

HOLY ORDERS

Foreword

Heeding the calling of God doesn't mean we are helping Him do His work, but rather He is taking us into service or employing us to do work for Him. And as such, we can expect to receive wages. Expenses and the necessary needs for life in general for ourselves and for our families.

We do not expect employees to find their own salaries; therefore, we must believe the same about the work of the ministry. The head of the ministry is Jesus Christ, who is alive and effecting the earth daily. He it is, that employs us to do the work of His ministry, from on high.

God not only is a good employer, He pays His bills and His accounts in full. If we will reward our employees for their work, how much more should we expect God to do the same. One thing He doesn't do though is spoil them. Luxuries are not part of the arranged employment benefits. High quality necessities can be expected. The seamless garment of Jesus was high quality. These are godly attributes. Cheap stuff falls apart quickly. But luxuries are not forecast for us.

The job reference we are given follows that of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our example. He did not own anything and yet He never lacked. He was always provided for and yet He had no where to lay down his head.

I have seen, in my life and in my ministry, that there are keys to getting God's provision. Keys that are acceptable to God and acknowledges.

Nobleness, honour, dignity and majesty are all parts of the character of God and, therefore, they strike a chord in His heart when they are exercised.

But instead, many of our church leaders grovel for money. They are involved in fund raisings, looking for sponsors and begging for finances. Bringing shame to the office they are called into and undermined the peoples' trust in God.

If the leaders do it, then what do you expect from the followers?

God always look after to those whom He chooses and make certain for their loved ones and for their whole families. He is, after all, a loving Father.

I have lived my life by faith in God. Following His calling and His orders. I have seen His provisions and have never raised funds for myself or made business out of the ministry. I have always experienced God doing it. So supernatural were some of these events, that many people asked me to take notes and share these to them. It is not the focus of my life but it does bring dignity and honour to the children of God in His kingdom, so I reluctantly agree. And this script is the result of that. God bless!

All Believers Are Priests

The most important thing in walking with God is listening to Him. It's His work and not ours and His calling is not our business. Having been a businessman and having been successful and made millions, I know what it is to have a business. But the church is not meant to be business. It's a priesthood provided for and run by the Almighty God.

Of course not all that we call church is what God calls church. First of all, a church is not the edifice that faithfals go to worship. The church is the body of Christ. It is

the people who gather together who take upon themselves the nature of Jesus and follow His living commands. Not just those who meet once or twice a week and follow “Christian ideologies”

Christianity is an order that requires constant and ultimate submission to a living voice of Jesus, and not self-opinionated interpretations of the scriptures. Opinions that are often self-serving, thus, conflict with the true teachings of Christ.

Christianity requires direct and regular involvement with the living Christ – whom the bible refers to as the Living Word. His orders can only be heard by those who follow Him and cares for the same things that He cares for. We don’t hear the voice we don’t want to hear -- only the voice open to our hearts.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, the religious people of His day, “*why can’t you hear my voice?*” Physically they could hear like everyone else, but it never stayed in their hearts for careful and sincere consideration. It was not prioritized. Not the way that God needed it to be for them to take the next step in having truth revealed to them. Truth is revealed one step at a time. Truth requires a humble, willing and teachable heart. Religious people do not have this requirement which is why Jesus said to Nicodemus “*You must be born again*”.

He never wanted this adage to be taken and made into yet another religious term -- the “born again” theology, like baby baptism and many other doctrines, is often made into yet another religious ritual! A panacea for all ailments. A bus badge into heaven. A ticket to eternity. No, He was simply saying that your nature needs to be revamped in order for you to see real truth. Pride and fear must be dealt with, and let humility, teachability, meekness overcome us, for us to see these truths from heaven. These truths cannot be perceived by human intellect and learning. Even a person of low IQ can understand this. Educated or non-educated. All are alike and

all are able to choose this. Talent or lack of it, does not prohibit us from entering into this new dimension.

Truth is received by the right attitudes and the Holy Spirit only comes to those who have these attitudes. And the attitudes of religious people, even those of Christian ideological persuasion, are incorrect to receive these truths. Religiousness of Jesus day clashed directly with His way and still does today. Even Christian (so-called) religiousness. It might have an element of so-called humility to begin with, but in the end it fiercely defends itself from the elements of human pride. It holds to its teaching because it is proud of it and not because it is the truth from heaven. Just because a lot of people believe in something, doesn't make it the truth or even the right thing to do.

All such teachings or ways and attitudes have to be dispensed with if we are to follow the Spirit of Truth, found in its completeness, in Jesus. It is His ways and not our teachings that count. His orders. His commands. His desires. Our teachings must, therefore, come under His presence and His living words for this age. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit and not led by our teachings of the Word of God. Teaching is not our God. God is our God. And God is a living vibrant and very much involved person in today's age. You can call on Him and He will answer, if you call the right way.

Jesus showed us the right way. He showed Himself lowly in earthly or worldly stature but of high calling. Humble and submissive to His father in heaven. Never doing anything that His Father didn't want Him to. Always submitting to His Father's will.

This fact must be recognised and elevated at all times in our lives. Not our teachings. Not our protestant or Catholic ways and rituals of worship. Not our ideologies or interpretation of ideologies. But His will which can be heard by

anyone and everyone today, by simply asking Him the right way. God honours those who honour Him!

The followers of Jesus have one thing in common. They all listen to Him and do what He says. Being alive today, Jesus is able to communicate His will to all who will listen through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. This is the body of Christ on earth, the true church. Not a group of people following creeds and doctrines pumped out by their organisation which is loosely now called “church” by people who wish to corrupt the true meaning of the Word of God.

All Have Direct Contact With the Head

Those who follow Jesus (and He is Alive and speaking today) will not follow the church of man, but the orders of Jesus, the head of the church, His body. To be a part of this body we don't necessarily have to be a member of any particular church here on earth. Of course, we all want to be , because that's where we find the people of Christ. And we agree with the people of Christ and share the same desires as they do. Having interaction with them is useful and satisfying, but this will save us. Christ saves us and having a relationship with Him is the most important thing. Having relationship with His people is secondary to this fact. Any human body needs the head and so does the body of Christ needs its head more than any other part. It's the head that must tell the body what to do.

Bodies without a head are dead. But churches not hearing from Christ exist all over the world. They follow creeds and doctrines rather than the living God. This book, on God's provision for His saints, is not for those who don't hear from Christ. It's only for those who hear Him and obey.

It is not a formula for gathering riches, or an offer of luxury. It's a realization that the Living God, holy and majestic, is quite able to look after those who are His,

without asking them to beg, steal or borrow. First and foremost, they must hear Him and not their own desires, interpretations or copies of the ministries of others.

God's church is holy, noble, majestic, honourable, kingly, serious and rich in quality. It is not beggarly and left to fend for itself. Told to raise funds and sell cakes or shoes for its provision. But rather it is provided for supernaturally at all times, as was Jesus fashion.

Jesus lacked nothing and yet He travelled light. Sometimes He did not even have the tax for the temple at that given moment but He always had the Holy Spirit to show Him how to receive as God's provision to His priesthood. The Jesus way is the priesthood of the New Testament. In the New Testament we are all priests to our God in one fashion or another, although those called into full time work for Christ have this the more so, in the supernatural notableness.

In the Old Testament priests were forbidden to own land and do many businesses of their fellow countrymen. They lived with the tithe money collected from their countrymen. A tenth percent collected from their earnings was called a tithe in old English language. From this tithe, portion was used for the priests generally speaking, and the rest for the temple upkeep. And so the tithe is a general principle for today's full time priesthood. Remembering that these are now principles and not commands to be kept with penalties attached to their not being kept. Old Testament commandments and their judgemental rewards are finished. But some of their truths remain alive for today. Tithing was one of these. In fact in the New Testament we give all our lives to God and, in reality, ask Him what to do about everything. How much to give to this and to that. Etc.

So even though there is the principle of the tithe, the over riding principle is "What does Jesus want in this situation?"

And direction must come from Him. Even in giving. Principles of giving to the poor (called in old English “alms”) and the giving of free will offerings also exist so the tithing principle does not remain alone.

Following Christ is not a Hollywood production bound to end in an earthly “and they all lived happily ever after” fashion. We are strangers to this world and its principles. Separated by God, not by our own pride or exclusiveness. He (Jesus) said this and gave us this separation, in words. Referring to world attitude as the wrong one and the kingdom of God as the right one. That these two were distantly different. One will save you and the other damn you. No matter what doctrines you believe in.

The various ways that Christianity is often portrayed in differs from the example given by Jesus Christ. Any such differing is wrong. We are called to do things the “Jesus” way, not some Old Testament way or some new modern way, but the Jesus way. Whether or not you like my style, emotionality, personality or whatever is not in question. (We all have something that irritate others). What is in question is, “Is God speaking through you?” If He is, then we follow what He is saying through that person. Not what we like or dislike about that person. Elijah and Moses, if they lived at the same time on earth, would have disagreed about the others ways and personalities. But this isn’t in question. What is in question is what is God saying through them, if anything?

It is by this method that we follow the Living Word, the voice of Jesus and the presence of Jesus. Discerning what is the voice of Christ comes from our changed nature within. Our nature being changed into His nature and His ways, by the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, we can sense the voice of Jesus. “My sheep know My voice and follow Me”.

Having been given the nature of Jesus within us by the power of the Holy Spirit within through our acceptance of Jesus and His salvation sacrifice on earth for our sins, we are able to discern His ways and thoughts and His voice.

Having got the nature of God within us, even scripture tells us that we don't need that anyone has to teach us, but the "anointing" within us teaches us. This "anointing" is the typology of the oil from the Old Testament. Now in the given form of the Holy Spirit, Whom Jesus said would live within us. And through this unseen being bring to us the will of the Father and the son. Which are totally the same in goals, but sometimes different in their ways to this goal. "The law came through Moses but grace and truth comes through Jesus Christ"

This inward nature enables us to see the truth when it comes to us. However, we have to operate in this nature to do this. The worldly and earthly nature also remains within our being and we can operate in this nature at any given time. Reverting to fleshly ways. It's still our choice. This choice is never taken away from us. Love always let us choose.

If You Seek Funding, God Cannot Find Supernatural Way to Give You

God provides for all His children but so many full time workers are unaware of this and think that they are left to their own devices to collect funds. God's promises are clear in the bible about this point. Even to all His children he makes promises of this such as Matthew 6:33. But the condition here is that we do not "seek after that provision"

This very considerable and serious condition is broken by most Christian workers when they start thinking which way to raise funds. They are told not to do this! Don't seek after these things Jesus said. Seek after the kingdom of God. And then God will provide everything the gentiles or unbelievers seek after. A very

embracing promise. Definite and literal. Dealing with food, clothing, education, housing and mobility, etc., etc., everything the gentiles seek is quite a lot. Out of fear, unbelievers fight and squabble over money grasping and grabbing what they can. Jesus told us not to do this.

In fact He said if we didn't do this, then God would do it for us. But the opposite also exists. If we do try and raise funds, then God is prevented from doing what He promised. But how can we just let God do it? It's scary. It certainly is. But faith in God, enables us to relax and let Him do as He promised. It's His work anyway. Not ours. If it goes down the tubes then it's His problem, not ours. (But everyone wants to be seen as successful).

This business success is a problem. Materialistically-driven. That everything has to be measured in human success factors. Yet God's kingdom is not the way humans think it is. So why should it be measured by their expectations of success?

Was Jeremiah successful when he was thrown into the well for weeks? Samson when he died fighting the enemy? Joseph when in prison? Paul when he said that all the churches in Asia had left him and he remained in chains for years? Was this the happy Hollywood ending? How can success be measured in this fashion when Hebrews 11 ends with God's heroes being "sawn into two pieces, fed to lions and left in caves for years"?

Indeed some of God's ways correspond to man's ways but not all. David and Goliath made a good story that all men enjoy. As does many other acts of faith in God. But these, are not where faith in God ends because there is another kingdom with other rules. Even the apostles thought Jesus was defeated when he died. But it was His greatest success. He conquered death through His death. But they couldn't see this fact, at that time.

All apparent failure by God's people, who are acting in faith in God, is not failure, but success because something comes of it. Nothing is lost. Every act of faith is rewarded but not always instantly and not always the way we want it to be.

Intercession is standing in the gap. It's a position of faith. Based on our belief in God and His ways. It might also be a prayer form but does have to be this. Jesus stands in intercession for us before the Father but he is certainly not speaking all of our names to Him daily asking for our forgiveness. No it's a position of intercession. And so it is with us. We hold a position of intercession not a prayer form. Going down to Goliath was David's position of intercession, based on his active faith that God would be with him and with Israel. As God had promised in the past.

This "position" of faith or intercession is always rewarded by God. "And without faith no one can please God but those who come to Him must believe that He is and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. This position is needed and necessary for all God's people. Based on their faith in His nature, believers operate a certain way. In the area of provisions, this way is to take God at His word (namely His nature) and know that He will not fail us.

To Seek or Not to Seek

He promised us what we need for our families, if we do not get involved in seeking for it. But He is prevented from doing this if we seek His provision. Because to do this is a lack of faith.

Even when we pray for financial support, we are showing a lack of faith. Thanking Him is better. Showing that we are overcoming our worries and not walking in doubt. Even more so when we ask others to pray for our finances. Showing an abject ignorance of God and His ways we compound our sinful and doubtful thoughts by drawing others into our unbelief. This practise is totally forbidden by the nature of Christ.

To ask for God's provision and then to ask others to ask him for it shows Him that you simply don't believe His word, His promises and His nature.

So receiving His promise is conditional as is salvation. Though the promise itself is non-retractable. It remains eternal. Not open to change. That God will provide everything we need, even the things that unbelievers seek after.

There is a verse saying "seek and you shall find" and then there are these verses telling us what "not to seek".

"Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Matthew 6:31-34

By definition this passage of scriptures tells us that if we seek what the gentiles or unbelievers seek, then God will not provide for us. But if we seek his kingdom principles and needs, then ALL, NOT SOME BUT ALL these things that unbelievers seek WILL BE ADDED TO US!

This is a promise. A promise of God, but a conditional promise. There is one condition for God's provision and it is not "ASKING HIM IN PRAYER" like so many think it is.

The Condition Is That We Do Not Seek The Provision

So many, misusing the scriptures and the order of prayer are always praying for finances and provisions but this is to fall into the worry trap and to seek provisions from God. Jesus said ,

[“Matthew 6:25](#)

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

Let me ask you this one thing. “Would you ask God for love?” The answer is no. Then why not? Your answer is “Because He loves me already”. The response is simply “How do you know that He loves you?” Your answer? “Because it’s in the bible.” Now my question is “Does not that same bible promise you that God will provide?”

Then if you don’t ask God for love why do you ask Him for provisions which he has already promised?

Is there anywhere in the words of Jesus Christ or other writers in the bible where you are asked to pray and ask God for provisions? No! Why not? He invites you to ask Him for things. But concerning your provisions, He has already promised to provide then why do we need to ask him for them? We don’t ask Him for love because we believe that He loves us. Then we should not ask Him for the other things He has promised as well. It shows our lack of faith in His nature and His promises.

David believed in God’s protection and God’s strength in battle and went without prayer, to tackle Goliath. No prayer, no vision and no prophecy. Just the sure knowledge that God would be with him. What caused David to be like this? He had

faith in God and even put his life on the line concerning this issue. He believed that God would be with him in battle and God was. Saul's army, on the other hand, was still busy praying. They had been hard at praying and wondering what to do for six weeks. And still no answer from God. The reason? God had already provided the answer they just couldn't hear it.

But David could hear it because David believed God was a good guy who wouldn't let him down and who would honour His promises in the bible.

So it is with those who believe what God says and those who don't. Fear paralyses us when we let it. Poverty is a very great giant task master. A Goliath and it affects everyone. But those who give in the face of the fear of lack, show clearly that their faith and trust is not in their own prayers, or money gathering operations but firmly based in God.

They can give, even when in apparent poverty conditions because they believe that God provides their every need. As He promised.

So many full time workers do not believe these things and it is seen in their speech and their lifestyle. They continuously ask people to pray for their needs and yet God promised to provide. It insults God and His Holy Spirit to do this. First to pray for the needs that any good father would give you is an insult to God. Second to add insult to injury by asking other saints to pray for your provisions showing blatantly that God is not providing your needs (or so it seems) and thus spreading your doubts to other believers. Yet He promised!

Without Faith, God's Provision Will Never Come

But God's promises can only be received by faith. Not ever by doubt. Doubting God got Peter to sink in the lake. No matter what the will of God was and no matter

how much power of God was present to hold him above the water. Because of his lack of faith Peter sank into the water, so will we, if we do the same concerning finances. Fear caused Peter to sink. He fear the circumstances and then he doubted God's power to keep him afloat. When doing this he sank. We will sink into poverty. Reinforcing our idea that God does not provide but that we ourselves have to raise fund if we need provisions for God's holy work. This insult to the Holy Spirit of Grace, grieves God and His Holy Spirit and thus they are unable to provide for those who grieve him.

This same principle can be used in many places, including healing. Which God has promised to those who believe in Him. He is the provider, the healer and the protector in battle as David understood. David was the very example of this kind of faith that God loved. He simply went believing. Not praying, not prophesying not asking for signs, but just believing. David sent as if God were with him and God was. He went in God's name.

The Test of Faith

There is always a test to prove faith. Basically this means you have to often go through the agony of seeming not to get His provision and yet still to keep faith in Him. This agony is followed by the ecstasy of receiving His blessing and provision, provided the test is passed and not failed. Like Peter who failed at walking on water, if we fail then also the provision will not materialise. It is the same with healing and everything else in the Kingdom of God.

Peter failed his test when he was walking on water. To begin with He passed the test and actually did walk on water, but like those who receive healing and then loose it. The test was eventually failed and the miracle , ordained by God, was lost. Not because God wanted it this way but because Peter's faith failed.

Our faith too will be tested. Only when there is no possibility of giving in to doubt will the test be passed.. The test of faith. Do we really believe that God will provide. Many pastors fail this at this stage. They give into asking others for prayer. They crack. Their faith fails, like Peter. And they sink into poverty and lack of provision bringing dishonour to the office and the name of God and His kingdom. How can we lead others when we ourselves are unable to pass the test of faith. We are to guide others in faith not in bible knowledge without faith. This is useless and it is religiousness and angels of light. We lead others to place their faith in the Spirit of God and the order of God.

Everyone starts from the same position. They are given God's word and promise and then they have to believe it. Believing it in such a way that they put it into action. That they prove it. That they show Gods provision to His people.

Everyone starts from nothing and then grows in faith. No one is beyond the other. All have to be proved in their faith to see if it is real. When a minister of God starts asking for prayer for finances it shows his lack of faith. Or asking for finances but the moiré subtle doubt factor is asking other and making known to others their ministry needs.

Sharing a ministry need is giving into doubt and unbelief . The only reason you share it is because you want someone other than God , to provide it. You want a quick solution. Oh yes you might say that God uses people as channels but this suggesting to others to become the channel of God is a carnal deflection of reality. You are doing by human suggestion that which God wishes to do His own way.

If you do this, it might work but then you are addicted to making the will of God work yourself. Leaving you weak and uncertain that God is really involved in your ministry. Uncertain that God is really the provider. If God provides without you making your needs known to others, then you are strong and secure in the acknowledgment that God has purposed this ministry for you and is behind

everything you are doing. That it is God ordained. This enables you to fight the greater challenges that loom up ahead.

Walk Don't Run

So many times well-meaning believers wish to do things for God but they do not come under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit. The bible never tells us to be lead by good works, nor even by the Word, but to be lead by the Holy Spirit. This leading comes from God who likes things to grow. Not to start at the top. First the child and then the adult. Not the adult at the beginning. Often, we, as men of God, wish to run before walking.

But we cannot heal all the sick in the world and we cannot provide for every situation of poverty that we see. So where do we start and where do we stop? We are not called to do so. No matter how much compassion we have. Its not right to try and do things above our station in life. You can grow into doing more and more as God provides but not start at the top.

You can only do a limited amount of ministry to a limited amount of people but this is god's way. Its up to Him to determine who does what and not up to us. Just because we see a need does not mean that its up to us to provide for this need of humanity. When we believe that it does, then we fall into the pride trap.

The answer is that we are not doing our own ministry but a work for God and it is He who calls and commissions us. And He who must tells us what to do. He

provides for what He asks us to do, not for what we want to do. He is our employer and we must take orders from Him. Not from our own vision.

His Vision, Not Our Vision

Often the minister seeks to run at his speed and not do as God is asking him. Often thinking erroneously that it is up to the minister, the hand to dictate what he should do. This is not the case.

There is good reason why God wants our ministries to evolve slowly. We often try to speed it up. But need must not dictate the growth of our ministries, the Holy Spirit must do this. He will never sacrifice “character-building” because of need. God grows things and we must be limited by what God wishes and not by what we want to happen.

This is the order of the Lord. And He doesn't change it for anyone. So, often the minister of God runs out of finances because he is ordering his ministry and not working for the Lord. Under these conditions God will not provide for him and he will have to find his own provisions. Many do this. And start businesses as a result or some other form of fund raising. But this is not God's temple. This is not God's kingdom but their own. God doesn't build this way.

So when they run out of cash this minister cries out to God who is telling him not to do it. But his pride drives him to continue doing it and so God cannot give grace to the proud but only the humble, cannot provide for our minister under this condition.

He is not being controlled and ordered by the Lord but by his own desires, visions and ambitions.

It is a very dangerous position to be in because later on he will not know whether he is under the hand of God or not. This weakens his whole position and his confidence cannot be strong.

More and more he will have to provide for himself. More and more he will depart from the orders of God and his calling. Then such promises as:

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

Do not apply to him because he is not being called according to His purpose. But his calling is according to his own purposes. He has departed from the order of God for God's work. So many ministers do this and then are left unconfident and floundering. They do not understand that they have departed from God's order.

So, once again, the Godly provision is not realized by the minister because he is not being directed by God according to His purpose.

Building the Kingdom of God

The condition for receiving finances from God includes the seeking of his kingdom. This means that we are not to be selfish, even in ministry terms. His kingdom is far bigger than our little local church or little ministry venture in God. And we have to become “kingdom minded” and not yield to that selfish instinct that gets us to be only our local church or ministry minded. We are also responsible for the kingdom

of God. And we must seek this issue constantly to stop this selfish instinct from rising up within us.

Kingdom-minded people take responsibility for the whole kingdom of God and His people and not only for what they are called to have as their priority. This is seeking His kingdom. Not seeking our church building or our evangelism ministry only. God's people are everywhere in all different denominations and non-denominations. And even before they are saved or converted they exist in society. We are not called just to have a seeking after our own ministry but also for the ministries of others. Of course, there is always a limit as to what we can do.

God only gives authority to those who take the responsibility. Never to the irresponsible. In your town or city you are responsible for more in God's kingdom than merely your own church building. To be "kingdom-minded" is very important it gets us to fulfil the command to love one another.

Otherwise, this command is limited to loving those who are alone our primary responsibility. But "church-minded" people are very selfish and limited and do not realize God's provision often because he did not say "seek after your own ministry" but "after my kingdom". So, although we have a primary responsibility for what God tells us to do, love demands we extend this to the whole kingdom of God.

Only by doing this, do we qualify for His provision, because he said about seeking after His kingdom and not after our ministry alone. His desires become our desires, not our desires become his desires.

Funds for Specific Purposes

Failings in this area include the pastor not using the funds that God brings to him to look after his family and near relatives. But use it for building church or some

other things. This is an error. Without the pastor there is no church. The pastor and family are God's primary concern. Without the pastor you do not have a church. Just a building. And so God provides for him and his family but often we find that he uses this money for building some building for the ministry. This offends the Holy Spirit who provides money for specific purposes.

The money that God brings must be used for the purpose that God bring it. And seeking God for what is meant for which is an important part of the ministry. Honouring God in this, can mean that he will continue to bring in providence and dishonouring him in this can mean the cessation of provisions.

Once, when starting a new ministry mission in a new country I accepted a vehicle donated to me that needed a lot of attention. I used the vehicle for about a year and spent a great deal of money on fixing it. Constantly it would break down and needed repair. Eventually I cried out to the Lord and He told me that he never provided this vehicle for me. I was astounded. I never thought to question it. I asked God, why then was the man moved to give it to me? God said to me that I was acting like a Christian beggar in this act of receiving just anything that people offered. I would never do this in my own life why should I do this in His ministry and kingdom.

I was very shocked and astounded when I realized the motivation and spirit under which I was acting. I gave this vehicle away on the first possible opportunity and the pastor to whom I gave it to never had a spot of trouble with it. I think I had fixed it completely. But it was not meant for me. I had accepted rubbish, trash vehicle and was, as God said, acting as a beggar for God's kingdom. But God is rich.

We must honour the purposes of the funds that God provides.

As a new believer I was a rich businessman and had a lot of things to learn in God's kingdom. I was a multi-millionaire at the time in today's dollars (USD). But I knew little of the order of God's kingdom.

When the church that I was attending in Africa needed funds to build a building I determined to give them these funds and set about getting the cash to give to them. I didn't need the cash but they did, I erroneously thought. At that time the amount was \$500,000.00 and I had this amount in cash. So I went to withdraw it and set myself this plan. It took a couple of days for me to put my plan into action and on the day I was to do it, I was checked by the Holy Spirit. "What are you doing Philip?" he said. "I am going to withdraw this money for the church", I replied.

"I don't want your money Philip", was His clear reply. I was, once again shocked by the Lord. I just assumed that the church was always a needy body as it seemed to be always asking for money.

This is the problem in our faith walk. We only ask because we don't believe. Anyway it was a real talk from God this talk and I heard Him very clearly. I postponed my plans and sat down to talk with God about this dilemma. He told me that He had his ways of building His church and didn't need me to prop it up. He had His ways clearly ordered. I never thought of this.

I asked Him, eventually, what I could give to it and He told me He would accept a tithe of my money but that as this was a large amount, he wanted me to give this anonymously. I was even more shocked. I said "Lord but am doing nothing for the local church (I was a new believer then and I was constantly aware that I could do very little in terms of helping) surely I can at least be seen to be giving money towards it?" "No" was the very firm reply and very authoritative. I knew to question no more. God wanted this and that was enough.

I got an anonymous check and sent it anonymously to the pastor of the church who later told me (without my ever divulging it) that my business associate (who was really against giving to the church) had given this large donation to him. It turned my stomach but I began to realize that God's ways are not my ways... I would have to learn them.

And learn I did. A very different economic regime that the Lord has. He requires faith and honour to be shown towards Him and toward the finances He supplies.

The Money Trap

He requires to be treated as a real person and honoured as being the head of our temple and priesthood. He requires our trust and also He requires to be able to trust us. Money corrupts most pastors. But they really believe that just because they are doing a church it makes everything right. The integrity needed to handle God's money is high and He trusts few people. Because they always abuse it. Using it for things He never directed and never wanted.

Most feel the bite of poverty and feel its alright to do whatever they want then. Justified by this drive to avoid such a lack in the future, they fall into a big trap. The Money trap.

The love of money is called the root of all evils, in the scriptures. It's the love of it, because it provides countless opportunities for whatever we want to do. First in the worldly sense and then in the ministry. As a rich businessman I was invited to dinner with almost all pastors. When called by God into the highest of all jobs, the holy ministry of God -- the full time priesthood. I was invited to dinner by none. Even after I had invited them to my dinner table. I never received the respect of being invited to theirs. Money talks. But God HATES it. I mean, hates it really big time.

Pastors and ministers fall into the trap of believing that the only thing stopping the growth of their ministry is the lack of funds. So money becomes the focal point of everything, though it is never said this way, nor even admitted. To such a minister, God who sees everything, withholds support.

The love of money is what causes too much trouble both in the world around us and in the church. Ministers give time to people with money and no time to those without money. Assuming that God is always lacking, because they see his ministers always lacking, at least the ones who have no faith, that is. Upon assuming this they then act in a ungodly fashion. Discriminating between rich and poor people. The very things James warns against.

Focus is upon the rich and their possible provisions, not upon the Lord and what does he want us to do. He wants us to work for his kingdom. Selflessly. Often “my ministry” just, in reality means me and getting my name in lights.

This error in thinking gets the minister into much trouble and the withholding of funds from the Father in heaven. God is blocked from sending provisions to those acting outside of His nature. There are conditions for fund provision. One of these is to act in faith as if God was the good father. The good guy who employs us. The guy that never lets us down. But acting out of fear and doubt means that we mistrust God and his goodness.

Honouring God in Finances

God has accounts. Books in heaven. And he honours His word. When he allocates funds for your ministry they are for a specific purpose. Of course, there has to be a

generalized running fund, as well. The way it works is that He will make available money for electricity, water and running costs, from a general account and then finances for other things from a specialised account.

Honouring God is akin to trusting him. We must find out what is the purpose of specialized funds that God locks away.

In 1994 I built a school. A proper academic school. Now I have done many things such as churches and bible colleges but a school was different. In UK there is a need for health and safety care for children and the law requires this. It's a righteous need and many laws are set in place to safeguard the children and rightly so.

One of these needs is the proper fire safety equipment and this is very costly. Emergency lighting, sprinklers, extinguishers and fire walls, double walling to prevent fires spreading and fire doors that expand thus trapping the smoke (a major hazard in fires) from spreading. This is all very costly and I added up everything after getting fire men to come and give me appraisals and came to the figure of \$20,000, no mean amount in those days.

I went and spoke to the Lord about it. Just talking with him man to man and said that whilst we might skimp on our needs from time to time these were righteous requirements and, therefore, needed to be fulfilled by Him. He asked me how much was needed and I told him. I told no one else at all. Not even my wife at that time.

Three days later in the post came an anonymous check for this very amount that I had discussed with the Lord alone. This happened to me three times and always the same. I told no one at all of our needs and never even hinted. Yet always these anonymous checks and exactly for the right amount.

Of course when this money came in then it went straight into the account for the school building. It could never be used for anything else. I would never allow it. We need to honour God as He honours us.

If God is our employer then it is his wishes that must be carried out and not our ideas. The trick is to find out what His wishes are and then do these. But so many think that they are the head of the ministry and not the Lord God. So they do whatever they want with money that comes in instead of waiting on God and finding out what it is that he wants.

Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain”. Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who ploughs should plough in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?

1 Corinthians 9:7-11

God is the provider for His ministry. For His kingdom. We are not left to provide for His work. It's His work and He must provide the necessary finances for it. If we consistently realize this then instead of trying to gather finances for His work we will spend our time trying to find out what it is that is the part of His work that He has called us to do. Instead of doing our own work and asking God to bless it.

If we refuse to take over headship of His ministry and demand that Jesus is still the head of the church and the one who calls us then God, being pleased with our

performance in this test will take back control of His ministry and allow us to have everything we need for the work that He has called us to do for Him.

So many are tempted to become their own head. Their own director of operations and this is not in accordance with the will of God. Jesus is still alive and through the Holy Spirit still the head of every church and ministry that is truly His. So many stray from His ways that they become their own god and lead themselves astray. Even while teaching from the bible they are not lead by God and, therefore, are not of Christ.

Christian ideology or philosophy is not following Christ. You have to have a direct connection to the Living God. This is the whole reason that Jesus died. To bring our connection to the Living God. Not to have, yet another religious ideology, this time called Christianity. Yet more religious teachings and formulas without the connection to the Living God.

These are worse than the secular religions of the world. Because they seem to offer eternal life, but in reality they do not offer this at all, because they disconnected from the headship of Christ. They are torn from the vine and thrown into the fire.

Such Christianity is not Christianity at all. It is secular and hypocritical religion leading people away from the Living God and onto to the teachings of man (even though the subject matter is the bible).

These religious seductions are caused by “angels of light” and “seducing spirits”. Leading people away from Christ by using the same subject matter that is supposed to lead people to Him. They are given human interpretations of the bible, and leading them to another religion entirely. As it takes them away from the Living word, even if it focuses them on the written word.

The bible is there for one reason. To tell us the nature of God so that we can call out on Him and not get the wrong spirit. In Acts 10, the Jerusalem council never even asked the gentiles to read the bible. They simply said carry on following Christ the way you started to. In those days there was no New Testament. Only the Old Testament was available until about 100 years after Christ when His teachings were written down and distributed around. These, after some hundreds of years were brought together into the present day bible as we know it.

These very words, wrongly focused upon, can actually lead us away from dependency upon the Living Christ and to a dependency upon church teaching, or church interpretations of these teachings. These written words, wrongly acted upon, leads us away from Christ. You have to have the Holy Spirit leading you through the scriptures in order to get the right interpretation of them. To get “revelation” of the truth that they portray. The spirit of the word brings life but the letter of the word brings death. The same words can bring life or death, depending on the way you view them.

Not Giving to Get

There has arisen in some teaching circles, the attitude of giving to get. Namely if you give to God (or more directly to the ministry or church that is appealing) then He will bless you with more. Often many Old Testament scriptures are invoked that should only be used by people or persons before the advent of the Holy Spirit. Ecclesiastical proverbs and scriptures used for specific purposes in times gone by are being resurrected and taken out of context and miss used. Now we all know that the Holy Spirit can bring a “*Rhema*” (Greek) word whenever He desires but using what is revealed for one time, in another setting for another time should only be done by directive of the Holy Spirit and not by man’s need.

Many scriptures have thus been abused and taken out of their spiritual context. Trying to use scriptures in the wrong context is dangerous and very misleading.

The scriptures “Give and it shall be given unto you...” are, of course, true. Giving, even when you are struggling to get enough for yourself, often shows your faith in God and is rewarded by God, likewise. Giving to get is seen for what it is. Greed is never rewarded.

God rewards faith, not business acumen. We are priests and not businessmen. Whilst giving shows your faith, it must not be used to try and extract from God, more riches. The whole spiritual realm can see through this spirit. It is a wrong spirit.

However if you do really believe that God is your provider then when he directs you to give and you respond, then this faith is rewarded. It cannot be used as a formula for gathering money. All who propagate this theory have to make lengthy emotionally demand appeals to the people to show their so called formula of faith. Without these lengthy emotional and even condemning appeals, this formula does not work.

One pastor’s wife in London was “believing God” for a BMW car. The newest and the latest model. Why God should ever be interested in that, beats me. Anyway, she believed for it and, of course, told the whole congregation about her “faith” for this car. They got together and collected the money and bought her the car. This was God’s response for her faith, she advocated. Of course if she had kept it between God and herself, we could believe it. But congregants, wishing to please their pastor and his wife, are not necessarily the arm of the Lord. Especially when the pastor’s wife has told them of her “deepest desires”.

No, these shady techniques and outrageous emotional abuses should be far from the minister’s mind. Marketing the gospel in a businessman’s proposal and contract

form is far from God's mind. Jesus made Himself *Nothing* having been found as a man. It's interesting to note that in His own earthly ministry Jesus always told those to whom he performed miracles, not to tell anyone else. But in today's business/marketing" church these miracles are made into books and magazine with the sole purpose of attracting more people. A shady technique Jesus distance Himself from on every occasion. We should rather follow Jesus than man.

Appeals for money such as "God has shown me there are 20 people here that should give \$10,000.00 each in tonight's offering" are outrageous and bordering on the heretical. Whilst many ministers justify these techniques under the heading of the "work of the ministry", so it's all alright to do. Or even more outrageously, because "We have to get souls saved so that Jesus can return!" This condemnatory tactics are an abomination to the kingdom of God. Even auto suggestive tactics and money motivations are all the wrong spirit. People think that because its for a good cause the methods can be exonerated. These are terrible indictments upon our modern church affected and infiltrated by materialism from the materialistic nations.

Faith teachings should not be found dead mixing itself with these illicit techniques of fund raising whilst propagating the Kingdom of the Living God. Really it is so easy to see what is right and wrong. Just ask yourself this question "Would Jesus do this?" or more specifically "Can you see Jesus doing this in His meetings? In His earthly ministry?" Of course you could never see this. "Then simply FOLLOW HIM" in this as well as in lifestyle and nature. Even an unintelligent man can figure this out.

When it comes to money so many are guilty of terrible crimes, even in the ministry. But the true minister depending entirely upon God, does still exist. And I am one of these.

If the "love of money" is termed the "root of all evils" then it is not surprising that money can be a big problem for the minister and the ministry. Of course, if any of

these motives and attitudes are adhered to then God's blessing goes out of this ministry. I have read articles where American ministers have stated categorically that the amount of anointing in a ministry is equivalent to the amount of money that ministry collects. Just craziness. Absolute craziness. Others justifying their new Cadillacs and expensive automobiles show that Jesus had the Cadillac of that day... a donkey, but never mention that He borrowed even this, and never used it for transport but for one occasion to fulfil the scriptures.

There is great confusion amongst young ministers when they see the apparent greats in ministry adopting these techniques. It is very confusing for them but please listen. "Would Jesus do it?" No? Then go and do likewise! Don't follow man. Don't judge him either. Just follow Jesus. Jesus did not make Himself of any reputation. He didn't advertise His ministry. He always told those healed to tell no one. It was the opposite of a good business method. He used no human technique for advertising. This, along with funding, He left to the Spirit of God and His angels.

Tithing is a principle from the Old Testament that is good to follow but not vital. The practise of giving one tenth of your income to the local church before giving anything else is a good one. A good principle. But it is not a command. But as a godly principle its fine. In the New Testament you give your life to Jesus and this includes all your money, businesses and funds. Then you simply ask Him what He wants you to do with you, seeing as now it is His. And you follow exactly what He says. If He doesn't say anything then carry on the way you are.

Integrity must guide us in these matters too. If you have money and your neighbour is starving to death, love demands you support him. If he is drinking himself to death, then it is stupid to support this addiction by giving him money. Each situation must be judged according to its own merits. The New Testament is one of following the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Living God. The head of the church Jesus Christ.

When Jesus said, “ I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me,” he meant that we should not just follow his lifestyle and nature but also should follow His ways of ministering, His ways of responding to given situations and the like. We are to follow the Lord Jesus Christ even in the way He did ministry. He expected His Father to provide and He never made appeals to any man for provisions. Did you notice this? In all His meetings He never taught giving or appealed for funds from anyone. It keeps the majesty and honour of His office high. The same goes for us. We need to keep the majesty of the office to which God called us. We need to honour it and respect it greatly. Being a beggar or fund raisers blasphemes the very office and purpose to which God has called us.

It brings down the respect for the kingdom of God in the eyes of all people. This is a terrible blight on our church society.

Our Example of Becoming No Reputation

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbing to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him.

Philippians 2:5-9

Biography

Rev Philip Dacre is British by birth, being born in London, UK. As a child he was taken to central Africa where he did his schooling and to south Africa where he did university. Philip was always spiritually inclined though not always a Christ follower. Having been trained as a biologist he took up a post in what is now called Zimbabwe of assistant registrar of Pesticides to the nation where he quickly rose to the Registrar of Pesticides to the nation.

A terrorist war struck that nation just after Philip had moved there to find work and he was called up into a war in that region for 7 years. During this time all prospects of professional ambition were thwarted being in the defence forces on active duty 7 months of the year. He joined the private sector and then started to form his own businesses. As a businessman he reached success just before the calling of God came into his life and he changed to become a full time minister of God in 1982. After this no more business was ever done.

By 1984 he was bible school trained and entered into full time mission work the same year never changing this course. Serving as missionary to Swaziland and UK, he was directed by God to take up a prophetic stand to these nations. As God dictated. Doing miracles and being imprisoned for preaching, proved the work of the ministry as being viable, God's way.

Summary

Having been asked so many time to write this topic I eventually conceded to do it. This book is not theory but practise. I have lived this way for 20 years. Living by faith in God. During this time I have never asked anyone for anything. Never made known any needs to anyone. Never taken up a offering for my needs or mentioned shortages to anyone. Even to my congregations. They will never know my needs. During this 20 year period I have never fallen short on paying all my accounts and bills on time or before the time.

Though I never preach these things every now and again I mention them to people and they are astounded. Really it is just a question of treating God as a real live person who is your employer. Instead of some person high and far away who seems to withhold things that you rightfully need. My children never suffered any deprivation because of my ministry and always had everything that all the surrounding children had. A normal family life, good education and toys and needs provided for. They never knew that we were in the ministry.

Treating God right and treating His provisions right is the key to having a successful relationship with Him and a successfully provided for ministry.

