

## The Role of the Church Authority Part 3

The church leadership is responsible to keep the commands of the Lord and the teaching that had been passed to them through their previous founded leaders. At the end of the life of Moses Joshua was chosen by God to bring the people into the promise land to settle there. Moses died and Joshua showed his full faithfulness to God by putting into action all the commands of God that He received through Moses as we can read below:-

*“10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it. 12 And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying, 13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land. 14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; 15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD's servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising. 16 And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. 17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. 18 Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.”* (Joshua 1:10-18 KJV) So here we found that Joshua and the people even in their battle strategy they followed and put in action what Moses had recommended them to do.

One of the important points here is the obedience of the successive leader and the obedience of the people in following all the instruction of Moses who had the clear vision from God of all what is going to take place. **To obey the instruction of the ancestor leaders will bring God's blessings in people's life and give smooth and safe way of living. The Israelites as they obeyed all the instructions that Moses gave, they found that all things were falling in the right places and God granted them great victory and big plunder with prosperous future for them and for their children.**

In crossing the Jordan Joshua and the Israelites followed the instruction that God gave through His servant Moses as we can read here: *“10 For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over. 11 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over, that the ark of the LORD passed over, and the priests, in the presence of the people. 12 And the children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, passed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses spake unto them: 13 About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the LORD unto battle, to the plains of Jericho.”* (Joshua 4:10-13 KJV)

*“30 Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal, 31 As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel. 33 And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. 35 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 8:30-35 KJV) So here from this Scripture we can see that when Joshua took the leadership after Moses he did everything the Lord had commanded through Moses.

Let us read another example which show clearly the obedience of Joshua and all the leaders to the instructions of God to them through Moses in dealing with the affairs of life, ministry and the enemies of God, *“12 And all the cities of those kings, and all the kings of them, did Joshua take, and smote them with the edge of the sword, and he utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. 13 But as for the cities that stood still in their strength, Israel burned none of them, save Hazor only; that did Joshua burn. 14 And all the spoil of these cities, and the cattle, the children of Israel took for a prey unto themselves; but every man they smote with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, neither left they any to breathe. 15 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 11:12-15 KJV)

Even in the distribution of the land as inheritance to the tribes of the Israelites they followed Moses' instructions, *“23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.”* (Joshua 11:23 KJV) Joshua even distributed the land according to Moses' instruction as we can read in the following verses, *“15 And Moses gave unto the tribe of the children of Reuben inheritance according to their families. 24 And Moses gave inheritance unto the tribe of Gad, even unto the children of Gad according to their families. 29 And Moses gave inheritance unto the half tribe of Manasseh: and this was the possession of the half tribe of the children of Manasseh by their families. 32 These are the countries which Moses did distribute for inheritance in the plains of Moab, on the other side Jordan, by Jericho, eastward.”* (Joshua 13:15, 24, 29, 32) *“5 As the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land.”* (Joshua 14:5 KJV)

*“1 The LORD also spake unto Joshua, saying, 2 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, Appoint out for you cities of refuge, whereof I spake unto you by the hand of Moses: 3 That the slayer that killeth any person unawares and unwittingly may flee thither: and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.”* (Joshua 20:1-3 KJV) Here we found God was speaking to Joshua and is reminding him to do what he was instructed to do

through Moses, even Moses now was dead. So here even God was confirming His instructions to Moses and was reminding Joshua to do that completely.

***“1 Then came near the heads of the fathers of the Levites unto Eleazar the priest, and unto Joshua the son of Nun, and unto the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel; 2 And they spake unto them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, The LORD commanded by the hand of Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with the suburbs thereof for our cattle. 3 And the children of Israel gave unto the Levites out of their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their suburbs.” (Joshua 21:1-3 KJV)*** Even here the Levites reminded the priest, Joshua and the head of the other tribes of Israel about their rights to have towns and pasturelands for their livestock as God commanded through Moses. And the Israelites responded to their request, ***“8 And the children of Israel gave by lot unto the Levites these cities with their suburbs, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.” (Joshua 21:8 KJV)***

Joshua in his farewell to the eastern tribes spoke to them the following: ***“4 And now the LORD your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side Jordan. 5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. 6 So Joshua blessed them, and sent them away: and they went unto their tents. 7 Now to the one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given possession in Bashan: but unto the other half thereof gave Joshua among their brethren on this side Jordan westward. And when Joshua sent them away also unto their tents, then he blessed them, 8 And he spake unto them, saying, Return with much riches unto your tents, and with very much cattle, with silver, and with gold, and with brass, and with iron, and with very much raiment: divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren.” (Joshua 22:4-8 KJV)*** He reminded them to keep obeying the entire commandments and the law of the Lord that Moses gave them because that was the reason for all the blessing that they had, and in keeping that they were keeping all the blessings of God in their lives and in the lives of their children and their children’s children.

Joshua in his final farewell to the leaders, judges and officials of the Israelites told them the following: ***“4 And now the LORD your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side Jordan. 5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul. 6 So Joshua blessed them, and sent them away: and they went unto their tents. 7 Now to the one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given possession in Bashan: but unto the other half thereof gave Joshua among their brethren on this side Jordan westward. And when Joshua sent them away also unto their tents, then he blessed them, 8 And he spake unto them, saying, Return with much riches unto your tents, and with very much cattle, with silver, and with gold, and with brass, and with iron, and with very much raiment: divide the spoil of your enemies with***

***your brethren.” (Joshua 23:1-8 KJV)*** Joshua as he was an obedient leader he challenged them to obey all the law of God that they received from Moses and follow all His instructions in order that His blessings and grace will continue to flow in their lives.

Now we will discuss another important rule for the church leadership: ***“9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel. 10 And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, 11 When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: 13 And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.” (Deuteronomy 31:9-13 KJV)*** This important role for the church leadership is the following: **The church in order to secure the Word of God to reach to the next generation in a proper way is responsible to provide a record for the law of God in writing so that there will be always a written explanation for the Word of God as a record directing the people of the things that they need to do in their lives.** The purpose of writing is to have clear materials ready at any time to be read to the people, ***“that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:”*** That not only for them but also for, ***“their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.”***

As we discussed on ***Joshua 8:30-35***, that after the death of Moses Joshua took the leadership as the Lord had commanded and Joshua did everything the Lord had commanded through Moses. ***“35 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)*** What helped Joshua as a leader to do that was the availability of the written materials in Joshua’s hand, which enabled him to do exactly what God had commanded through Moses. **Therefore it is so important for the church to provide clear written materials for all that what was commanded by the Lord, written in a clear manner, pointing out the sound doctrine and teaching to be followed by all.**

That was the reason that God had wrote His Ten Commandment on two stones, and that was why Moses wrote down all what he had received from the Lord so that the community of the Israelites will be directed with the ways of the Lord and what God wanted them to do and how to live their lives unto him. At that time the first five books that Moses wrote was the good teaching curriculum for the people to settle and live gracefully in the promised land.

In the same way after the coming of Jesus and His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead and ascension to Heaven there was growing need for teaching materials for the expanding church that started to be widespread and for agreed curriculum for discipleship. Then that led for the writing of the New Testaments four gospels, the letters of Paul, Peter, John and the rest of the agreed epistles that we can found today in the New Testament.

\* Now here in our hands the whole Bible, the Old and the New Testaments, all is the Word of God and we need to read, meditate on and obey His Word. \* In addition to that the Lord had placed in His church the office of the teacher who is responsible to teach the truth extracted from the Scripture. \* The teachers in the church are responsible to teach from the Word of God and make disciples in what is accord with the sound teaching. \* The teachers in the church are responsible to put forward in front of the church and the disciples the clear application of God's Word in people's daily life. \* They are also responsible to record their teaching and what the Holy Spirit enabled them to extract from the Word of God. \* They have to provide clear teaching materials whether in written, audios or videos so it can be used for the expanding of the church and reach places and times where the teachers cannot reach and also to keep the non adulterated Word of God teaching for the next generations.

The following was what Paul wrote to Timothy: ***"14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*** (1 Timothy 3:14-15 KJV) Paul was willing to go and visit Timothy and the church that was under his care but he also knew that he may not be able to do it or he may be able to do it but later on. But whether he would be able to achieve that or not, Paul did his part by sending teaching materials for Timothy to teach the church and the people under his care the will of God and the ways of the Lord. So there were written materials proper for teaching from Paul to the church, even if he would not be able to reach there, still they had received from the Lord the teaching that they needed to know and follow.

For this reason Paul also wrote to Timothy and Titus his leaders the following: ***"13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."*** (2 Timothy 1:13 KJV) ***"10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,"*** (2 Timothy 3:10 KJV) ***"6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."*** (1 Timothy 4:6 KJV) ***"1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"*** (Titus 2:1 KJV)

***My Dear and Beloved:*** The church is responsible to provide a clear sound teaching and doctrine from the Word of God, written and recorded in clear way for the whole church to follow, and that to be a sound teaching materials for all the leaders, councils members, deacons, pastors, teachers and overseers of the church to follow in their ministry and service unto the Lord.

***"20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."*** (Proverbs 19:20 KJV) Take heed of all the instructive word written for your benefits in this message and apply them in your life and ministry.

***"8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and***

***heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."*** (Philippians 4:8-9 KJV)

***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 message that made things clear in my mind. Lord thank you for all the faithful leaders that you had raised in our church, and thank you for the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

*Confess now your sins and renounce them. Confess and renounce your disobedience to God's Word and to the instruction of the church leaders that passed unto you that comes from God's Word. Confess and renounce doing your own will and your own plan. Confess and renounce being lazy and disorganized of doing things in order according to God's Word and His plan and will. Confess and renounce being bad example, and is not willing to persevere in discipline to pass the teaching intact to the next generation. Confess your lack of prayers and reading God's Word. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins*

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*Lord I commit myself to be a responsible person, to follow, meditate and obey your Word and what was pass unto me from teaching that was extracted from your Word through the leaders that you had placed over your church to care for me. Lord remind me always to obey what I received. Lord help me to read, meditate and obey your Word that I read in the Bible. Lord sustain me, protect me and provide for me as I am willing to serve you, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and are willing to follow your Word and the instructions of the church leaders that comes from God's Word. Lord help them in their lives, and prosper them as they are willing to pass the teaching and the message to the next generation and to further places. Lord make their lives good testimonies to others to follow you.*

*Lord we pray as a church that you will enable us to prepare complete teaching materials for the next generation so they will have complete instructions of what we had received from your Word. Lord we pray that you will raise faithful leaders who will fill the offices of the church overseer, the council, the deacons, the regional overseers, the pastors and the teachers of the church and who are willing to follow exactly the instructions that was passed unto them. 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.*

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