

Are You Doing God's Will Part 8

“1 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: 2 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; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. 13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. 14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:1-14 KJV)

“1 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.” (1 Peter 5:1 KJV) Apostle Peter here speaking and exhorting the elders of the church and give them instructions and telling them that he is also elder and they need to listen to him. Peter was telling them that he had been a witness of Christ and His suffering, and he also passed through suffering and is telling them indirectly and telling us today that being elders we may pass through suffering that God would allow and we need to endure it. But when we pass suffering and endure it, we will be also receiving glory and we will be partakers of the glory that accompany Christ's return. So suffering now will qualify us to receive glory when Christ returns. Therefore today as elders and accountable before God, we need to bear our responsibilities and bear rejection, opposition, rebellion, persecution, suffering and the rest to come, so that when Jesus would come we will be partakers of His glory.

“2 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.” (1 Peter 5:2 KJV)

“Feed the flock of God which is among you”: Now the elders their responsibility is to feed the flock of God. Not to cook and give food, but to give the Word of God and instruct the people with the Scripture. Therefore, you need to read your Bible daily so that yourselves will be fed with God's Word, so that after you can feed others. Some people they will say we are elder than you in age, that is why Peter told them, ***“who am also an elder”***, it means it is not about age and white hair but about responsibilities and doing. Now some who claim to be elders they not even read their own Bible, then how they can feed others? Therefore, feed yourself and feed the flock which is among you; you don't

need to go far away, the people are just around you, they can be your family, your neighbour, or your colleagues, that you need to teach and admonish.

“Taking the oversight thereof”: The responsibility of the elders who have the ability to see beyond the younger, is to warn the younger and direct them. Therefore in the congregation there are elders who can see farther than the younger and they need to warn them and to tell what they need to do. They need to equip them with the teaching that will help them to grow and to face life and trials and enable them to do what God is asking from them to do. Now there are those whom we taught and trained; they will go ahead and claim to be elders and take people with them away from the church and away from our oversight. They are destroying the people, they cannot feed them, themselves they are hungry, and they cannot see farther, then how they will lead the people whom they pulled out?

In the church, Christ is first being the head, then the apostles, then the elders, then the younger; so in the church there are levels that is recognized Biblically and we need to acknowledge and maintained. That is why you find many churches are premature, immature, lack of many teachings, because they had cut themselves from the elders. I can count large number of congregations that we had planted and their leaders they just took those who are with them and went away. Now the question, what is the tragedy of the sheep who were placed with such leaders? The answer is this: No new teaching, but confusion, without vision and without insight, and no oversight. I am going to send this message to them that may repent and realize their sin and what they had done wrong. Why they had done such? Arrogance, pride, lack of humility, lack of teachability, zeal without knowledge, etc.

Speaking about the oversight as a church and elders of the church we were led by the Holy Spirit to deliver certain teachings and take certain decisions that proved so beneficial to the circumstances that God allowed to happen after delivering the teaching and after we have taken certain decisions.

I will give you example of that. It is also a testimony. Years ago we had forty days prayer and fasting, and that period I was compelled to continue to fast. We were having struggle in our church school, pertaining to the parents and with the covering school. The Lord led me to a new school. After I took the decision I did not announce because the result are not yet clear and I was putting my decision under trial and to test the school and find out the outcome. The new school has lot of potentials to help people with low income and also highly flexible to help those of special needs, children of less intelligence, and through that school we can help our congregations and outreaches in other countries, so there was good aspects on it. But the things that made me take this new school and give it the try is the fasting that we did in respond to a problem in dealing with a family in our church school. I did not announce because I did not want to leak the information especially I doubted certain people, are they coming for the God or for the school sake? Later on some they come to know that I had changed the school, they reacted because their eyes were fixed on the school and not on God's church and they reacted while I was still in the period of testing the new school. It was under probation period. So I could not do much with them, they got direct contact with the old school and they left the church, and it became clear what was their focus, sure not on Jesus but on the gifts that Jesus gave to His church, the school. Of course when they left the church they pull others; same policy of the devil, he will not go to hell alone but he will pull others. After they left, COVID 19 pandemic came, and it became so

difficult to import books from outside and more costly the shipping. The Lord enabled us to do soft copies for our school books. Finally God proved that the new school is able to do all the authentication that is needed to recognize their Diploma internationally, and with the affordable cost for this new school, even families in poor countries with low income they will be able to afford to enroll their children in our church school.

We were instructed by the Holy Spirit to erase the old books and clean them to reuse them for the new students and that is a good way for saving money and resources. When COVID 19 pandemic came, with the difficulty in shipping we have no problem because we have our own copies.

We were instructed by the Holy Spirit to scan the books two years before COVID 19 pandemic, and now we have soft copies that we can give to the parents for their children to use to study without their need for internet. Internet is not only dangerous for the children, but it is costly for the parents. With the new setup we have in our School, we are the least cost school. The school is for all whom God will bring; freely we receive, freely we give.

Now here speaking about *“taking the oversight thereof”*, is the leading of the Holy Spirit to the elders of the church, * You cannot assume being elder without having the gift of taking the oversight. * Taking the oversight thereof is accompanied by commitment and by willingness and dedication to do the task, with clean and pure motive and willingness to suffer for Christ.

Another example is the teaching about farming, it is started with the trial of my wife to plant and to us any opportunity to plant. She started long years ago to plant in a small space in our outside yard, then there is a land beside the house she was trying repeatedly to plant corn, but it was not successful. I was seeing dreams that I am collecting coins of one Dirham from the ground and my two hands are full, and the coins I am picking up out from the soil, and there is no end. People passing by seeing me but no one came to pick up with me as if they were not seeing the money that I am collecting. The dream repeated many times, but even me I am not aware of how this will come true. In the same land that is around the house Isaac and Violy found a sac full of coins of many countries currencies, we gave the big recognized pieces to the church. In the same land my wife pioneered farming and is prospered in harvesting vegetables and we were taught by God how to plant and God gave details about farming. We taught and motivate other disciples and workers to do the same, I wrote what we did in one of my books; farming is discipline, exercise, stewardship, style of living, and a Christian way of life. With the coming of COVID 19 and the quarantine it became a practical need that farming will help much to supply the needs.

Another example is the Audio messages that I am recording, I had started to do that years ago when God allowed me to buy new mobile and I started to record and send in the social media, sending the messages, to the groups that contain our members in various places and to our outreaches and to the people that we are reaching out. When COVID 19 came and gathering was not allowed we were ready, we just continue to do what we were doing.

Our responsibilities to feed and to have oversight to the people among us, we need to maintain in the following manner:

“Not by constraint, but willingly”: We should do it not because we are forced or somebody is pushing us or we are just doing it for the sake to please others who are over us or because we are afraid, but we need to do it willingly and with joy. Sometimes we got hurt because of the ministry, but still God needs us to be willingly doing our assignments and in a proper manner.

“Not for filthy lucre”: We don't do it because we are expecting money in return. Many they will pull the people away so they will receive money from the people and they will not give it to the church. Good number of those we taught and trained they will ask money and salaries as if they are hired and when deny it to them they will sit down and will not offer service. They will say we are not yet hired. We don't serve for money or we serve expecting that we will be paid.

“But of a ready mind”: We need to be willing to serve and help the people and feed them with God's Word because that is our joy and decision to serve God and be faithful to Him and for the salvation and the eternal life that we received from Him.

“Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.” (1 Peter 5:3 KJV)

“Neither as being lords over God's heritage”: The way to lead is not that we are hungry to take position and greedy to force people or use people to get advantage of them. There are good number of leaders who pulled out people with them because they wanted to use people and they were not interested to follow the principle of God's Word. They don't care about the peoples' lives and whatever sin they are doing as long as they are using them and receive services and benefits of them. Peter called the people here as *“God's heritage”*, it means the church is belong to God and we should not manipulate the church and the people to take advantage of them. Church is not a company, or a social service agency, or charity institute, but the body of Christ, that should not be having corruption, injustice and manipulations.

“But being examples to the flock”: * We lead by the example of willingness to suffer, willingness to be humiliated and yet continue to do what is right and pleases God. * We continue to correct the things that we are aware that are wrong in us. * Whatever God is revealing to you of mistakes you need to correct. * The good example also come when we have in excess the fruit of the holy Spirit, love peace, joy, gentleness, kindness, patience, self-control, generosity, faith and faithfulness; all these reflects the character of Jesus in our lives to others.

“4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (1 Peter 5:4 KJV) The humility of the elders who are willing to continue to suffer just for the sake of the message of God to flow to the younger and to the next generation, they will be rewarded by the Lord. There is a crown of glory, to be coronate by the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ; that crown will not fade, that will be the reward of those who are willing to bear the pressure of opposition of the younger and persevere and continue to care even for the next generation. The labor and the pain that we will pass

through might be costly and painful and has much hurting, but the glory of what we will receive when Jesus comes, it will not fade away.

My Dear and Beloved:

- *Let us humble ourselves before God*
- *Let us start to fear Him and walk in His ways*
- *As elders let us continue to feed the flocks and take the oversight to guide them in what we are receiving from the Lord*
- *As elders let us not get discouraged or daunted when we are opposed, rejected or persecuted*
- *Let us do our part well in honour to what we had received from God, cherishing our salvation and all what we received from the Lord. Therefore let us do our part toward Him and toward His Church, knowing that Jesus will amply reward us when He will come back*

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.

Lord I thank you for the teaching that I had received from your Word, that I need to humble before you and before your will.

Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Lord I renounce pride, arrogance, lack of humility, anger, doubt, discouragement, un-forgiveness, and easily giving up.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I received from your Word.

Being elder I commit myself to feed the flock and to take the oversight, to protect the people, and teach them, and train them so that they can face life and face the future events.

Lord gives me more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to have the character and the attitude of Jesus in my life. Lord uses my life to be good example to others to know you and to follow you through my life. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go and preach your Word and to evangelize and to reach new people and to disciple them.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principle of this message of yours and humble themselves before you to obey and apply your Word in their lives, Lord blesses them, give them more grace, Lord give them discernment to see the work of the devil and to resist it. Lord sustains them and provides all their needs so they will continue to serve you. Lord above all give them wisdom and knowledge to manage the affairs of their lives according to your will. Lord increase their faith and their trust in you and help them to go on and overcome the obstacles that are ahead of them. Lord fights on their behalf and don't allow the enemy to hinder them from progressing forward.

Lord I pray that you will go before us as a church and lead us to streets, buildings, cities, villages to reach new people and to bring Jesus into their lives. Lord helps us that our

life's example will be attractive to others to know you and to follow you. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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