

The Role of the Church Authority Part 2

God over all the ages called leaders to lead His church and His people. In the regard to the works of God in the church there are two types of leaders needed to do the works of God. *First*, are those who are responsible for teaching and equipping the saints for the service of God. *Second*, are those who are responsible to do the administrative work of God's service. **Some workers should do the administrative work so the leaders who are responsible of teaching and equipping the saints will be free and have more time for preaching and teaching the Word of God and for prayer.**

"1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:1-7 KJV)

From the above event we learned that there was administrative problem in the form that one group had been neglected from the daily distribution of food. At that time the apostles were the one standing on tables to distribute the food to the believers. That responsibility was in addition to their main task to teach and preach the Word of God and prayer. The Load on them was more because the church was expanding and the administrative work was taken much time from them and affecting their main ministry and achievement. The apostles were really pressed hard to achieve their task with the increasing responsibilities to secure food distribution to everyone. *"2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables."* (Acts 6:2 KJV) Therefore the following suggestion had been put forward: *"3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."* (Acts 6:3-4 KJV) Here in the suggestion of the apostles we found there is emphases on the quality of the workers before given the responsibility to them; they needed to be filled with wisdom and with the Holy Spirit. That determined their real commitment to God and to live according to His Word. The proposal of the apostles was to create an administrative post done by committed disciples with certain Godly criteria to ensure that the task will be achieved successfully and honestly by Godly men.

God's Word teaches us how to chose Godly workers (deacons) who help in the church administration: *"8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a*

deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 3:8-13 KJV)

"5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude:" (Because it was God's will to keep God's service and His grace to reach His people using Godly men who have faith and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. With that decision seven Godly men added to the church leadership to help in caring for the needs of God's people.) *"and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: "They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them."* (Acts 6:5-6 KJV) In doing that the following was achieved for the early church: *"7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."* (Acts 6:7 KJV)

Appointment of suitable leaders to perform administrative work will expand the church through the following:

- 1. The Word of God spread:** More rapid evangelism would be achieved because more time for us to reach new groups and areas with the gospel.
- 2. The number of disciples will increase:** More time will be available for those who are responsible for teaching to go and make disciples.
- 3. large number of religious leaders would become obedient to the faith:** As more time was available for the apostles, they were spending more time in prayers at the feet of Jesus and through prayers God worked to touch and change many people's lives. **When more time would be available for us for prayer then even the impossible people God can change and bring to faith.**

The Word of God also teaches us about certain criteria must be available to those whom God calls to lead His church and teach His people the Word of God. They are elders to others in the congregation and could serve as workers, elders, deacons, pastors or overseers: *"1 This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."* (1 Timothy 3:1-7 KJV) We can read also further from other Scriptures: *"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 1:6-9 KJV) “2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:2, 15 KJV)

The Church of God Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates and all the congregations under its care adopts the following criteria for the approved worker who can function in a suitable church office and do certain ministry according to the gift of the Holy Spirit that he or she received from the Lord:

1. *True conversion which entails that the worker should remember a moment, a turning point that he turned from sins and decided to follow Christ. This entails also repentance, faith in Jesus, life’ testimony, and water Baptism.*
2. *Sound in doctrine that he knows the ways of God and the way God wants His people to live.*
3. *Spiritual discipline by daily practicing prayer, Bible reading and study, praise and worship, and in fasting as led by the Holy Spirit.*
4. *Commitment to the local church which include to attend regularly, to meet the financial needs through regular tithing, giving the firstfruit and offerings, and to agree and go along the vision and the leadership of the church. God may give to every believer a vision, but these individual visions should go along the vision of the church.*
5. *Good Steward for time, talents, resources and money. The worker should be sound in managing these resources, and knows how to spend wisely.*
6. *Family responsibility. The worker should manage well his marital and parental responsibilities.*
7. *Work responsibility. The worker should be willing to work in a secular job whenever that is needed besides doing his ministry.*
8. *Moral purity (No work of the flesh) and no bad habits, (no smoking and no drinking).*
9. *Good character and attitude, the worker should have personal integrity, and possess the fruit of the Holy Spirit.*
10. *Modest appearance for dress, speech, conduct and life style that pleases God.*
11. *Being a good citizen, keeping the country rules, praying for the leaders of the nations and evangelizing the lost.*

The church is the Kingdom of God on earth. The Lord promised us to give us the Kingdom but we received the church from Him. Through the church God would work in the life of His people and God would use the church to convey and impact His message and influence all the nations of the world. Therefore for this reason the Lord would entrust His church with His Word and with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so the message can be spread to the whole people of the world.

We had discussed in the previous issues, using the leadership of Moses as a model for that, some of the rules and responsibilities of the church in her response to God’s call in caring for God’s people and nurturing them and providing for them the spiritual

atmosphere to grow in God’s grace, and this would be achieved by appointing over them God’s fearing people to lead them to grow with His grace.

Now we will speak about the appointment of a leader to succeed the previous leader after his death. We know that Moses led the people of God out of Egypt and delivered them out from the hand and the power of Pharaoh and brought them to the border of the promised land. Here the Lord spoke to Moses the following: **“12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel. 13 And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered. 14 For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.” (Numbers 27:12-14 KJV)** When God faced Moses with the above fact, the problem for Moses was not that he will not enter to the promised land but was who will lead the people after his death. There is a real need for a capable leader to keep the system and everything that was prepared by God through Moses. Therefore Moses spoke to the Lord the following: **“15 And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, 16 Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, 17 Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.” (Numbers 27:15-17 KJV)** That concern of Moses was a Godly concern for the wellbeing of the whole community of God because there must be a leader after Moses who will act as a head spear to lead the people and to govern, audit, coordinate and direct all what had been established by God through Moses.

The Lord answered Moses and granted His request because that was His will as well. **“18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. 22 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: 23 And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.” (Numbers 27:18-23 KJV)**

Joshua was the one chosen by God; he was Moses aide, a man of faith whose heart was fully committed to the Lord. **“1 And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel. 2 And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan. 3 The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said. 4 And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed. 5 And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you. 6 Be strong and of a good courage,**

fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. 8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; and he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:1-8 KJV) Moses was the man who had the vision from God for the entire ministry and he did everything as the Lord had commanded him. But there must be someone after Moses who will continue the vision of God for the people and bring them to the promised land and make them settled there. That will only be possible if they live in God’s Word and be obedient to God and His commands. For that to be achieved there was a real need for a successive leader who should have the zeal and the commitment and the real love for God to achieve what the Lord had commanded in His Word and revealed in vision to the previous leader who carried the vision of God.

King David led the people of God in righteousness and the Lord had promised him that after him He will put one of his descendants on the throne. Therefore as he was old in age the Lord enabled him to appoint his son Solomon *“32 And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. 33 The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. 35 Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah. 38 So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David’s mule, and brought him to Gihon. 39 And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon. 40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.” (1 Kings 1:32-35, 38-40 KJV)* *“1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; 3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: 4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.” (1 Kings 2: 1-4 KJV)* The successors should be fully committed and faithful to the Lord so that the Lord would fulfill all His promises to His people. King Solomon was enabled by the Lord to build the Temple of God, although that was the vision of David but Solomon his successor achieved it to the Lord.

My Dear and Beloved: * From the above description in this message God’s church have great role on earth to achieve the purpose of God in the life of His people and in the life of all people on earth. * The purpose of the message is to make you realize and understand

that and commit yourself to the Lord to achieve that, to live in holiness, to live the Word of God, to spread His Word, to go and make disciples, to raise workers to do the works of God and to fill the vacant places and to go with God and His plan to sustain His church to the next generations until Jesus will come and take us to Heaven. Let us pray

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 thank you for your calling upon my life and I thank you for considering me faithful and appointed me in your service. Lord thank you for all the material blessings and the spiritual gifts that you had given to me to serve you. Lord thank you for the teaching, the correction, the rebukes and the admonishments we received from you in this message, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*

Confess now your sins and renounce them. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for material things and money. Confess and renounce your lust, immoralities, your worldliness and the works of the flesh in your life. Confess your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Confess and renounce your carelessness and your non concern for God’s church and to help in the ministry. Confess your lack of prayers and reading God’s Word. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, your non willingness to use the Holy Spirit gifts that God gave you to serve Him, and your bad example to others. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to be a responsible person, thinking the things of yours, denying myself for the sake of your purpose and plan in my life and the life of your church, your people and the whole human kind. Lord I commit myself to set a good example to others. Lord equip me with more spiritual gifts to enable me to go on spreading your Word and serving your people, making new disciples, training new workers, and implementing your will. Lord give me good health and strength, protect me and provide all my needs to go on and serve you. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and responded to your call in their lives. Lord fill them with wisdom and the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to serve you. Lord increase their faith and give them perseverance to pursue what you had called them to do. We come against all the works of the devil in their lives and we cast it out in the name of Jesus. Lord use their lives as good testimony to others to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to accomplish your purpose and your will in our lives as we study in this message, and to secure trained workers and church leaders for now and for the next generations to come. 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 we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord prepare us for your coming to take us with you when you come. 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.

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

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