

Ministry Part 1

The Word ministry used much in God's service. In this series of messages, we will have a brief account of its use. The Scriptures will give us more clear understanding about what is ministry. The Scriptures will enlighten the mind of each and every worker who set his heart to serve God.

In the Old Testament we can find the following Hebrew Words:

I. Shareth: *"12 And they shall take all the instruments of ministry, wherewith they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a cloth of blue, and cover them with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put them on a bar."* (Numbers 4:12 KJV) 'Shareth' is the Hebrew Word that used for the Word 'ministry'. It is two times repeated in the Old Testament, which describes a ministry, in the tabernacle, within the premises of God's temple. Here in *Numbers 4:12* it describes how the Levites need to take the instruments of the ministry and to wrap them and place them in a certain way. They should do their assignment in a perfect way as it is described.

The system of the ministry is to wait upon the office that you are placed in till you accomplish the work entrusted to you in a perfect way. *"6 And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood."* (2 Chronicles 7:6 KJV) We need to wait in our offices and accomplish thoroughly our ministries in the offices assigned to us.

In regard to ministry there is always rules and descriptions of these rules in God's Word in any ministry. *"47 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that came to do the service of the ministry, and the service of the burden in the tabernacle of the congregation."* (Numbers 4:47 KJV) Here we can see the rules of age, 30 to 50 years old. The Levites will be taken at the age of 25 to be trained, and at the age of 30 they will get involved in service. *"23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 24 This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation."* (Numbers 8:23-24 KJV) * Training is very important, that they will be prepared; they will be taught and disciplined and when they are mature and by the age of thirty they will be introduced to do the ministry. * In the same way now, Jesus told us to go and make disciples, to baptize them and to teach them to observe everything we received from the Lord: *"18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV) The disciples after such training, they will be sent to go and make new disciples. Disciples should make new disciples.

In the Old Testament after the age of 50 the Levites they will just supervise and keep the charge while others will do the service. *"25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more: 26 But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge."* (Numbers 8:25-26 KJV) * So in the ministry there is a time that we need to labor hard in serving the Lord while we are young, and we need to continue to do that till the next generation is ready to do the hard work of God, and in such circumstances we still need to be there to supervise them and watch over the affairs of the ministry and the affairs of training the new disciples. * Therefore while you are young and strong use all your talents, power, strength and might to serve the Lord.

II. Obadah: At the time of David the lower age limit for the Levites to serve was lessened to the age of 20 because the tabernacle was no more moving. *"24 These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward. 25 For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever: 26 And also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof. 27 For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above."* (1 Chronicles 23:24-27 KJV) The Levites will be called for training at the age of 20 and will engage in the service after the period of their training. The Hebrew and Arabic Word that used for 'service' here is 'Obadah'. In total there is 125 use for the Word 'Obadah' in the Old Testament, and the meaning of 'Obadah', is labor, work, slavery and service, like a labor of servant or slave; like the labor and service of the captives or the subjects is the service for God, as we can read here: *"13 Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters."* (2 Chronicles 34:13 KJV) Let us understand and agree that serving the Lord is most of the time needs our hard work and labor. In many circumstances we need to abide with the instructions of God's Word and guidance and that what will make the service of God certain times more hard to do. We cannot do the service of God as others who are doing the same work in the world.

In addition to that when we do certain service to God, we might be faced with the devil's opposition, and that may cause us more strain and hardness in service. Therefore, serving God is a call to persevere and a call to be patient in achieving all our assignments in a perfect way and on time.

III. Yad: *"10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets."* (Hosea 12:10 KJV) The Hebrew and Arabic Word used for ministry in *"by the ministry of the prophets"* is 'Yad', and it is used 1447 times in the Old Testament, and the meaning of 'Yad', is hand, wrist, support and strength. Some of the application of this word we can find in theses Scriptures:

"18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they

strengthened their hands for this good work.” (Nehemiah 2:18 KJV) The hand of God is what He is doing and achieving in the ministry today. When we are willing to use our hands and wrists with strength to support the works of God, then that is the hand of God working through our lives and ministry. **“So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”** Therefore, let us strengthened our hands by the strength of the Lord and let us accomplish faithfully the ministry and service that is assigned for us to do.

“9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.” (Nehemiah 6:9 KJV) The enemy usually attacks the mind to discourage us and make us weak to weaken our hands in order to delay the hand of God from working and from producing service and what God wants to achieve. Therefore, now let us pray to God and to ask Him, ‘Lord strengthen our hands’, ask Him, ‘Lord strengthen my hands’, ‘Lord strengthen my hands’, so that we can continue to do our ministry and service to God, and when Jesus will come He will reward us and repay us good for all our labors, services and suffering unto Him.

“6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.” (Nehemiah 8:6 KJV) Lifting up the hands toward God is an act of faith and in agreement with God to do and support the works of God. Therefore, let us raise our hands to the Lord in agreement with His Word, and in agreement to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to continue to serve Him and to continue to do His will and His works.

In the New Testament we can find the following Greek Words that speak about the Word ‘**ministry**’:

IV. Leitourgia: Which means service or sacrifices offered to administer at the person own expense, a volunteer, or to offer gift or benefaction for the relief of the needy. This Word ‘**Leitourgia**’, describes the ministry of Jesus, who offered His body to be put to death on the cross; a sacrifice for our sins, to redeem us and give us the gift of life, the salvation of God, the eternal life. The following are some of the Scriptures that the Word ‘**Leitourgia**’ mentioned in them:

A. Hebrews 8:1-6 speaks about Jesus who obtained more excellent ministry in purchasing and building His church better than Moses’ ministry in building the Old Testament tabernacle:

“1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. 6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent

ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” (Hebrews 8:1-6 KJV) Jesus bore the pain, the shame of our sins, and the suffering to offer us eternal life. Therefore, ministry in the New Testament is a sacrifice; something costly, given to the Lord, causing you pain, and that you give to the Lord willingly.

Therefore, serving the Lord is not that you are looking for something easy, but it is a leitourgia, suffering with pain and in complete willingness. The following where further the Word ‘**Leitourgia**’, is used:

“23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.” (Luke 1:23 KJV) The priest Zechariah left the temple of God and went home when he finished waiting on his ministry and office in the temple of God. Therefore we ourselves should not go and rest without finishing what is assigned for us from service and ministry.

B. “12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.” (2 Corinthians 9:12 KJV) Giving material things to support the ministry of God is a painful sacrifice, but that will have great impacts. Giving your tithes, your offerings, and your firstfruits might be painful because you are called to take things out from what you had labored. But you are doing that because you are conscious of God and the Lord shall honor you for that. The value of this service is as the following:

1. It is pleasant to the Lord.
2. It supplies the needs of the saints.
3. It supplies the needs of the church and the ministry.
4. It is used to reach out new people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
5. It is fruitful because those who will hear the message and got saved they will start to praise God and serve Him.
6. Those who will benefit from this service they will glorify God and give Him thanks for your sacrifice that you do willingly to serve the Lord.

Let us read **2 Corinthians 9:6-15** to be reminded and to have deeper understanding. ***“6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; 13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your***

liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; 14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-15 KJV)

C. “Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.” (Philippians 2:17 KJV) Paul was willing to offer his life as a sacrifice just for the purpose of building the faith of others, and he was willing to do that with joy as He said, “I joy, and rejoice with you all.” Therefore, Brethren, we need to rejoice and be glad if we are offering our lives, belongings, money and other material things for the service of others.

D. “25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. 26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: 30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.” (Philippians 2:25-30 KJV) Epaphroditus, the companion of Paul was willing for the sake of Christ’s work, even to put his life unto death to supply the Philippians to what was lack of their service toward Paul as we can read here, “Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.”

My dear and beloved: As you read, or hear and you are enlightened with God’s Word, commit your life to the ministry of God, submitting to the rules of God, and willingly let your life be used as a sacrifice, a ‘Leitourgia’, following the example of Jesus, the example of Paul, the example of Epaphroditus, so that the salvation of God will spread to others, and your service will enrich God’s church and the saints.

Do not be hindered by any cause from serving God and getting you involved in the ministry. Remember also and put it in your mind that many will be blessed by your ministry, and that the Lord shall reward you for your labor and suffering in your ministry. Don’t waste your life and offer it to worldly things but come and serve the Lord. **Devil I rebuke you in the name of Jesus, go away from the people of God. All of you come to God and start to serve Him.** 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 all the teaching, corrections and the admonishments I received in this message. Lord thank you for calling me to serve you. Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from your Word.

Let us confess to the Lord our sins. Repent of your laziness, worldliness, selfishness, your yoke with non believers and friends, and wasting your time on the Media, News, games, etc. Lord forgives me I repent of the following sins _____.

Come everyone of you and start to serve the Lord and do His works and enjoy His presence and His miracles and wonders in your life.

Lord, I am offering the parts of my body as a living sacrifice to serve you and to do the works of yours in full as you ordained it to be. Lord I am willing to suffer for you and for the cause of your Word and your salvation. Lord give me good health; strength and perseverance to continue to be fruitful and effective till you come and take me to Heaven. Lord here am I, ‘Send me to the lost souls’. Lord protect me and provide for me. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and gives me the gifts of the Holy Spirit that I need to spread your Word.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to serve you and to live according to what we had studied in your Word. Lord give them boldness and sustain them to proclaim your Word and your will to the people that you are sending them to. Lord protect them and provide their needs. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit so they can go and evangelize and make disciples. Lord let their life testimony attract others and bring them into your Kingdom. Lord I pray for others to give their lives to you and start to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enable us to declare your Word in full to those whom you are sending us to. Lord enable us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord help us to plant new Bible studies, new congregations, and to raise more disciples and workers to serve you. Lord continue to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord take the message and spread it and make it reach the places that you want it to reach and bring the fruits you desire. 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.

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