

How to Take the Right Decision Part 12

“4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. 5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” (Titus 1:4-9 KJV)

Those who are leading the congregations of God they will be used by the Lord to help people to find out the will of God and His plan for them. We can read about bishop or the overseer, that men in Israel who wanted to enquire of God they will go to him and enquire, *“9 (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)” (1 Samuel 9:9 KJV)* Since such is the responsibility of the leader of the congregation, the church need to use firm criteria in selecting them, because they are the one to lead others into the whole will of God.

Titus 1 speaks a similar criteria to *1 Timothy 3* of how to choose a person to lead a congregation in order to help the people under his care to take the right decision and obey the whole will of God. Apostle Paul left Titus his son in faith in the islet of Crete for the following reasons:

1. To complete and put in order things that needed to be completed in order to finish the work of God. *“5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting,” (Titus 1:5 KJV)*

2. To appoint and ordain elders in every city of the islet, *“and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:” (Titus 1:5 KJV)* The purpose of setting elders in each and every city was to work as bishop to care for and to superintend the congregations in each and every city, so that he can report to Titus who will report to Paul, and also he will be able to receive from Titus what Paul was sending of teaching and input. It is like the same of the government of Moses when God instructed him to appoint judges who judge the small or the agreed upon cases but will refer the big and the difficult cases to Moses. *“22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. 26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.” (Exodus 18:22, 26 KJV)* It is a central form of government that the offices of apostle, evangelist, pastor, prophet and teacher are connected together, and are connected to the head, Jesus Christ, and are connected to the rest of the body of Christ.

The following are the criteria that needed to be observed in choosing and ordaining an elder who will finally help the people to take right and Godly decision:

“6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.” (Titus 1:6 KJV)

1. **“blameless”:** It means there is nothing in his present history or reputation bound to evil or link with a sin that has not been dealt with or repented from and cleansed.

2. **“the husband of one wife”:** The bishop should have one wife only. His marital status is beyond doubt. There is no way for polygamy and no way for divorce and remarriage. He is not divorced or married to another while his previous wife is still alive. He should not marry a divorced woman. Those who would follow God they ought to be example to others in this matter. The world is full of polygamies, and divorce and remarriage, therefore those who serve God should be cleared from such sin so they can lead others out of it.

“having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly”: Here apostle Paul speaks more about how the children of the Bishop needs to be. In *1 Timothy 3* we read about them, *“4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity.” (1 Timothy 3:4 KJV)* having his children in subjection with all gravity, here describe them as:

3. **“faithful children”:** Faithfulness means they are loyal, fruitful and dutiful towards their responsibilities toward God, toward their studies, toward the family especially their parents who are caring and providing for them and toward their father who is teaching them God’s Word.

4. **“not accused of riot or unruly”:** They need to be submissive and obedient to God, to His Word, to their parents and not in disorder or rebellion and living in disobedience to what they receive from instructions.

“7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;” (Titus 1:7 KJV) The bishop or the elder must be, **“blameless”;** means without active sin.

3. **“steward of God”:** It means he need to value, estimate and develop the resources he received; and do his best to fruitfully use what he got from God from time, talents, spiritual gifts and various temporal resources.

4. **“not selfwilled”:** That means he should not do his own will but the will of God, and go along the leading of the Holy Spirit.

5. **“not soon angry”:** He should not be easily provoked into anger because anger does not bring the righteous life that God desires, *“20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” (James 1:20 KJV)* Those who cannot have self-control and vent all what is in their minds they are considered as fool, *“11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.” (Proverbs 29:11 KJV)* Sin inside you makes you vent as fool.

6. **“not given to wine”**: A man of God should not drink, because wine changes the mental status of the mind and hinder the person from thinking right, and will be hindered to take the right decision and direct the people into the whole will of God and achieve His justice, **“4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.”** (Proverbs 31:4-5 KJV) If the bishop will drink he will lose his mind and will not be able to think wisely and take right decision to help those who are afflicted and need right spiritual advices. Some churches they use and allow drinking wine and that is against the command of God, **“8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, 9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:”** (Leviticus 10:8-9 KJV)

7. **“no striker”**: It means he is not a person on strike, or a protester or easily get engaged in a fight using his hands. A bishop needs to be self-controlled and patience, and need to tactfully face struggles and those who oppose him and those who are trying to make trouble and disturb the ministry of God. He need to use the method of hearing the voice of God that direct him of what he needs to do with such a kind of people.

8. **“not given to filthy lucre”**: Not greedy of money or profit of material things, especially when it comes from, or obtained by dishonest means. The bishop who leads God’s work should not look into or let his focus directed to gain worldly and material things, **“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”** (1 John 2:15-17 KJV)

“8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;” (Titus 1:8 KJV)

9. **“But a lover of hospitality”**: It means he welcome people; he has kindness; willing to give and spend, and having generosity when that is needed. He is not unfriendly, or unsociable, or having hostility.

10. **“a lover of good men”**: He should look after good people who fear God and have the mind of Christ. David said, **“6 Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.”** (Psalm 101:6 KJV) We need to look for the faithful and good men in the land that God had placed us with and work with them and ask them to serve the Lord with us.

11. **“sober”**: It means self-disciplined, able to think with his mind and not with his heart. He is self-denying for his pride and not controlled by anger or emotion. He is a serious person but not acting in haste. He is temperate, moderate, restrained, thoughtful, calm, grave, unexcited and subdued and can control himself. Sober, it means to be clear headed, restrained and temporal, aware how to manage critical situations with patience and perseverance in prayers and waiting upon God to solve issues and open doors for relief.

12. **“just”**: It mean he should be after justice, to give to everyone his rights and what is due for him. He should not be bias or having favoritism, he should not be standing with those who are strong, rich and the influential to oppress the weak or the poor. According to the Scriptures God has respect to no person as we can read in the following Scriptures:

“15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.” (Leviticus 19:15) **The small or the great should be treated the same in judgment:** **“17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.”** (Deuteronomy 1:17 KJV) **“19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.”** (Deuteronomy 16:19 KJV) **You should fear God and should not take gifts from people who will use gifts trying to change judgment for their behalf.** King Jehoshaphat instructed the Levites to fear God and not to take gifts when they are judging: **“7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.”** (2 Chronicles 19:7 KJV) **“23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.”** (Proverbs 24:23 KJV) He should stand firm for the Lord and be strong to face the people with their sins. **“21 To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.”** (Proverbs 28:21 KJV) **If people for a piece of bread willing to transgress, then you should not be ashamed to face the people and rebuke them for their sins.**

Even in the New Testament church God’s Word instruct us to do the same and justice for all. When Peter went to Cornelius house he mentioned that: **“34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”** (Acts 10:34 KJV) Paul to the Romans mentioned the same also: **“For there is no respect of persons with God.”** (Romans 2:11 KJV) **Paul told the masters that God has no respect to man, admonishing them that they should fear God and not mistreat their poor workers and not threaten them: “9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.”** (Ephesians 6:9 KJV) **“1 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”** (Colossians 3:25 KJV) Even Apostle James reminded the brethren with the same principle: **“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.”** (James 2:1 KJV)

13. **“holy”**: That the bishop should live in holiness away from sin or doing his own will or plan. Doing your own will and plan is sin. You should work to impart holiness, the holy living to others, and to be good example to them.

14. **“temperate”**: It means he is moderate, mild, not extreme in areas of no need to be extreme. Temperate is also means to be calm, self-controlled, and reasonable.

15. **“9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayer.”** (Titus 1:9 KJV) * The bishop should hold faithfully the teaching that he received and to impart the same teaching to the congregation under his care. In such a way he will be able to exhort and teach the members

of the congregation, and convince those who speak against the teaching. * That is why it is so important that those who are appointed they should convey the teaching as is supposed to be. I usually admonish the leaders who are appointed and ordained under my ministry to follow the example of Joshua who read, and who obeyed and kept the whole instructions of Moses as we can read in the following verses: **“There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.”** (Joshua 8:35 KJV) **“As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.”** (Joshua 11:15 KJV) See here what God told Moses, he said it to Joshua, and Joshua did all what God had told him.

My dear and beloved: Now let us come to the Lord and observe how much we are doing of all these instruction of God’s Word. These instructions are not only for elders but for everyone who had set his heart to serve the Lord. Every one need to observe that so that he will be blessed, his family will be blessed and he will be a blessing to others and help them and guide them to take the right advice and implement in their lives. Repent now of all the sins that contradict the teaching that we received in this message, repent from anger, loving worldly and material things, and commit your life once again to serve the Lord.

I believe that God sent this message to you calling you to serve Him, to be a man and a woman of God to manage your life well and to help your family and lead them in a Godly way and to help others around you to take the right decision in their lives. Come now to the Lord and commit yourself to what you received of His Word. **Work now with God and be willing to be changed and posses the qualities that you lack. Be strong and face people with their sins. Be honest and don’t favor the rich and the strong over the poor. Be just and treat the people the same, and judge without favoritism based on God’s Word. Be temperate and have self-control, live a holy living and be a good example to others.**

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching and the correction that I received in this message and the clear outlined responsibilities that you placed on me of how I need to develop all the Godly characters of the leader as you showed me in your Word in order to set a good example to others to follow.*

Confess now your sins and renounce them. Confess your pride, selfishness, doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce your fear of men, your flatteries, compromises, your injustice and loving to get gifts. Confess and renounce your lust and immoralities. Confess your worldliness, your greed and the love for dishonest gain. Renounce your bad example, being always angry, fighting, quarreling with others, lack of patience and lack of self-control. Renounce your lack of discipline to your children. Renounce your bad stewardship, your laziness, wasting your time on the Media and having fellowship with non believers. Renounce your non willingness to serve God and suffer for His cause and purpose. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to the teachings that I learned in this message. Lord I commit myself to cooperate with you in order to develop the characters of the servant of God that we studied in this message to be blameless, married to one spouse, having faithful children, who are not accused of riot or unruly: to be a steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, not a striker, not given to filthy lucre, but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate, and holding fast the faithful word as I had been taught, that I may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayer. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, faith, perseverance, long-suffering and self-control, that people may see Christ in me. Lord I commit myself to go on and serve you to accomplish the good plan and the ministry that you entrusted to me.

Lord thank you for all my brothers and sisters who realized their shortcomings, repented of their sins and came back to you, willing to serve you and doing your will. Lord help them to develop the Godly characters that they lack in their personalities. Lord provide for them and sustain them so they will continue to serve you and do your will.

Lord bless us as your church and give us discernment to see those Godly men and women whom you are leading to us and to whom you lead us to. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless and fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand 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.

How to Take the Right Decision Part 12. Titus 1:4-9. 1 Samuel 9:9. Exodus 18:22, 26. 1 Timothy 3:4. James 1:20. Proverbs 29:11. Proverbs 31:4-5. Leviticus 10:8-9. 1 John 2:15-17. Psalm 101:6. Leviticus 19:15. Deuteronomy 1:17. Deuteronomy 16:19. 2 Chronicles 19:7. Proverbs 24:23. Proverbs 28:21. Acts 10:34. Romans 2:11. Ephesians 6:9. Colossians 3:25. James 2:1. Joshua 8:35. Joshua 11:15.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:

First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)

ACCOUNT NAME:

RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF

ACCOUNT NO.:

1576003753162014

IBAN:

AE380351576003753162014

SWIFT CODE:

NBADAEAACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.