturing of the saints not to bring them under the authority of darkness.

### ***Ephesians 4:11-12:13 [KJV]***

*<sup>11</sup>And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some; pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup>For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup>Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:*

The unlawful things that has now be named among the ministers of God are not seen in every ministers but ye that stand must be cautious of these things.

The grace of God that is given to us is not an advantage to live in sin, rather it is given to live above sin. If Jesus had fallen to Satan's temptation and worshiped him, His leadership would reflect the devil's will rather than serving as a holy example to lead people to God. But rather he was tempted at all point yet no sin was found in him.

### **HEBREW 4:15 [KJV]**

*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, but yet without sin.*

Do you know that for every temptation that we face, another person has faced a similar season of testing? Jesus in every season when tempted by the devil, he didn't fall. We have been given the spiritual resources through the grace of God by our Lord Jesus Christ to live above sin as we are his sons and daughters.

### **1 JOHN 5:4 [KJV]**

*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

It is given unto us to overcome the flesh and every desires contrary to the cravings of God. And as a Minister of the Gospel I strongly believe that your temptations and trials will be much even for the sake of those that you're leading this is because when you come out from those temptations it will be a testimony and way of leading others by example, through personal experience. It shows that if they are also facing same temptations you are the right person to render advice because you overcame it, and sharing your testimony will not only build their faith but it will give them hope that they can also overcome such temptation because someone overcame it.

It will be bad in ministry if there is no personal testimony even the testimony of overcoming temptations and the cravings of the flesh.

Sharing experience and times when you were tempted help others even those in such season of temptations.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 (ERV)**

*The only temptations that you have are the same temptations that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can bear. But when you are tempted, God will also give you a way to escape that temptation. Then you will be able to endure it.*

The good news is that you are not the first person going through different seasons of temptation, but if you fall it is as a result of you not making use of the grace of God available. God doesn't tempt any man but he test us.

God tested Abraham in (Genesis 22:1) which in most bible translation it is written "tempted" but in the original word it is nâsâh which means to test, try, prove. This signifies proving the quality of someone's faith rather than enticing them to sin or to fall to it.

Satan tempt us to fall that is the main goal of temptation and he always uses what we crave for outside the cravings of God. And it is said that God allowing Satan to tempt us he won't allow the temptation beyond our capacity, you might be wondering why would God then allow Satan to tempt us knowing that we might fall.

The lust is ours and Satan uses our desires to amplify the sin in order for it to look as if it is not sin, the object of temptation is our lust and God will always give us means through which we can escape the temptation. And God allowing Satan to tempt us it will be in our capacity.

We are tempted of Satan by being enticed through our lustful cravings, there are always means that God bring to us to escape falling to the temptation which one of it is through the Holy Spirit bringing to our reminder the wants of God whenever we fall it wasn't God's

fault but ours by not making use of every means he brought to us this is because of our lustful desires which we decided to embrace, God always allow us to make decisions he places before us life and death and also advise to choose life so when we fall it because we didn't yield to the spirit of God.

In an examination even if the students had been taught the subject only few will pass while others will fail this is not because the teacher hate few and like few but they were all given an exam according to what they were taught.

God don't hate us but in that season of being tested and tempted there is always a crown of glory awaiting.

### ***JAMES 1:12-15 [NLT]***

*<sup>12</sup>God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me" God is never to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else <sup>14</sup>Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away <sup>15</sup>These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow it gives birth to death.*

Temptations often comes from our desires that is where Satan would launch all his tricks of enticement in our minds to drag us away by our own lust, for us to fall by rebelling against God's will and want now we see that God has no plan in any man falling into temptation, rather while Satan saw our lustful desires he amplifies it giving us reasons why we should do it so we can fall to sin and the end result of sin is death, while in the order hand God allowing it will not allow Satan bring what is beyond your capacity of resisting, and he will also make way available for you to overcome.

Just as in Eden where authority was lost when man fell, when a leader falls into temptation today, it impacts thousands of people".

Verse 12 of James Chapter 1 says that when we patiently endure times of testing and temptation if we don't fall there is always a crown of life.

Job was a man blameless but yet God allowed Satan to tempt him and that is because God trusted Job enough knowing the temptation was such that he can bear, but we must understand that Satan aim in the testing/temptation is always for a person to fall.

### ***Let us look at Testing and Temptation in this way:***

Examinations are given based on what was taught by the teacher even the intelligent student must undergo the exam in order to be promoted though the teacher knows his/her capacity.

In the season of being tested in the sight of God it is like exam to prove one's self because he knows we can overcome it and come out with good grade but we must still undergo it not because he is not aware or doubt our ability but this is because in order to go to the next stage of life or to be promoted we must undergo such season or testing. He wouldn't test us beyond our ability just like how we won't be given examination beyond what we had been taught.

But in the sight of Satan tempting is like a teacher drafting an examination base on what was taught but making it more subtle and hard by including topics that wasn't taught knowing they will fail.

It must be clearly understood that God will not tempt any man and whenever he brings a test it is because he wants to do something in the life of that person.

As a minister of the gospel you are not meant to fall to the temptations of the devil this is because if you fall who will teach sinners the right path?

“This I say then, walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”. This was the words said in (Galatians 5:16) we must learn how to rebel against our lustful desires by yielding to the spirit of God.

When leaders fall to temptation the measure of their fruit will be a corrupted fruit and trust me there will be nothing good that they can deposit to the lives of their flocks, that is why many disciples have been imparted negatively and they have become imitators of devil through those in the leadership position.

Satan will explore your weakness on a daily basis in order for you to fall. So we must learn how to guide our hearts from evil desires and also walk perpetually in the spirit this is the remedy.

Imagine what might have happened to the leadership of Joseph if he had allowed himself to fall to the sexual sin brought by his master's wife, many things probably could have happened including his master seeing him as unfaithful servant, and beyond that, he wouldn't have been the leader God ordained him to be in order to save his brethren and the entire country of Egypt and he would never lead men and women to God rather than drawing lust to them.

You are like a roadmap: either it points straight to the destination, or it takes you to a completely different place”.

As a minister of the gospel you are called to portray Christ for others to see and follow.



## CHAPTER 2: AFTER PREACHING

The true life of a minister does not start in the pulpit while preaching or as church group leader, Choir Director, Prayer Coordinator, Bishop and so on rather the life of a minister begins after preaching according to what Apostle Paul stated in

**1 CORINTHIANS 9:27 [NKJV]**

*But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

The truth is that even as a minister of the gospel you can also be found wanting concerning matters you preached about, that is why it is good to reflect on every messages of yours, going back and ask question like:

**I'm I also doing what I preached about?**

**Am I in the right path after preaching to others?**

When you careful ask these questions and answer them within yourself you will then know how you should live as a minister of the gospel.

The statement of Apostle Paul brings a clear meaning that it is possible for a minister of the gospel to be found wanting/disqualified even after preaching due to the fact that such individuals didn't discipline themselves and take caution of the words that they preached about.

There are many habits in which we ought to discipline ourselves from, and the stage of discipline is measured with what you do after preaching not with much of pulpit charisma but examining yourself thoroughly if you are in the faith.

Jesus talks about many coming to him saying they prophesied in his name and yet they will be disqualified that doesn't mean Jesus is wicked rather his response to their word is "Depart from me o ye workers of iniquity".

This is because they say what is true but didn't live in truth. Living in truth demands that their lifestyle should have portrayed Christ and doing the will of God.

**MATTHEW 7:21:22-23 [KJV]**

*<sup>21</sup>Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Let say some of the words the prophets might have spoken about while working in the prophetic might be REPENT depart from evil but the question they never asks themselves is **Have I also repented? Is my life in line with God's principles though I prophecy**

I told few of my brethren often that the message is first of all for the messenger before to those he is delivering it too.

When God gives you a message either in sermon, prophecy or while you are evangelizing in the street, check the message if your life correspond with it, in most cases you will see that you also need the message even if it was given for a certain congregation.

This helps you to be sober while you go back and discipline yourself after preaching just as Apostle Paul would do, so he won't be disqualified.

The true ministers of the Gospel must remain disciplined – both for the sake of their followers and to keep themselves from being disqualified.”

There are different things we must discipline ourselves from especially our appetite and wants to things that can lead us astray.

To some it can be appetite for food which has made their belly to be their god, while to some it can be in the sexual aspect and to another it can be lack of prayer and fasting life, and still for some management of their finances.

The things in which we must discipline ourselves might not be stated here but we all know the aspect we need discipline.

### **Below carries the necessary discipline for every minister upholding the ministerial gift**

Sometimes as a minister of the gospel it can be your right to have been given a certain honorarium or been blessed with material things by your congregation even as a guest minister going to ministry because you were invited but one thing you must learn out of discipline is how to be content even with empty stomach, such way you can live without almost nothing.

It is totally wrong to think ministry is where you can become financially stable or rich, it is not a platform where we become zealous of funds making, rather than souls wining, is it good that you are being honored? Yes it is! I assure you that most times it won't come even as you might expect it, so what do you do? would you take it by force? Most ministers have now deployed marketing strategies into their ministry, turning it into a commerce – a trading ground for what was meant to be given freely.

#### ***PHILIPPIANS 4:10-12 [NLT]***

*<sup>10</sup>How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. <sup>11</sup>Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup>I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything, I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. <sup>13</sup>For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

This book is not to disrespect those in the ministry or to strike an argument just as many has done out of ignorance speaking ill words about tithing and other things but it is to show us how we are to be satisfied rather than feeling entitled.

Today we have seen how ministry has become a market place a trading ground where the minister feels he/she is entitled to everything meanwhile in their positions of yours it is proper and good that they should look after your needs and render material things as for unto honor just like it is stated in

#### ***1 TIMOTHY 5:17 [AMP]***

*Let the elders who perform the duties of their office well be considered doubly worthy of honor (and of adequate financial support), especially those who labor faithfully in preaching and teaching.*

It is good that as a minister you should be honored but in a case where honor is not given to you should you forcefully take it? The answer is no there must be no means of extorting money from your congregation or people you are leading, and in real standpoint, there are times in which the belly can be empty but you still have to preach, family haven't eaten but you still have to come outside and smile to those you are leading, this was what Apostle Paul was trying to say and when we look at it critically we will know that there were times he slept without eating but in those times he had to learn how to live with an empty stomach rather than forcefully extorting money or food from his congregation / disciples.

You and I are ministers whether ordained into ministry or not, knowing this will help you understand that this book is not just for those in the ministerial position.

We all have a part of ministry we are upholding in different areas it might be outside the church setting or inside.

### **How can a minister be content?**

This is not to debate if a minister of the gospel should work or not but in my own honest opinion and also from the life of Apostle Paul it is expected for you to have something doing with your hands so you don't solidly depend on what the congregation gives in case they didn't give you or might not even have to give to you.

I want to share this story of a friend though am not sharing it to discredit or mock him but in order to go to the context of what we are talking about it is necessary to share it.

A friend of mine we are not really close friends but we exchange pleasantries whenever we meet and talk about kingdom business. He is a preacher of the gospel an evangelist to say, who is an active member of a fellowship which he is devoted to, but the problem is he don't have a steady means of income and most times when we meet he will likely ask for a change from me and am not saying this happily or to discredit neither to mock him, but going to my emphasis he choose not to work considering that his work can be a distraction from the fellowship due to the days and time of their meeting which is considerable but in the other way round he is not doing himself well by asking people for aims though he might not go around with plates as a beggar which he might likely ask from only those he know and those he is close too but as humans they will one day get tired of giving him not because they would not want to extend a helping hand to him but people also have personal responsibilities that won't make room for that every day giving, and it will be as though he is becoming a liability relying on people before he can eat which is not good and still not what Jesus wants us to do.

### **2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-10 [NLT]**

*<sup>7</sup>For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you.*

*<sup>8</sup>We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup>We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. <sup>10</sup>Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat"*

My honest opinion is not for us to be burdened with our jobs and so on then forget the service of God but understanding that how most things are essential to us there must be a balance.

Our jobs shouldn't be an excuse not to serve God and due to our spiritual commitment and obligations the kind of jobs we do matters in order meet up our spiritual commitment most Christians are self-employed so they can also have time for their spiritual commitment while others that are hired in any organization count the cost and fix themselves in jobs that will allow them carryout their spiritual activities without any glitches.

This sets a balance to your spiritual obligation and those physical essential needs in which money must solve, that is not to say you are a backslider or you hate God but in order for you not to be a burden to your congregation and disciples you must learn the ways of working with your hands and still manage your duties.

An idle man will end up begging and nothing is bad in ministry when you are known for such.

Most people may likely say that God told them not to work I don't doubt that, I have heard genuine stories of people that God gave them same instructions but you must be careful to discern if you want to quit your job out of laziness or because you were told so by God.

If in a case it is clearly said by God that you should stop working and focus on ministry which is always a rare case, but if that be the case God will always make a means where your needs will be met but that won't be an avenue to be idle. I can relate with those that may say God told them not to work because he was the same God that sent ravens and through the brooks of water that Elijah ate and drank so it is possible he will always find a means of supplying your needs in such a case, but in the case where such instructions wasn't given you will struggle.

Apostle Paul laid a good foundation for the church then and now, by working so they may see how they ought to also work to get their needs and wants, we also know how he was effective in ministry and spreading the gospel even as we worked with his hands.

Every job can be a platform of priesthood where the advancement of the gospel can take place.

The effect of not being content will be commercializing your ministerial gift.

The reasons why most ministers are not content can be varied and when I talk about ministry am not only referring to those in the fivefold for the benefit of those reading that are not in the fivefold ministry.

Every position handed over to you is your ministry, your home as a parent is ministry, and your work place is your ministry as it is usually known as market place ministry, the children department is also a ministry.

**Greed and Hunger** can be the two factors that provokes lack of contentment in ministry and this is why we must not be lovers of money and also why we should not be idle.

1 Timothy 6:8-11

*<sup>8</sup>So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. <sup>9</sup>But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. <sup>11</sup>But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, and perseverance, and gentleness.*

If you read verse 8 carefully you will see that Apostle Paul didn't talk against having material things rather having food and clothing's we should be content not to desire much that we cannot handle that is why it was said in proverb 30:8-9 (Paraphrasing) "Feed me with the food allotted for me lest I be full and deny you and lest I am poor and steal."

The word "Love of money" in its original context the word is Philarguria

Which means – "Avarice" (excessive or inordinate desire of gain) or greed. So it wasn't as if Apostle Paul admonished that we should not desire money neither having what to eat or what to wear but when we desire it with a wrong motive of much gain/greed then it becomes a problem which has made people get involved in different kinds of evils And this is one reason why you find most ministers of the gospel not faithful not really because they don't have but because of greed.

When that verse says "the love of money" is the root of all evils, I rather say the lust of money is the root of all evils this is because of the intention and motives of the person who strike for it.

It is alarming how a person saddled with a great responsibility of being in charge of church finances will end up being unfaithful, it shows that even when they are employed in any organization same act would be displayed.

And these are the things which ought not to be named among us, such act is a covetous act.

A friend of mine once told me how one of the usher/Deacon in charge of the church offerings was caught by his Dad several times putting some of the church offerings to his pocket. I ask myself is camera needed in the room where Pastors and church members are? Are we no longer Christ likes? In order to monitor the funds so they don't take anything camera is now placed in the financial department of the church, it is well, how do we get here I also see reasons why our Christianity is not effective in the world system because we have been used to the ways of greed being lovers of money which is lust away money.

The other reason of which many ministers are not content is Hunger, this is best explained in,

### ***PROVERBS 30:8-9 [NLT]***

*First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. 9For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.*

With this we see that one of the reason most people or rather according to our context why most ministers and Christians in general are not content and take what is not their's or overzealous for more. This is because they don't even have anything, and in this case it is because most of them decided not to work and God will only bless the works of our hands not the idleness of our hands.

Apostle Paul stated a lazy man shouldn't be given food and we are seeing how most ministers in different aspects intend to just sit down and expect manna from heaven, doing so when nothing is coming forth you will end up taking what is not yours or rather "Stealing". Apostle Paul admonished let those that stole to eat work for their wages

***EPHESIANS 4:28 [KJV]***

*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

How would you give to others as a minister/leader when you don't have even a little to feed yourself?

Instead of being greedy and idle why don't we make ourselves as a good examples to our disciples and congregation, following this way builds a good leadership and ministry.

**WHY SHOULD A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL LEAD BY THEIR ACTIONS NOT ONLY BY WORDS**

- To be a good example to those they are leading – (1 Peter 5:3)
- So they will not be disqualified by God after preaching – (1 Corinthians 9:27)

When these two concepts has been understood the life of the Minister will not be like that of the Scribes, a lot of ministers of the gospel haven't considered these things because they feel though they preach, they teach, they prophecy and can expound doctrines and correct errors that means they are fully save.



## CHAPTER 3: THE BELIEVER'S MINISTRY

Moving beyond the ministerial gift we must also understand the ministry of a believer/Christian. This ministry is given to all not just to some and the difference between this ministry and that of those called in the ministerial gift is that we all are leaders in different marketplaces and also in our church settings and in the ministerial gift it is an ordained position for the perfecting of the saints which is given to few not all and was given by God as a gift just like the Nine (9) gifts of the Holy Ghost given to every believer but the ministerial gift is given to the few.

The ministry we are called into is to portray Christ in our character and in words that men may see and glorify God through us.

Ministers are leaders, they are also people working in an office on behalf of someone so that is what makes us ministers in this context of the believer's ministry. We are to represent Christ in different fields as we are Ambassadors of Christ!

Apart from those that has the ministerial gift, churches today have become something else due to the failure of those placed in different department to lead as leaders/ministers. The pastor cannot do everything in the church neither the Apostle, they can't be in charge of the children's departments, teaching the children and also in the men's department and other church department so it is shared among capable hands that can be able to hold the movement.

As a leader in the Choir department as Choirmaster/Music Director you are burdened not just to teach songs but to lead by example, the church would be a place where Jesus is building if we all play our roles, most of times we focus on the wrongs that is happening amongst those in the ministerial position but we forget that as little as a church position it is also a ministry and like I said early every believers are ministers.

The early church was affected positively by every members of the church not only the Apostles this was the reason why numbers kept on increasing daily.

The errors in today's church must be tackled in every aspect of ministry,

A story was told of how a Choirmaster had slept with almost all the young ladies in the choir how painful it is to hear such, meanwhile these are things that ought not to be named amongst us.

Many have left the church due to the irresponsible actions of those in different departments and also the church members why? Because we fail to adhere to our roles as ministers not just only as Christians.

We all are leaders in one segment or the other and when we fail to lead those under our authority as how Jesus would have done, that means we are failing in our ministry and building something else other than true Christianity.

Every believer has a primary place of assignment where God has designated them to become a minister there, not necessary the ministerial gift.

This was one of the reason why in the early church people were increasing to the church daily and also to the Kingdom, This was because everybody played their respective roles perfectly and they became ministers in actions and in words using their occupations, schools and different areas as platforms of expanding the kingdom.

Ministry didn't end in the four corners of the church walls rather it was taken to streets, marketplace and nations.

We have seen so many unrighteous living and displays of religious acts everywhere without true portrayal of Christ and his mandate, this is because we have seen righteousness ends only in the walls of the church building.

You see as a Christian even without title and church positions there are things in which we ought to do and we ought not to do, The term “Holy living” should not be left for only those in the fivefold ministry to live it as their way of living rather it is for every believer.

When a person venture to live a holy life and get serious with God such person will then be called a pastor or a pastor’s wife, this is where we play pure religion rather than the true ways set for us.

There are many unsaved souls in different areas/fields in the health sector, prison, schools, banks and so on and I tell you in order for the gospel to reach such unsaved souls it won’t be reached by only those in the ministerial office rather through an ordinary Christian working in the ordinances of God. When we then fail to uphold this ministry that means for us we fail in our place of assignment as believers. They are limits to where those with the ministerial gift can reach and that is why you and I are placed in such locations.

You can be a school teacher and a minister remember he has made us all whom are in Christ Kings and Priests, so your teaching job is actually a platform where you carry out your priesthood, can we leave religious practice and serve God as we ought too? You and I should not only be righteous when we go to church but it is meant to be our daily living and through the demonstration of God’s power and wisdom.

The reason why we can’t even have an effective Christianity even as to fulfil the mandate of the great commission is because we have neglected our places of ministry in different aspects.

I urge anyone reading this to consider ministry in a new light from this day forward-not as a calling limited to the Five-Fold Ministry, but as one that extends to each of us.

The sick in our street will remain sick because we fail to understand as God’s Priests we are placed in those dark places to shine as light. When we begin to demonstrate through priesthood we will all see ourselves as ministers even without being ordained.

### ***2 Timothy 4:5 (KJV)***

*But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

In our various occupations and place of assignment we must do the work of an evangelist, making full proof of our ministry this is because we have been given a ministry by God himself.



## CHAPTER 4: THE MINISTER MUST PRAY

Prayer is not negotiable in ministry rather it is mandatory in every ministry, a minister that doesn't pray will end up losing his congregation and the already saved souls and might not have any true converts.

We must dive in quickly into understanding what prayer is, beyond our regular church notes.

The potency of prayer is not mainly on the person that prays or because such person prayed rather it's on whom the person prays too, this can also be seen in the case of the prophets of baal and Elijah, yet they prayed to their god but not even a flame of fire came out, this was because of the weakness and powerlessness of their god or rather whom they prayed too had no capacity of sending down fire to the bull but when Elijah prayed answers were given because he prayed to God who made the heavens and earth.

When a minister of God who has the understating of who God is when such minister prays he then unlock the help of God and the impossibility of men which is the possibility of God coming into reality.

This is to say prayer is the allowance of heavenly interference into a subject matter when we are incapable of solving the problem.

### HEBREW 11:6 [NLT]

*And it is impossible to please God without faith, Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*

We must first come to him believing his personality, it is based on this knowledge of personality of God that is how we are capable of shifting things, Elijah knew the God he prayed too that he is capable of doing beyond the ability of men and that is why he prayed, so we don't pray as a boldly exercise but to move the help of God.

Any ministry that isn't growing, is because the minister is operating without prayers we pray not as though prayer itself has potency but because of whom we pray too and when a minister lives a life with no prayers such minister will likely not see the help of God in his/her ministry.

When you pray you are actually telling God solve every issues my strength cannot solve and convert hearts that my words cannot convert.

We must pray, prayer is the key yes the master key this is because the one who answers our prayers is the one who breaks the protocols of men in order to bring answers to his children.

The level in which prayer has now been downgraded these days is now as if it wasn't the ways of the early church.

### COLOSSIANS 4:12 [KJV]

*Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*

Oh Minister Epaphras a man filled with great burdens for the people of God! I pray that every minister of the gospel adopt to this concept of prayer which this minister found for his brethren.

How can we have convert men when the ministers gives themselves to lesser time in prayers, revival remains hidden because there are no men and women that are laboring fervently in prayers. When we all come into the understanding of this then we will know our contention is not with men but with spirits and we only prevail by the power of our knees towards God who is able to answer.

Oh evangelist how long do you pray before speaking to the unsaved? Do you have great fervent labors for them in the secret before speaking in the open? And Apostle Paul said in one of his epistle that he never spoke to the people with enticing words but by the demonstration of the power of God, but how can we demonstrate the power of God without prayers?.

How do we then manifest power if we are not praying? We hear people still have different sickness, people leaving churches, different misbehaving souls this is because no ministers that are laboring in prayers for Christ to be formed in them.

Remember I don't speak of only those with the ministerial gifts but you also in different market place, you and I are the carries of God's glory, and I believe as lights of the world God will never take us to where he is shining already, just as how the sun has no need to shine towards places with light already and the moon has no need to shine if there is no night, so as lights of the world God will always take us to dark places for we to shine there as lights.

In every aspect of our ministry there are things which should provoke us to pray, not just praying for contracts and promotions into new office, every office and position is for kingdom advancement not for self-enjoyment. So when you see yourself in the midst of dark places as office or school ask God what am I here to do? Which souls am I to travail for?

Prayer is a spiritual activity and as ministers especially one with ministerial gift you must learn the ways of prayers even as a covering to your congregation and disciples.

You can't teach people about prayer and you are not praying that is impossible, you can't call for prayers and you don't have a prayer life how would you sharpen your congregation.

The minister must pray it is not negotiable but mandatory.



## CHAPTER 5: MINISTRY BEGINS AT HOME

Ministry must truly begin at home as charity also begins at home!

You can't impose a change of life in your sermons to others meanwhile you haven't preach to those inside. This is the part most of us fail as able ministers of God, while we focus on others to be saved and travailing for the souls of nations we should also look at those we call relatives and family members we might also have lost souls among them and siblings that also need prayers.

This aspect at times can be hard which is the aspect of preaching to your family members but you see this is one of the evidence of a good minister when he/she starts at home before taking it out.

I find it offensive and I always think a lot when people usually say it is pastor's children that are always the most corrupting children in the society. I always ask myself is it that the pastors don't teach their children the way of the lord also? Or it's a way that the devil wants to attack the ministry of the Men of God.

But the answers can come in different ways of which one of it is because of the deficiency of home ministry, the minister should not just be minister outside or preach in the pulpit and expect everybody hears even his household, rather the preaching and Godly principles should start at home. Why would a minister of God entertain so many worldly habit in his home just to make his/her child happy no it shouldn't be case, train your children in the ways of the Lord that when they grow in such ways will remain in them but otherwise we are seeing the opposite. Why then would a minister of God admonish members to come to church early but never teaches his children and entire household why they should not come late, we thank God for most ministers that are upholding the ministry even in their homes.

Am pleased with a leading pastor of a church which I attend he is truly upholding the ministry by starting from his house.

In the other way round Satan also might find a way in order to put corruption in the hearts of the family members of God's ministers, most misbehaviors seen in the life of the children or relative of most ministers of God can be because of the evil seed sown by Satan. This is why we also need to travail in prayers for our family so Christ will be formed in them.

### ***1 Timothy 3:12 [KJV]***

*Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*

This was said to those occupying such position but I strongly believe in general it also implies to the lives of every minister of the gospel both big and small, ministerial gift or not.

This is one part we must all correct and if truth must be told most ministers especially those in the ministerial gift this is where they find it difficult which ought not to be so.

We begin changing the world when we start by changing our own homes first.

From now henceforth take it as a compulsory ministry even as we have been placed in different roles and position as able ministers.

The statement “As for me and my household we shall serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15) it was because one minister decided to start his ministry from his house first before taking it to others, when we dedicate our family members to God by teaching them and praying for them then we will see how they will end up serving the Lord even God knew such man that Abraham was, a man that will teach all his household the ways of the lord and also those under his authority (Genesis 18:19). When we begin to uphold our ministry by starting it at home then we will see great changes in the society, they are also people you were sent to be ministers unto not just those outside.

Yes Jesus came to his own but yet they rejected him but you must note that he said it with his own! Why don't your ministry start from home?

Every man will give accounts of their work as a minister you will not stand on behalf of your family members but why don't you also preach the good will message (the gospel of truth) to them also.

***2 Timothy 1:5 [KJV]***

*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

Oh Minister is there a deposit of faith and the way of God to the lives of your family members? No wonder we still have them clinging to the world because we fail to uphold the ministry at home.



## CHAPTER 6: ARISE AND SERVE

Brethren, let us not merely read and be blessed; greater blessings comes when we do what we have heard. God is not looking for people with excellent speech, but for yielded vessels whose only desire is to fulfil what He has called them to do. Be inspired and stirred in your spirit to shake yourself from the dust of sin, and walk in the true path that He has bid us to follow.

If what has been written in this book has touched your heart and you find yourself wanting it is best you turn away from your evil path and serve God diligently.

- Always do what you preach
- Pray for your congregation, family members and also teach brethren of your house hold both big and small.
- Be content and take the path of discipline so you can be a good leader unto others.
- Stand firm in times of testing and temptation even for the sake of those you are leading, doing so you can have what to share as a testimony that can stir up their hearts.

Ministers of God this is a call from God for us to uphold the great commissions in different aspects and he is saying we should stand up from the dust and work as he has bid us.

### A CLOSING PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to lead by example in every word and deed. Keep me steadfast against compromises that I may walk faithfully in the vision you have ordained for my life. Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within me. Teach me your ways, that I may lead others in your truth. Give me the grace to resist every temptation of the enemy, and grant that I may represent you with integrity wherever I go. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Edikan Akaniyene Edet (**Eddie**) is a Christian based in Nigeria who serves actively as an appointed teacher in his local church. Dedicated to the grounded study of God's Word, he is passionate about discipling believers and serving his congregation faithfully by God's grace.

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