

THE GODLY MAN IN CHURCH.

The church is God's pasture that is well watered. Paul in reference to the church has this to say "Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel". Meaning it is the place where people come to be taught, encouraged and refreshed through the word of God as we live out the gospel" Ephesians 3:10-12 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" "When men in the church reflect Jesus people experience the reality of God's word. Not that the Word is not real but we are made to bring it to life" Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. God is looking for men to use men whose desires are nothing less than pleasing Jesus 1cor.2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified., God desires men like in Jeremiah 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord. Until we come to this vision the vision of church will constantly elude us.

Jesus loves His church which is his body Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence and God from the beginning gave men custody of His word according to His eternal plan fulfilled in Christ" Genesis 2:15-17 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." By this all men are custodian of God's word in order words priests in God's service especially we who are of Christ" Peter 2:5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Consequently, men have a pivotal role to play in the house of God.. God expected Adam to teach his wife obedience by how practical he obeys the instruction but we see the disaster when he failed to obey in Gen 3. When men fail to fulfill God's call on their lives, they will suffer many woes just like the earth suffered and still suffering due to Adam's failure but praise Jesus who died to bring us back to God.

Most times in the scripture God will raise a man and make him responsible whenever He wants to carry out His will. God raised Noah when He planned to destroy the earth and save men, When God wanted to bless all nations of the earth by bringing Jesus He raised Abraham. Moses was used by God to free the Israelites from Egypt, Joshua led them to the promise land, Men Kings to rule, Jesus raised 12 men to take the good news to the world and to establish churches. Men are to lead in all church

ministries"1 Corinthians 14:34-35 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

When we look at the men God called and used we see godly men like Moses; SERVANT AND HUMBLE Hebrews 3:5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, Always ready to serve God through serving his people. He was so eager to serve that he built the tabernacle so complex as it is and still maintain the instruction of making it according to the pattern God showed him Ex.25:40. God testified of Moses's humility in Numbers 12:3,6-8 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)6-8 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?" Moses knew that God had called him to lead His people and sought God's help to fulfill that purpose" Exodus 33:12-13 The Promise of God's Presence Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."Is that your heart and prayer?

FAITH (ABRAHAM); Abraham was a man of faith. When God called him out of his father's house to go somewhere else with a promise Gen.12. He didn't hesitate but obeyed, he had confidence in God's faithfulness to do what he promised and that God can't lie, Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Abraham started by a simple movement trusting God to lead the way. God confirmed later confirmed to him that everywhere the soul of his feet touched would be his. As men God has called us to serve Him in His church one way or another. Why? Christ has given each one of us gifts to invest in His house Ephesians 4:7,12-13 Spiritual Gifts But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 12-13 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Only by faith (trusting that God can use you) can we invest our gifts. He wants returns on our gifts. Are still waiting? Start by doing little things usher, prayer, singing, outreach, toilet, counselling, encouraging etc.

DANIEL (GODLY AND PRAYERFUL); Remarkable man served various pagan kings in holiness and righteousness He was so holy in his way of life that his colleagues look for evidence for wrong doing to accuse him but found none" Daniel 6:3-5 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God." We must be guilty of holiness and not sin if we must use

us. Holiness is the eye that sees God. It is the mind that has full revelation of Jesus, it is the attainment of full maturity in Christ. God cannot use anyone who glories in sin. Daniel understands the importance of prayer. Not even the King's decree could prevent him from his God. He knew that without constant communion with God he will fail. As men we must stand in the gap in prayer to see great work of God done in our church. Prayer fellowship must receive proper attention. Daniel was prayerful because he was more concerned for the well being of God's people Daniel 9

LOVING (NEHEMIAH); Nehemiah deeply loves God and that love overflows into a life of serving and loving others, loving his family and nation, surrounding entire life around glorifying God. Nehemiah deeply sought God, there was evidence of the spirit, man in whom wisdom came through the hearing and obedience to the word. God had to use him to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. Man of love, compassion, selfless who never found comfort serving the king but was distressed when he heard that his people were in distress and suffering, he chose to do something about it because he loved his people. Nehemiah 1:1-11 tells the story. Think of how many broken people cross our paths in church and elsewhere that we fail to notice? Are more concerned about ourselves than other people? If God will use to heal and minister to the people we must first be genuinely concerned

MEN OF THE WORD like Ezra who devoted himself to study the word of God" Ezra 7:6,10 this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him. 10. For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. God is looking for men who will love his word and take time to study, men in whom wisdom flows through the study and obedience to the Word, 1 Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. Ezra led the people of God to repentance, to establish proper worship after the rebuilding of the temple by the reading and teaching of God's word. We must have proper understanding of God's word to grow spiritually and effectively minister to God's people 2 Peter 1:5-9 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Men like Joseph with dedicated spirit to serve God and mankind. Who could not be enticed by lustful pleasure to sin against God and betray his master. Potiphar's wife could not entice him to sleep with her however much she was willing to offer herself and gifts as well. He was ready to suffer for his faith, to lose all everything that he had gained for sake of his God, "Genesis 39:6-10 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because

you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. Paul said the only worth of his life is to suffer for Jesus" 20:22-24 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. What give meaning to your life? Are we more dedicated to ourselves than to Jesus? Joseph is perfect example of dedication to Christ, his life and world means nothing to him. Christ is the only life and world he knows. What are your major priorities? Sex, money, wealth, self seeking? Sin must not rule our hearts.

OBEDIENT TO AUTHORITY people like Joshua and Samue who diligently served the leaders God had placed over them. They both helped their leaders to fulfill the duty which God gave them. Joshua waited patiently for Moses 40 days and night in the desert mountain while the rest turned their backs on Moses EXODUS 32. Samuel waited on Eli in the middle of the night. 3 times he ran to serve Eli's when he heard his name 1 Samuel 3 study the entire chapter. Men without pride and envy. They were never a burden to their leaders but helpful and peaceful. They offer themselves as burden bearers. They were just contented with serving their leaders while allowing God to make plans for them. Samuel didn't get puffed even when God gave him a woeful message for Eli and his family, Joshua did not point at Moses's weaknesses but remained always at the tent of meeting waiting for Moses's orders, they delightfully helped these leaders to fulfill their missions Hebrews 13:17 tells us "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. As a result God used both men in remarkable ways. Are you willing to serve God where he has placed you? How helpful are you to your pastors and ministry leaders? Or are on the sideline saying it doesn't concern me? Get on board and offer yourself the blessing of being used by God.

People like Stephen full of the spirit Acts 2:8 Paul sold out for Jesus Philippians 3, Peter loving to the end, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who defied the king's order and compelled him to acknowledge God. Throwing everything they have to serve Jesus not considering the cost but saying no cost is enough for Jesus. He is worth dying for!! Are you that man.