**DEVELOPING PASTORAL TEAMS CAPABLE OF LEADING CHURCHES**

**LEADERSHIP**

**One man defined Leadership as the capacity to influence others through inspiration motivated by a passion, generated by a vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose\_ Myles Munroe**

**TEAM WORK**

**LEADERSHIP IS TEAM WORK**

**What makes a team A TEAM?**

The work of ministry is Team work! Ministry is not one man's show. Jesus Christ when he came to the Earth, though being God, when he started the work of Ministry, the first thing he did was to call some people and formed a team of twelve. This term would be known later as the twelve apostles.

When Jesus saw the plentiful harvest, and limited laborers, he began providing the remedy for this lack. He called his apostles as the solution for them, who would be sent.

Matthew 9:35-38

[35]Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

[36]Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

[37]Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

[38]Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Jesus realized that the work was so much that he could not be able to do it alone. He Called people, and Empowered them to be able to do what he did.

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness, v.35. Jesus spent his best time, the three years empowering those people so that they would be able to do all that he did after his departure. They would repeat the process after he departed.

When he called his disciples in Matthew 10, he empowered them to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness, and instructed them to proclaim the kingdom of God, v.7, all these things were the things that Jesus did. So to widen his influence, he had to call and empower people who would be able to do what he did. He gave them instructions, v.5-42, 11:1.

Every true church leader who follows Christ must imitate this. Call people, Empower, Give them instructions and send them. This was what Jesus did.

1. Call people,

2. Empower them

3. Give them instructions

4. And send them.

This was what Jesus did

He called his disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

**30 things that make a team a Team?**

1. **Purpose**: There must be a known purpose to die for. People don't just give in to die for the purpose that they don't understand. Before people can give into a team or leadership, they must understand clearly the purpose for the existence of a team. What is the purpose for the existence of your church? As a pastor, its your duty to make people to understand the reason for the existence of your church. Clearly teach about Church's vision.

2. **Leadership**: Every team starts with a leader. Leadership must be well defined, even when you are still a small ministry.

3. **Wisdom**: Every team leader must have wisdom. Wisdom helps us on how to handle things.

4. **Clarity**: A team leader must be clear not confused. There must be clarity within the team leader.

5. **Vision**: A team leader must be visionary. Prov. 29:18 Hebrew word; chazon, prophetic vision. Make people to know the vision of the church. If I would ask, how many here know the vision of your own church. A vision tells you where you are going and why you do what you are doing!

6. **Trust**: A team leader must be trusted and he must be able to trust others. If you don’t trust anyone then no one will ever trust you.

7. **Communication**: Communication is so important in the team\_ This is the key in team work and leadership without which no team or leadership can exist.

8. **Discovery**: A leader of the team must be able to discover what is best for the team. You do discovery by consultation and reading books\_ I mean Christian books.

9. **Agreement [Consent]**: The team members should be able to disagree in order to agree. They must be able to disagree on what they see to be not working and agree upon what they see to be working (Amos 3:3)

10. **Consideration**: Consider the contribution of each and every person. Never undermine other's participation. In some churches they don’t always consider that the youth can be trusted with responsibility. Because they wrongfully think that they are the ones who fornicate, lie, and that they can backslide anytime. Okay may I find this from you. Haven’t you seen these things happening with old ones? Haven’t you seen old people lie, fornicate, commit adultery, backslide anytime and do all sinful things. Is it because they turned to be youths. I am a youth, and I got saved when I was 17 years and started ministry that same year. I have not compromised my purity. Character is the heart issue not age issue\_ John Wilson Okurut. The problem is not age, but the problem is right into the heart of the individual. If you don’t allow the Holy Spirit to work inside your heart, it doesn’t matter whether you are a youth or an old man of 90 years you will still live in sin. Learn to entrust the youth with responsibility, and develop the leadership potential in them.

11. **Fearless**: Team members should not fear challenges because challenges are chances to tap potential. Challenges come to prove what you are able to solve. Challenges come to test what material you are made of.

12. **Aim**: Every team member must have an aim of being in the team. Each person is in a team to develop his potential and explore his talent within the large team.

13. **Focus**: Each team leader and member must have focus. In order for them to achieve, they must live focused lives

14. **Direction**: Every team must have a well defined direction and the trend of how things must be done. Leadership must develop how things should be done. In our Church, there is away things are done. If you become member of our church, there is a class that you must attend first for three month. If you want to become a minister, then you must attend that class. We don’t mind whether you are from anointed church of Heaven, you must first join that class if you will be minister. We real don’t care to know the name of that big church that you are from, what we mind to know is that you have attended the training and known how things are done with us and why we do what we do.

15. **Determination**: The ability of every leadership is measured by their degree of determination. How do you handle problems as they arise, are you determined to remain focused to make an achievement or get offended, sidetracked and loose focus.

16. **Unity**: This is the binding factor of every team and leadership\_ Remember, there can never be a team without unity.

17. **Single mindedness**: In order for you to work successfully with people, remembering that ministry is not one man’s show, then, you must understand that Each person thinks differently, but the clear purpose brings us to work together, with one mind in order to achieve as a team. For every team to succeed, there must be one mind.

18. **Planning**: For without proper planning, every team is most likely to end on the way. Teams plan, set goals and aim at achieving those goals. You know, not planning is a strategy, and don’t be a team that has “No strategy as your Strategy for leadership.”

19. **Esteem and Respect**: A leader and team members must be able to esteem and respect each other. If one of the members feels underrated, then he will withdraw out of that team. Value each person. Never despise any one who is living except only a dead person. Avoid hurling/ throwing insults to members even in jokes. Don't abuse and belittle people in the team. Make them feel the worth of being in the team. I remember holding a training with one pastor in Kampala, and this was what she said about her church members, “My Christians are just devils. I just need God to remove these ones and bring me news believers.” I told her that, pastor what you are saying is very dangerous, you can’t call Christians devils. If God is to remove these ones you call devils, that means you cannot pastor anybody.

20. **Sacrifice**: A team leader and team members must be able to work for each other. Never be filled with self. Don't be like one of the presidents who said that "I am not a slave of anybody, but I am working for himself and his family."

21. **Achievement**: A team must be able to work for the achievement of each. In a team, each achieves much.

22. **Hope**: Every team must hope for the better results. It is a dangerous thing for you to be in a church and say things like, “For me I can’t say anything! Let me just watch them and see where they are going!” You are a dangerous character in the team. You better withdraw and leave the church, because you don’t hope for any good thing for the church.

23. **Motivation**: A leader must be motivational to keep his team encouraged to move forward. Imagine the leader who tells you things like, “I can not manage this church! This Church is going nowhere.”

24. **Courage**: This keeps the team moving, facing and opposing every threat and obstacle. When you are a leader, you have been chosen as a lion from the sheep to lead the sheep, not a sheep chosen from the lions to lead lions\_ John Wilson Okurut. So be a lion-leader not a sheep leader

25. **Obedience**: Every team must be shaped by obedience to the leadership. There is need of every member to understand the chain of command in leadership. Some one said in the animal farm, All animals are equal, but there are those who are more equal than others. Though we are all equal in a team, but within the team still, there are leaders and we need to give them their due honor and respect. Look at the army, every soldier knows how to operate the gun, but there are ranks that must be honored. You don’t say to the General, “Man we are all at the same level because we were enrolled together. I can’t salute you.” After saying this statement you will see the Discipline that you will receive.

26. **Order**: There must be a real chain of command. There must be a set trend on how matters must be done. The rules and regulations\_ The by-laws. In ministry, not everyone has to do what is right in his own eyes. That will be a leaderless church. It will be the church that is recorded in the book of Judges. The Bible says, “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

27. **Love**: Each member must exhibit love for each other (John 13:34)

28. **Self** **control**: The members must keep themselves within the prescribed boundaries of the organization.

29. **Servanthood**: Every member is meant to serve each other. A leader is not a boss, he must be an example of a servant. Leaders should be servant leaders, not boss leaders (Mt. 20:26; 23:11). I always tell people that, I am a servant of God, not the boss of God. Most pastors are boss leaders. And sad enough, there are pastors who are so hard to be reached than God. The word service and ministry are the same words in the Bible, as are servant and minister. We are SAVED to SERVE\_ John Wilson Okurut

Many people in our culture dream of the day when they stop washing their own clothes. When they have someone else driving them around in a car. When someone else carries their bag for them. When they sit at the high table. If that is your dream, then don’t try ministry, try something else, because you are in a wrong place. Actually you are misplaced. Because with ministry it is all about service not being served.

**Some live to be served, others live to serve. Which one are you?**

You will never arrive at a place where you are too important for any job. God will never say oh you don’t have to clean the toilets any more, you are beyond that.

30. **Passion**: A leader’s passion for his purpose is like a flame, igniting new possibilities in the minds and hearts of other people, causing them to think in new ways and stirring up and revealing the convictions and visions within them. In this way, a leader’s vision gives meaning to others’ lives as it invites corporate commitment to a noble cause. People’s personal vision will always be found within a larger corporate vision

**WHAT MADE NEHEMIAH TO SUCCEED IN REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.**

**The best leadership model for church leaders is seen in the leadership of Nehemiah. He sets the precedent for leaders in all ages and in all time to follow. When we study the book of Nehemiah, there are things that we should be able to gleam on how to develop pastoral teams capable of leading churches.**

**1. PRAYER:** When Nehemiah heard what one of his brethren told him about the welfare and condition of Jerusalem; he responded everything by prayer. He had a burden for his people in his heart which forced him to break into tears. After hearing everything, he could not refrain himself but sat down and wept. He mourned for certain days. **Then FASTED AND PRAYED TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN.** He prayed and repented on behalf of Israel, chapter 1. If you are a leader here, and you are not going to part with food, in the times of prayer and fasting, then the devil has failed your pastoral ministry. As a Christian leader, don’t become the slave of food, know that there is fasting\_ John Wilson Okurut. All capable leaders of churches are men and women of prayer. I mean real prayer, not something like prayer. You are a leader and you can not pray for 1 hour, then there is a problem with you. Jesus had nights of prayer, and who do you think you are? Are you more than Jesus?

Nehemiah responded to each challenge that he encountered with prayer. You need to respond to every challenge that you will encounter with prayer. When his enemies mocked, despises him, he responded with prayer. He never reacted carnally with words of quarrels, but responded with prayer to God. The life of this revivalist Nehemiah was a life of prayer. He lived in the realms and atmosphere of prayer. In the like manner, church leaders like Nehemiah must be people of prayer. 'There can never be any revival unless men fall on their knees in seasons of prayer'

When you live in the atmosphere of prayer, miracles became normalities to you\_ John Wilson Okurut

**2. VISION.** Nehemiah had a God given vision in his heart to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah 2:12, 18. The great work that Nehemiah did in Jerusalem began with a vision in his heart. God gave him a vision. And because the vision was from God, God supported it. Always the vision of revival that starts with God will never lack God's provision and support. Remember, what starts with God ends with God\_ John Wilson Okurut. As a leader though you have received the vision, you need others (their help) in order for you to be able to carry out your vision. You need vision supporters. Though God laid a vision in his heart, he needed others. He had the vision, but his vision couldn't work without others, team work.

**3. PURPOSE:** The vision that God had set upon the heart of Nehemiah defined the purpose of Nehemiah. The purpose of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was to seek the welfare of the children of Israel, ch. 2:10. The purpose of rebuilding the broken walls of Jerusalem was to roll away reproach from the Jews, Ch.2:17. You have to do what you do because that is what you are called to do, not just merely because people call you pastor. If you do what you are doing because of the title, then you are a purposeless pastor.

**4. SPIRITUAL MAPPING:** He went at night and mapped every where. He carried out the details by himself at night, Chapter 2:12-17. You need to carry out spiritual mapping in order to find what went wrong so that that can be rectified. In the place that God will place you to do ministry, you need to know which spirit or spirits have been controlling that place so you can deal with it. When you are able to deal with the forces in that place, then you can be able to do effective pastoral ministry in that place.

**5. CONSULTATION:** Nehemiah consulted upon certain things from the elders which he had no knowledge of, ch.5:17. There should be no fear in consultation. You have to know this that, you know what you know that you don’t know. Its only God who does not need consultants because he has sufficient knowledge of everything. God consults from no body\_\_ John Wilson Okurut

**6. INTEGRITY:** He had integrity at his waist. Even when some of his servants turned corrupt\_ He addressed the issue of corruption seriously, ch.5:1-6, 7-10. He stood against the issue of bribes and commanded those who received bribes to restore it all to the people, ch. 5:11-13. To be a capable leader, then you must exhibit integrity. No one would like to work with a lying, dishonest, unreliable, untrusted and adulterous Pastor.

**7. PASSION:** Nehemiah was passionate on the work of rebuilding the walls. You have to be passionate with the pastoral work that you do. Don’t do the work of God by force. If all the time you do the work of God you complain and are just forced, then I would better advice you to quit from the work of ministry now.

**8. INSPIRATION:** He was an inspirational leader. He spoke to the people to rise up and build the walls, ch.2:17. And his passion motivated people to join in the work of revival without any manipulation. You must be positive, in order to inspire people. People do not like working with a leader who is always negative. Learn to search for gold in people than only looking for impurities in them\_ John Wilson Okurut

**9. WISDOM:** Wisdom helped Nehemiah greatly in his work of rebuilding the wall, on how things must be done and on setting up leadership and systems in place. Wisdom is not got from school, it is a gift from God. If you lack wisdom as a leader or pastor brother James says you can ask God for it. *James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

**10. WORD:** He had the word with him, and meditated upon it. He observed to do according to what is written there in. Through the study of the Word of God Nehemiah brought revival in marriage, in the feasts of the Lord, which had ended at the time of Joshua, by reading the law. For effective and capable leading of churches, the Word of God must take root in your life as a leader first, because the major tool and number one weapon of church leading is the Word of God. The responsibility of leading the church mainly calls us to come back to the ground of the Word of God. It is impossible to claim for revival when we are ignorant of the word of God! With some ministers if Satan confronted them and said, “Give me and read from your head 30 verses that you know which are in your head, those verses which you have stored in your mind for the time you have been in salvation.” I tell you, some of us will be in great trouble with Satan and yet we are leaders.

**11. DETERMINATION:** Nehemiah was determined to carry out the work of revival and finish it, he could not settle down until the work was all complete. As a leader, you must understand that there is work that God has set for you to do and finish. You must make sure you determine yourself to finish what God has set before you.

**12. FOCUS:** He was focused and never gave mind to the negatives and death threats from his enemies; Sanballat, Tobiah. He turned the deaf ear to the words of people. You can never succeed in the vision and your commitment as long as you keep stopping and giving your attention to every barking dark." And you can never reach your destination if you are going to stop stoning every dog that will bark at you\_ John Wilson Okurut

You will not be a capable leader if you do that.

**13. CONTENTMENT:** He never took the work of rebuilding the walls as the ground for gaining wealth for selfish gain, ch.5:14,15. He made a difference between himself and those who worked before him. This difference alone defines revival. He determined himself to make a difference in his leadership. You must determine to make a difference. If what has brought you into ministry is the bread on the alter, then you are in a wrong place. You are in a misplaced job.

**14. PROVISION.** A vision is supported by pro-vision. He needed material provision for food to facilitate the ongoing work, and food, ch.5:18. But though he needed provision, he determined the right way to obtain it not through exploitation and manipulation of people. The provision started from themselves. He said that they made ordinances to charge themselves yearly, ch. 10:32-39. Though God will direct and touch others to give to support to the ministry, but the provision must begin with you the vision bearer or pastor and your followers. If you are stingy, then you have already failed. You have to be generous, and the followers will watch you and do exactly what you are doing. You will teach the best sermons about giving and tithing, but as long as you are not doing what you are preaching, then you can not see your Christians give and tithe. Remember, your Christians do 10 % of what you tell them to do, but do 90% of what they see you doing\_ John Wilson Okurut

**15. SYSTEMS:** He set up leadership and systems. He set leaders on the work of; priests, Levites, singers, watch men, porters and overseers . This simplified his work and made supervision easy. Learn to decentralize leadership and trust people. Don’t get deceived to think you can do everything, you will kill your self before your time.

**16. COURAGE:** He refused to be discourage after a number of threats and discouragements, ch.7:2-9, 10. It took courage on Nehemiah to continue with the work of rebuilding the walls along the death threats.

**17. NON-CONFORMIST:** He never compromised and conformed to the things which were wrongly done by his own people (leaders), ch. 5:1-10, ch.15-28. Don’t live in compromise if you are to be a capable leader.

**18. STRATEGIC:** Nehemiah was a man of strategy. Even when threats of death and opposition came, he developed the strategy: He came up with the strategy to see that his work could not end on the way. He divided his servants, half of themdid the work on the wall, and half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows, and the habergeons. Even those who were building did it in such a way that, one hand did work and other hand held the weapon, Ch.4:7-8, 13, 16-19. When the work seems to suffer opposition, develop strategies in order to carry it on.

Remember, you are doing ministry and always this attracts opposition from the devil, the community and the fellow pastors from the neighboring churches. Sometimes your greatest enemies are not Satan, but the pastors from your neighboring churches.

**19. SHARED ROLE:** He invited the participation of many people. Pastoral work can only be possible as a team. A number of people did the work, each person taking part, ch.3. The work wasn't one man's show. The history of revival shows that God raises a team of people during any revival.

**20. Concentration**. Nehemiah put all his concentration on that one thing\_ Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. In life your concentration is always where your eyes (attention) is focused upon\_ John Wilson Okurut

If your (eyes) attention is focused at the distant object, all your concentration will be at that distant object. And when your attention is focused at a distant object, you will not think upon the near object, but your concentration will always be at your distant object. And vise versa.

Just stand outside and do that test. Consider two objects, one at 20 meters, and the other at 2kms in the same line and direction and you will test the power of your eyes, on those two tests of focus. This teaches us on our small or big dreams or goals and shows us that the much we can achieve them depends on how much concentration we put on any of them. When you're walking and you're to reach a long distance, don't lift your eyes to see the distance. But concentrate on walking ignoring the distance and you will reach where you are going\_ John Wilson Okurut

1. **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

As a leader in the pastoral team, you are expected to grow and develop in three areas in your life.

1. **Word of God**
2. **Character development or Christian character**
3. **Ministry involvement**

Unfortunately, most of us develop only in the Word of God and ministry involvement and yet zero in character. That tells us why most people rise up in ministry and then fall at a certain level.

**Let the minister take care THAT HIS PERSONAL CHARACTER AGREES IN ALL RESPECTS WITH HIS MINISTRY.**

We have all heard the story of the man who preached so well and lived so badly, that when he was in the pulpit everybody said he ought never to come out again, and when he was out of it they all declared he never ought to enter it again. From the imitation of such a Janus may the Lord deliver us. May we never be priests of God at the altar, and sons of Belial outside the tabernacle door\_ C.H. Surgeon

We often pray like this, as ministers of God, “God give me much anointing.” It is not wrong to pray for anointing. Well, God will give you the anointing. Only without character, that anointing will bring you into a place or position where your character can not stand. And the result will be failure! Your first prayer therefore should be, God help me to work on my character.

Some of us are praying for a breakthrough, and you are struggling with adultery, lying, pride and greed. First work on those flaws!

Christian Character is something that every believer must commit to. It is the one area of the Christian development that is hardest to measure yet it is one of the most important. Without good character a person cannot grow. You can have the gift to evangelize and the biblical knowledge to go along with it but if you’re not obeying God or living in sin – your knowledge and your gift have lost their integrity. A person may be a great preacher – but if they are known as a “womanizer” they will lose their influence within the church and community.

Your Christian maturity is measured by the level of your character not by how many verses you know in the Bible.

What a leader must carefully watch out in his life. The three Gs. Gold, Girls and Glory.

**Word of God**. How much word is in you.

**Challenge**; Allow me to ask every pastor to quote 5 verses off head that he knows.

If you are a pastor, the word of God in you should be like the way the painter is with the brasses.

As a pastor, you need to know well your Bible. Like a doctor, you need to know that if someone has a problem with his head you prescribe the medicine which will handle the head problem. That is how familiar you should be with your Bible. In the like manner, the doctor is familiar with medicine in prescribing to patients exact medicine so shall you be with your Bible. If some one has this such and such a problem, which verse in the Bible will you quote to handle that exact problem.

Your maturity is measured by how much the word of God has transformed and changed your life.

**Ministry involvement**: This is the real implication of what you have learnt from the word of God. Its where team work is felt.

Each person who becomes a part of a church is developed in ministry so they can reach their full potential as Christians, in life. There are many ways a person is developed in ministry including: ministry within the church, ministry on the mission field and ministry through local outreaches in the community, plus many other ministry opportunism that this church offers.

**DECENTRALIZATION AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY IN LEADERSHIP, EXODUS 18:12-26**

Decentralization is the distribution of authority of a governing body from being concentrated on the head to several bodies leading different groups within the organization.

1. Decentralize leadership v.21 [Set leadership structures and systems. Then set into those set structures and systems those who can lead 1000, set them over a thousand people. The ones who can lead, 100, 50, 10 people]

2. Identify leaders to be trained and equipped v.20

3. Train and equip leaders v.20 [First train and equip them before appointment to responsibilities. Don't first appoint leaders into responsibilities and then begin to train them later. If you do that, some of those appointees will refuse to be trained if you did appointment before training them. They may begin thinking that they know it all. *1 Timothy 5:22”* ***Don't appoint people to church leadership positions too hastily. If a person is involved in some serious sins, you don't want to become an unwitting accomplice. In any event, keep a close check on yourself”*** *(The message Bible)*

4. Define clearly duties and responsibilities during time of training and equipping v.20

5. Set a criteria of appointment of leaders v.21. Before appointing people into positions and responsibilities, first Look for certain character traits in leaders not just charisma. **I call this 2 C (Character and Charisma)**. Look for Character first, and then charisma. Myles Munroe a well known teacher in his book “The Power of Character in Leadership” wrote and said, “The world does not lack leaders, but it lacks character in leaders”

Look for character in leaders not Charisma. We don’t only need Charisma, neither do we just need only character. But the combination of two aspects make us effective leaders.

6. Appoint leaders according to their abilities v.21.

Those who can lead 1000, set them over a thousand people. The ones who can lead, 100, 50, 10 people]

Appointment of people for responsibilities should come after you have trained, equipped and showed them the work that they must do and well defined responsibilities.

7. Delegate authority in leadership v.21-23. Learn how to delegate work. Delegation is a test of trust\_ John Wilson Okurut.

8. Hold leaders accountable for their work and duties v. 22,26

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS OF NO DELEGATION

1. You will wear yourself away v18

2. The people which you lead will wear away too v18

3. It is a heavy thing to lead alone without the help of others v18

4. You will not be effective when you don't learn to delegate in leadership

5. It is not a good thing not to delegate in leadership v17

ADVANTAGES OF DELEGATION OF LEADERSHIP

1. The burden of leadership gets lighter because people will share responsibility with you v. 22

2. You will be able to stand the strain v.23

3. People will be satisfied v23

**THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Being led by the Holy Spirit is one of the hardest things that most people can afford.

You will find it so hard to be led by the Holy Spirit if you are not conscious of the staying/ dwelling of the Holy Spirit in you. This is what I call the ***Holy Spirit consciousness.*** In order to be led by the Holy Spirit, then, you must first cultivate the Holy Spirit consciousness in you and within you.

1. **The Holy Spirit Consciousness In You**

Consciousness relates to the awareness. So I am talking of the believers awareness of presence of the Holy Spirit in his/ her life. Are you aware that the Holy Spirit is in you living continuously in you, or you just know that the Holy Spirit just comes to you when you call on Him in prayer. What really makes the difference here is the degree of the awareness of the Holy Spirit and his presence upon different ministers.

This can and will help you to cultivate the Holy Spirit consciousness in you .You must know this, that, **“THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITH YOU WHILE BEING IN YOU”. John 14:17, *“The Spirit of truth… for he lives with you and will be in you”* WEB.**

NOTE: the Holy Spirit is not said to be living with you by being next to you! The Holy Spirit does not live with you by just being close to you! The Holy Spirit does not live with you by being around you!

Instead, **the Holy Spirit lives WITHIN you by being IN you**! You need to be conscious of this. You must get aware of this. When you get conscious of this then there will be a great deal of power released and this will project you into higher dimensions of anointing and usefulness for God!

Of certainty, it is possible for you to live with the person but when each person is doing his own staff, and even when each is taking his own side and direction because none lives in the inside of the other.

But that is not so with the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in you: **For he lives IN you while being IN you.** This means that your thoughts become imbibed (absorbed) into his thoughts.

The Holy Spirit’s strength gets molded in you into your strength! The Holy Spirit’s feelings get molded into your feeling because he lives and stays in you.

That is a reason you will find thoughts in you and you can’t understand or tell whether it’s your thoughts or the Spirit's. The Holy Spirit begins to control your feelings, thoughts and ideas.

You stop being independent! The Holy Spirit becomes your engine because he is IN you, in the same way that the engine of the car is in the car bonnet. The Holy Spirit begins to control all your ideas, feelings and everything about you and around you.

1. **How to recognize the leadership of the Holy Spirit in you?**

There are so many ways that you can recognize the Holy Spirit’s leadership in you.

One young man asked me in 2017 saying: “Wilson; ***At what time does the Holy Spirit really come to lead you?***

Because I always hear people speaking that the Holy Spirit leads you. Yet from the time you begin to prepare your notes\_ here you use your wisdom and knowledge in preparation not the Holy Spirit. And at the time when you begin to preach, you follow the notes that you prepared.

***At what time actually does the Holy Spirit come in and gets involved in your preaching as on leading you?***

I believe outside there, there are some people who are still holding the same question.

* Let me address this, with my own experience on how the Holy Spirit is involved in your sermon from the time of preparing it to the presentation until the end of the sermon.

To make you understand this, the Holy Spirit does not just come in only at a certain time of your presentation. The Holy Spirit is present from the time when you begin thinking of preparing the sermon\_ actually, He is the one who even begins to prompt you into thinking and feelings of preparing the sermon!

And at the time when you begin to prepare your sermon, it is the Holy Spirit who prompts you.

1. ***Why do you require the notebook?***

You require a notebook in which to record the thoughts and ideas that come to your mind in these times of quiet waiting.

Remember every worthwhile sermon begins in the heart and mind of God, Who is the source of all truth. He is the fountain of all knowledge.

The effective preacher's first task is to learn to receive the thoughts of God. Rarely will he ever hear an audible voice of God. Divine truth will distill quietly in his spirit like the morning dew. The prospective preacher must wait patiently in the presence of God. There he will receive the precious thoughts and truths that God is always willing to share with those who seek Him diligently.

Making brief notes of every bit of inspiration you receive. You must cultivate the quiet, humble, sensitive spirit with which He loves to associate. As your fellowship with the Holy Spirit develops, He will introduce you to many wonderful new truths which will enrich your life and ministry.

During this time of preparation of your sermon, the Holy Spirit begins to drop upon you divine, captivating and fascinating ideas and thoughts to your mind. You find that these ideas and thoughts distill into your mind when they are so many, and the way you will get them is when you have written them down. Through writing them, you will be able to absorb as many revelations and insights as much as you can write down. These new revelations and thoughts when they are not written down while they are still fresh in your mind will be all forgotten. And you find that, these new ideas had not been in the scope of your understanding and reasoning. And because they are new to your mind, you need to write down as you begin to make up your notes.

These new revelations and ideas that you have written down in your notes becomes the body of your sermon which the Holy Spirit has made you to come up with.

And it comes to pass that, when you begin to present your sermon, you find that these new revelations, insights and ideas are fresh with force.

* Next, is that, still when you begin your discourse/ presentation, you begin by prayer asking for the leadership of the Holy Spirit. And in the course of your presentation, you need the Holy Spirit to keep you within the boundaries of your sermon. He keeps guiding you in the whole sermon, and on how to be effective and on the wisdom in the body of your message until you are done.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit, leads you right from the time you begin to prepare your sermon through your discourse until you finish. He does not just come in to lead you in/at a certain time.

When you cultivate the consciousness of the Holy Spirit in you, it will come to pass that you can be able to receive directions from God at any time from any place.

A person who is conscious of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in him/her will always not walk without a pen and note book to write down these revelations and insights, because you can receive the communication from God at any time and in any place.

* You can be walking and you receive divine revelations from God. When you receive the insights and revelations from God, it is okay to write it down while it is still fresh. You can stop and write down the revelations that you received.
* You can be in the office working and you receive divine truth from God. When you have received these insights while you are working, then you can excuse yourself like you are in need of easing yourself, and while you have gone to the wash room, you write those new revelations down and when you are done, then you go back for work.
* You can receive these insights and revelations when you are praying. And when you have received it during prayer, then first pause with prayer, write the revelation down and continue with your prayer.
* You can receive these revelations during the time of meditation. And when you have received it, here, first still stop there, write it down and continue with your meditation.
* You can receive these insights while you are driving, and they get distilled into your mind. And when you have received these revelations while you are driving, you can stop and pack your car, and write it down. After writing it down then continue with your driving.
* You can be sleeping and you receive the heavenly messages. And when you have waken up from your sleep, then recall your dreams while they are still fresh and write them down. Because if you don’t, a time will be reached when you will forget them, or you might remember but bits of it not like how it was delivered to you.

In all that you will receive, the key point is joining together with Habakkuk 2:2, saying, ***“… write the vision, and make it plain on tables (now to the context of today, it is writing it on the note book)…”*** Why did Yahuah tell Habakkuk to write it down? So that he could not forget it, because he Knew that human are forgetful. So to be conscious of the Holy Spirit, is when you are able to write every insight that you can receive.

1. ***This is what it means to be conscious of the Holy Spirit!***

When the Holy Spirit conscious is in you, this will always make you to know that those ideas, feelings, and insights are from God directed to your spirit direct from his throne room in Heaven not from your imaginations. The Holy Spirit becomes your steering. He begins to hold the steering in you and to drive.

* The Holy Spirit can prompt you to open a certain text or portion of scriptures to read or to deliver unto a certain person or people without your prior knowledge of what those people or person is going through. And it will be always answering the needs of those people or person.
* You can be preaching or conducting deliverance, and you receive the divine knowledge about the lives of certain people. The knowledge may be the cause of the problem or the problem that the person is going through. This always happens without the person first narrating the problem to you, but you can tell that person’s problem exactly.
* You can be doing canceling and Holy Spirit whispers to you or reveals to you the cause of that person’s problem and how it will be solved.

**Conclusion**

This is the brief part of the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

By understanding this, you can learn and know what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit

**PARTNERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH THE BELIEVER NOT DICTATORSHIP**

People have been asking me questions, is it possible for the Holy Spirit to be in a believer and the believer still sins? Or can a believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit be able to sin?

According to them they imagine and think that when the Holy Spirit is in a believer, the believer can’t even make any single fault.

This imagination is because they don’t understand what it means for the Holy Spirit to live in a believer. They also don’t know how the Holy Spirit operates in a believer.

Average believers do not know what the operation and dwelling of the Holy Spirit in them and due to this lack of solid understanding of the operation and dwelling of the Holy Spirit, they assume that when they make faults the Holy Spirit departs and leaves them. As a result of this lack of solid understanding of what it means for the Holy Spirit to indwell a believer, they begin to live in condemnation and guilt.

We need to get the solid understanding of the operation and indwelling of the Holy Spirit in a believer

You must understand these truths about the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in a believer.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon the believer, he does not destroy your will that you stop thinking for yourself. It doesn’t mean that when the Holy Spirit comes to live in a believer, a believer turns into an imbecile who can’t think any more for himself. If that happens that the will of the believer is destroyed because of the dwelling of the Holy Spirit, then it would mean that, the moment the Holy spirit comes upon a believer, the believer ceases being human but changes to be something else.

The operation of the Holy Spirit in a believer is not robotic where man has no other choice to make but to do whatever the Holy Spirit says. It is not Holy Spirit control of a believer but the Holy Spirit leadership and guidance of the believer. The Holy Spirit dwelling in the believer does not mean the believer has to wait for the Holy Spirit to tell him which cloth to buy, which cloth to put on, the food to eat, the items to buy, when to brush the teeth, when to bathe etc. If that was true, then man becomes incapable of making any error or fault the day the Holy Spirit comes upon him/ her. Therefore, any mistake or wrong action that man will make will be accounted to the Holy Spirit not man. And this is not true.

Most flashy believers always say, “the Holy Spirit said or told me” in every decision they make and in any action they take. There is nowhere that they make their own decisions. This does not mean that there are times when the Holy Spirit can choose for us. Remember in Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, ***the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”*** I don’t mean that there are no times when the Holy Spirit decides and chooses for us, but the brethren who always use the word, “the Holy Spirit said, even when the Holy Spirit has not spoken to them but only use that to justify their actions.” That is trying to say that the Holy Spirit destroys the mind of man.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you and begins to dwell in you, it is not that your nature and the one of the Holy Spirit get blended into one. No, when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell you, you remain human and he remains God. Man can choose to submit to the Leadership of the Holy Spirit in a partnership manner or not. Remember Apostle Paul, he was so filled with the Holy Spirit, but when it came to warnings of the Holy Spirit when he was so determined to go to Jerusalem, his will stood against the will of the Holy Spirit that even when the Holy Spirit witnessed in every City that chains awaited him, Paul adamantly disobeyed and refused to Submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 20:22-23 "And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.”* Paul says in every City the Holy Spirit was warning or witnessing danger. The problem with Paul was that he never stopped to consider the meaning of the warnings of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was not saying that go to Jerusalem, but it was Paul’s will and determination to go to Jerusalem. So as he was going, the Holy Spirit kept warning him against going to Jerusalem but Paul never understood the warnings of the Holy Spirit.

*“While we remained there for a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He came to us, took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it, and said, “The Holy Spirit says this: ‘This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man whose belt this is, and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’” When we heard this, both we and the local people begged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul replied, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart?* ***For I am ready not only to be tied up, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”*** *Acts 21:10-13.*

Any of you would think that it was the will of God for Paul to go to Jerusalem. Not at all

You see even here, it is Paul’s will to go to Jerusalem, listen to his stubborn will against the will of the Holy Spirit. When the brethren understood the warnings of the Holy Spirit, they knew that the Holy Spirit was warning Paul not to go to Jerusalem. And they begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem, but this was Paul’s response to this godly council, *“I am ready not only to be tied up, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus”*. Was it the will of Jesus for Paul to die for Him in Jerusalem? Not at all. The will of Jesus was for Paul to go to preach to the gentiles, but it was Paul’s stubborn will to go to Jerusalem.

It never ended there. When the will of Paul prevailed against the Holy Spirit, Jesus himself had to step in, when Paul arrived in Jerusalem, but even then Paul was still adamant.

Listen to this, the matter was serious, Paul Himself reports what was happening. And the report of Paul clearly shows us that it was not the will of God for him to go to Jerusalem. *“When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw the Lord saying to me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ I replied, ‘Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat those in the various synagogues who believed in you. And when the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I myself was standing nearby, approving, and guarding the cloaks of those who were killing him.’ Then he said to me, ‘Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’” Acts 22:17-21*. Even when Jesus himself told Paul to leave Jerusalem when he had arrived and was in prayer, Paul still argued with Jesus. And you know what, he remained. As a result of Paul’s stubborn will they beat and put him in chains. There are troubles that we can avoid if we submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Paul would have avoided all these undue trouble if he had listened to the warnings that the Holy Spirit spoke to him in every City. And Paul had the choice to obey the Holy Spirit and go to the gentiles free or disobey the Holy Spirit and go to the Gentiles in chains. But he chose to disobey and went to the Gentiles in chains.

This experience of Paul shows us clearly that when the Holy Spirit indwells a believer, He allows the believer to exercise his will. Remember, the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in a believer is not control.

The Holy Spirit does not dictate over every decision that you make. He just partners with you and in any partner ship one does not override the decisions of the other, that stops being partnership.

The Holy Spirit is not a dictator that when he comes in the believer, that the believer MUST do what the Holy Spirit wants whether the believer wants or not.

The believer remains with the ability to choose for himself. He can choose to disobey the Holy Spirit and suffers the consequences or obey the Holy Spirit and enjoys the blessings. And when a believer chooses to disobey the instructions of the Holy Spirit, it doesn’t mean then that the Holy Spirit is not in the believer. And the Holy Spirit leaves the believer because of the act of disobedience. What happens is that, the Holy Spirit just gets grieved by the believer's disobedience.

The dwelling of the Holy Spirit in a believer does not mean that the believer will never sin or make any mistake again in life. It is not that the Holy Spirit comes in us to elevate us from the state of sin to a state of sinlessness.

Man remains with the power of choice and free Will even when the Holy Spirit dwells in him.

**The Ministration Of The Holy Spirit.**

1. Prayer and learning to listen to the Holy Spirit.
2. Learning to Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit
3. Activation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer and learning to listen to the Holy Spirit**

Listening to the Holy Spirit is the State of being able to receive to receive word (instruction, guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit). Being still and waiting in the presence of God is one of the ways that we can receive from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can speak to you when you are still and silent in His presence. You can also receive instructions, guidance and direction while you are praying.

Being still and silent\_\_ that is being quiet and not speaking a word. The Holy Spirit can speak to your spirit when you are quite. The Holy Spirit can also speak to you audibly in a conversational voice just like man is speaking to you.

**Note**: One of the reasons why most of us are not able to hear from the Holy Spirit or receive from the Holy Spirit is because we do not create time of receiving from Him. Why? Because we live in a noisy world and we are not able to easily create a still environment. There are so many voices around us that we can not recognize which voice is speaking yet Jesus says, my sheep hear my voice. *“The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and* ***the sheep hear his voice****. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own sheep out, he goes ahead of them, and* ***the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice****.* ***But you refuse to believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to******my voice,*** *and I know them, and they follow me” John 10:3-4, 26-27* (NET).

If we get familiar with Jesus, then we can be able to hear and recognize His voice. In the like manner, when we get familiar with the Holy Spirit, then we can hear and recognize His voice anytime he speaks to us and anywhere. The Holy Spirit most times is speaking but because we are not familiar with him, we can’t recognize His voice. Take for example, if you are not familiar with me and my voice, and I happen to speak on radio as you tune on your Radio and find that I have already finished introducing my self. While you listen to me, you will be asking, but who is that person speaking. You can not be able to recognize my voice because you are not familiar with my voice. But if you know me, and are familiar with my voice, any time you tune your radio and hear me speak, then you can tell, oh that is Wilson speaking.

In the same manner, I pray we get to know the Holy Spirit more and we get familiar with His Voice, that whenever He speaks to us we can be able to hear and recognize Him speaking.

Jesus says, his sheep hear his voice, know it, and recognize it. So if we do not hear, know and recognize His voice, whose sheep we are then?

*How many times have we hindered the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives by trying to use our own strength, abilities, skills, wisdom and experiences while neglecting to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, our helper. The struggles we have had in ministry is on trying to work for God while trusting on our own abilities, skills and experiences. Some times we see what looks like solutions that can help us solve things, but they can be wrong ways.*

*And by doing this, we delay the involvement of the Holy Spirit in helping us. Until we come to the helplessness and realization that our abilities are not helping us, the Holy Spirit will watch us struggle. We need to cultivate the atmosphere of being able to listen to the directing and guidance voice of the Holy Spirit in our ministry and daily lives. When we learn to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, we are able to witness a mighty move of the Lord and ministry will not be a struggle. We struggle because we do not know what, how, and when, where. But when we hear the guiding voice of the Holy Spirit in our endeavors, we see ease in ministry. When we try to depend on our human abilities to do work of ministry, it is just a waste of time. Instead, we get frustrated over situations.*

**Learning to Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit**

Hearing and receiving from the Holy Spirit is even more easier than to obey what He tells us to do because this one requires action. For example the Holy Spirit can clearly ask you to give a certain amount of money to where or to whom he shall instruct you and yet that is the same money you have planned for something else. Will you obey and give the money or you will keep it?

Secondly the Holy Spirit can ask you to give out your land to a specific individual or person. Will you give or not.

The Holy Spirit can ask you to go and preach where there is war, will you go or not.

Obeying the Holy Spirit some times is just against human logic. It may appear like foolishness, that is why there are few people who real obey the Holy Spirit. Obedience to the Holy Spirit is not easy, it costs. But if you are to be used by God, then you must be able to pay the cost.

Some times it can cost your reputation, because some times in obeying the Holy Spirit people around you can view you as one who has lost His mind. Some times it costs you your relationships.

Sometimes in obeying the Holy Spirit it may seem to be contrary to the Word of God but you just have to obey. At the end of the day, what matters is what God has told you to do not what people will say.

For example, When God told Abraham to sacrifice his Son, it seemed so contrary to the Word of God, because God does not allow human sacrifice.

Another example is when God asked Isaiah to walk naked for three years, it real seemed contrary to the Word of God.

Another example we can still see is when God asked Ezekiel to eat human dung, it seemed contrary to the word of God.

God asked Elijah to be fed by Ravens, yet God had told the Israelites not to even touch Ravens because they were unclean.

God asked Hosea to marry the prostitute and in the Law, servants of God (the priests) were not supposed to marry prostitutes and divorced women.

**So will you obey God when He askes you to do what seems contrary to His Word?**

Note: You do not need any witness to speak to you in order to obey the Word that God has spoken or asked you to do).

**Limitations to hearing and receiving from the Holy Spirit.**

**Human logic.** Logic does not apply in the things of God

**Common sense.** Common sense does not agree with the Word of God. It is not a general rule that things happen like that. Spiritual things can not be understood by a carnal mind\_ common sense.

Take the example of Moses, when he was told to speak to the rock he instead hit the rock because common sense had helped him develop his simple formula of hitting the rock just as God had instructed him earlier and water came out of the rock.

*Numbers 20:8,10-11*

*[8]“Get Aaron’s rod; then you and Aaron must summon the people. As they watch, speak to that rock over there and tell it to pour out its water! You will give them water from a rock, enough for all the people and all their cattle!”*

*[10]then Moses and Aaron summoned the people to come and gather at the rock; and he said to them, “Listen, you rebels! Must we bring you water from this rock?”*

*[11]Then Moses lifted the rod and struck the rock twice, and water gushed out; and the people and their cattle drank.*

Moses is told to speak to the rock and was given the words to say. He was told to speak to rock saying, “You rock, pour out your water.” But he did not hear the instruction, instead the word he spoke was, “*Listen, you rebels! Must we bring you water from this rock?”*. Next Moses was told to speak to the rock, but because he had developed his formula which he built on his first success in Exodus 17:5-6 of striking the rock, instead of speaking to the rock, “*Moses lifted the rod and struck the rock twice.”*

In this first case Moses obeyed, because the Lord had told him to strike the rock.  *Exodus 17:(5-6) Then Jehovah said to Moses, “Take the elders of Israel with you and lead the people out to Mount Horeb. I will meet you there at the rock. Strike it with your rod—the same one you struck the Nile with—and water will come pouring out, enough for everyone!” Moses did as he was told, and the water gushed out!.*

In the first case Moses was told to strike the rock which he obeyed. But he made that a formula of getting water out of the rock. He puts now trust in his staff instead of God. That is why in the second case when God told him to speak to the rock, he remembers the formula of the staff and strikes the rock. Forgetting that God had changed the approach. We must be sensitive to understand where the Spirit of God is moving and we move in that direction, if not we shall turn to formulas.

Being used of God is not formula. In order for the Holy Spirit to use you, it is not formula, it is sensitivity to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you fail to get sensitive to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit, you are in trouble.

This prayer is the prayer of deliverance from formulas when you reach in a place or handling a situation.

**“”Holy Spirit, what do you want done here. And how do you want it done.**

**Holy Spirit, what do you want done in this situation. And how do you want it done.””**

There are many of examples on being sensitive to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The best of all examples is how Jesus was sensitive to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was not about formula, it was about sensitivity! And this is what made him a successful minister.

In John 5:30 Jesus says, “***I can do nothing on my own initiative. Just as I hear, I judge, and my judgement is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of the One who sent me.” NET.***

Jesus handles the same situation in different people using different approaches.

The first was blindness.

In the first case, he healed the blind person by spitting on the eyes and touching his eyes. Because that was the instruction he heard that time from the Father.

In the second case of blindness, he spits on the ground, makes mud and smears on the eyes of the blind man, then sends him to wash in the pool and the blind man's eyes were opened. In this second case, the instruction was different from what he heard from the first case. It was sensitivity not formula. So he says, whatsoever I hear my Father say, so I do. So what he heard is what he did.

The second case that Jesus handled using different approach is leprosy. Because he received or heard different instructions from the Father but handling the same problem.

When the leper came to Jesus in the crowd, he said to Jesus, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean”. He stretched out his hand and touched him saying, “I am willing. Be clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Then in the second case, when ten lepers came to him, he changed the approach, telling them to go the priests and be examined and while they were walking they got cleansed of leprosy. He gave them that instruction, because that was what he heard from the Father.

Moses failed because he was not sensitive to the Orders and instructions from above. God does not use or repeat the same thing in handling the same situation. When the children of Israel were crossing the water bodies, during Moses and Joshua’s times, God used different methods. During Moses’s time, it was lifting up the staff, but during Joshua’s time, it was stepping in the water.

**DIFFERENT WAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS**

In order for you to be effectively used by God, you have to know the different ways the Holy Spirit speaks. This leads to sensitivity to the Voice of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies receives information through seeing with our eyes, hearing with our ears, smelling with our nose, feeling with our Touch, tasting with our tongue.

To be able to live in sensitivity of the Holy Spirit, you must understand these different ways the Holy Spirit speaks.

The Holy Spirit speaks through our senses. Your senses have ears to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. So the Holy Spirit can speak to you through your senses.

When the Holy Spirit is operating in us or at the time when he is using us;

1. The Holy Spirit uses our eyes for seeing
2. The Holy Spirit uses our ears for hearing
3. The Holy Spirit uses our minds for thinking
4. The Holy Spirit uses our hands for touching
5. The Holy Spirit uses our feet for walking
6. The Holy uses our feelings to feel

The Holy Spirit uses our senses for communication.

**The Holy Spirit can speak through touch of our feelings**

Your feelings have a voice and ears to hear the cry of people for healing and deliverance. Your feelings have a voice to hear the cry of people for healing and deliverance. It is just like people calling you, please pray for me this is the need I have, and your feelings can hear their call.

Your feelings can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit eg Jesus’s healing of the woman with a blood flow when he said I heard power come out of me.

The ears of the feelings of Jesus had the woman's cry for healing that is why when she showed up finally saying that I am the one who touched you, Jesus never urged because the ears of Jesus had heard the cry of this woman for healing.

When your are conducting healing and deliverance your feelings are able to hear the voices of cry for healing and deliverance through your feelings. You can be able to hear an attack on a person through your feelings in your body.

Like when you are conducting healing and deliverance the Holy Spirit can communicate to your body (feelings) revealing the sicknesses in the lives of people present. \_How? He can reveal sickness in the people to you and even to an extent of how severe it is by dropping the same problem to your body in the exact part that person has it. If the person has the problem with the hand, that will be the exact part in your body that you will also start feeling the pain in your hand which that person has. Therefore, when you are sensitive to the Holy Spirit, you will not say, “oh my goodness, the devil has attacked me”\_ you will be knowing that, oh yes, there is someone here with that problem that the Holy Spirit is communicating and revealing to me. I tell you, when you call for the person with that problem, he will be in most cases there or someone in the congregation may be knowing that person. So when it happens, you will see and know how the Holy Spirit uses your body and feelings to reveal and communicate a need in people to you. When the Holy Spirit is using your body to feel, your body can be like a scanning machine and able to sense sickness, disease and any satanic attack in the lives of people. A number of times in my life I have received such communications from the Holy Spirit when I am ministering, at times when I am with people and in any place and anywhere. What has helped me is sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking through my feelings. This is often common for those operating in the gifts of healings and deliverance.

Remember Jesus and that woman of blood that we mentioned earlier.

**The Holy Spirit can speak through your Mind**

The Holy Spirit can communicate and speak by using your mind for thinking. Many times the scripture says, “And Jesus perceived... Paul perceived...” This is the communication of the Holy Spirit through your mind and heart\_ This is the communication of the Holy Spirit which is a littles more difficult to understand because you can be speaking with people and the Holy Spirit takes over that you can not even be able to tell that it is the Holy Spirit speaking because it remains like you are the one just thinking yourself. You are not able to easily draw the fine line between when the Holy spirit is thinking through your mind and when you are thinking yourself\_ this is just a mystery. It takes faith to continue speaking knowing it is the Holy Spirit speaking through you.

But when you are sensitive to the Holy Spirit you will be knowing that this is the Holy Spirit speaking through me revealing these things. You will know that it is the Holy Spirit that has been speaking when people begin asking things like, “how did you know this.” And they will assure you that that is true. They can assure you that there is no one who knows it. The point here is just to live a yielded and a surrendered life to the Holy Spirit and cultivating the consciousness or awareness of the Holy Spirit in you. We have heard people say things like, I felt “something” telling me. Something was speaking to me. Because they are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit and are not aware that He is the One speaking, they end up calling the Holy Spirit “Something.”

**The Holy Spirit can speak through your Mouth.**

The Holy Spirit can speak direct through your mouth. The Bible says, the Holy Spirit spoke through the mouth of David, Acts 1:16; 2 Samuel 23:2; Mark 12:36

He can speak through your mouth by putting inspired words to come out of your mouth. He can speak through your mouth\_\_ that is through words of encouragement or exhortation.

**The Holy Spirit can speak through your Eyes.**

The Holy Spirit can speak through your eyes. He can speak, communicate and reveal to you things using your eyes. Through visions; open and closed and closed visions, trances. This one very obvious. *Revelation 1:19 "****Write down what you have seen****—both the things that are now happening and the things that will happen.*

*Revelation 4:1 Then as I looked,* ***I saw a door standing open in heaven****, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and* ***I will show you what must happen after this****."*

**The Holy Spirit can speak through your Ears.**

The Holy Spirit can speak using your ears by causing you to hear words communicated to you at an audible conversational voice or through a still small voice. You can also hear words spoken with a still voice direct to your heart.

*Revelation 22:6 Then the angel said to me, "****Everything you have heard*** *and seen is trustworthy and true.* ***The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon****."*

**The Holy Spirit can speak to you through Smell.**

The Holy Spirit can speak through your sense of smell. One of my great friends, a mother was speaking to me that at times, she can smell sickness. When that happens someone can fall sick terribly or herself. You see, it is a communication but through a smell. Another friend told me, he can smell witchcraft, the smoke and ugly smell used by witch doctors.

**The Holy Spirit can speak to you by directing you to the Word; to a text or portion of texts in the Bible.** The Holy Spirit through guidance to a Scripture. He can speak to you through the Written Word. This is so common and very easily understood because it is very plain.

**The Holy Spirit can speak through your Taste.**

Your Taste has ears to hear what the Holy Spirit is speaking, Revelation 10:7- 11,

John was able to receive a communication from the Lord through his taste. He heard two tastes. ***In the mouth, the scroll tested like honey. But when it reached the stomach it tested bitter.*** This was not just an ordinary taste, but it was a communication from God to John, it was a message. To make you understand this, have you ever eaten anything and are able to tell the taste of it when it reaches your stomach?

The taste had a message that God was speaking. Because your taste has ears. The massage the taste heard is seen in verse 11. The two tastes meant the message that he received to prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

In both Ezekiel 3 and Revelation 10, the taste was a message that God gave to them. A message to be preached to others. Ezekiel 3:1-4

***Psalms 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!***

The Key to note seriously is this: You do not have to get stuck to one ways of hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to you, because the Holy Spirit can choose any of those different means of communication to speak to you. If you get stuck in one way, you will form formulas and miss so great from the Holy Spirit. You just need to be sensitive and avoid creating formulas. Remember it is sensitivity not Formula. I have heard many people who serve God tell me things like, God has never spoken to me. Some say, God does not speak to me. Others ask, how does God speak, yet others ask, how can I hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to me. But the point here is not that God does not speak to them. God is always speaking to them but they don’t know that it is God speaking to them because they don’t understand the different ways that God speaks, they are not sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. They have developed Formula, in that even when God speaks to them they want to hear the voice of God in an audible voice the formula that they have developed yet God has been speaking to them in other ways.

While the Bible is a finished book, and no one should dare add anything to the Canon of Scripture, the idea that we now serve a DUMB GOD (one who cannot speak) is a great theological travesty.

Many will die to defend what God said (past centuries) but ***"... refuse him that speaketh [presently in our day and time] from heaven " (Heb 12:25). Hebrews 12:25 Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! NLT***

Seven times we are admonished, ' ***'He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith [present tense] unto the churches "(Rev 2:7; 3:22).***

THE NEED TO HEAR

Jesus said, ***"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4)***. This word "**proceedeth**" speaks of a present continuing function. That means some thing that happened in the past, is happening in the present, and will happen in the future.

This verse could be translated, ' ***'Man... lives... by every word that has been spoken and continues to be spoken by the mouth of God.*** "God, Who spoke in ages past, is speaking in the present and will continue to speak in the future. GOD IS NOT A DUMB GOD!

This is not to say the Bible is still being written and we need to add to it. I do **NOT** believe that. The Bible does teach us however, that God wants a people to ***"dwell in, and walk in" (2Cor 6:16),*** "***living epistles, known and read by mankind'' (2Cor 3:2,3).***

Oh, how we need to hear His voice! We can only live (have the life and blessing of the Lord in our churches today) by hearing every word that continues to proceed from God's mouth to our hearts.

**NOTE. IN ALL THOSE WAYS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN SPEAK THROUGH OUR SENSES, NONE WILL EVER BE CONTRARY TO THE SCRIPTURE (THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD).**

Scriptural Warning. Isaiah 8:20 gives an important warning with

respect to this: ***"To the law and to the testimony [the Scriptures]; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."*** Any of these different ways the Holy Spirit speaks which I have showed above can lead you astray if it is not in agreement with the Scriptures.

For example. God does not lead a man to divorce his wife and marry another woman. This is contrary to the Scriptures.

**No Contradiction**. There is no leading of God that will ever contradict His Word. And remember. God makes no exceptions; He is no respecter of persons

**The Three main manifestations which each leader must take note of as we Excel in the Prophetic ministry**

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit

The manifestation of the Flesh

The satanic manifestation.

As a leader and member of the Prophetic Prayer Team, you must be quick in discerning these manifestations. If not, you will be misled easily and as a result turn to begin despising Prophecy and quenching the work of the Holy Spirit in the church and yet this is one of **our five star call, (Evangelism, Discipleship, The Holy Spirit, Worship, Prayer).**

Is critique a tool for judging prophecy?

Critique is the art of criticism.

As a church that believes in Prophecy, we must be able operate in the higher level of the gift of discerning of spirits, if we are to excel in the prophetic prayer team.

The scripture says, ***1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:20 Do not despise prophecies, 1 Thessalonians 5:21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. ESV***

***1 Thessalonians 5:21 but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. NLT***

***One version of the Bible says, v.21…accept what is good. CEV***

Note: You don’t judge Prophecy when you are operating in your carnal mind, instead you just turn into a spiritual critic. I have known of so many carnal Christians trying to judge prophecy. Remember Spiritual things are discerned Spiritually. ***“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14 KJV***

Prophecy is one of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. So to judge Prophecy, one of the other nine gifts of the Spirit in the same family are needed, the sister gift is discerning of spirits which is also listed among the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit together with Prophecy. You judge Prophecy using the gift of discerning of spirits not using your carnal mind or worldly knowledge and Wisdom. If you use your knowledge and wisdom in judging prophecy, you will become a spiritual critic of the move of God and as a result quench the work and the move of God in the church.

We believe in dreams 100%, but dreams must be judged and interpreted, because if not judged and interpreted rightly, the enemy can use them to discourage, break and destroy us. The scripture exhorts us to judge Prophecy, and dreams are part of prophecy. You must be able to judge and interpret dreams with the gift of discerning of spirits, to know the source of a dream, and that comes with dream interpretation (Word of knowledge and Word of Wisdom in action)

For example you get a dream today that you built a powerful building and prospering. Then tomorrow you get the second dream that you are begging and in a desperate and miserable state. Are these two dreams from the same source? Which one will you believe? Which one is from Satan and which is from God? Do you believe all these two dreams are from God? If you believe that they are all from God, does God contradict Himself. Today telling you this, and tomorrow telling you something else different?

Keep this in your mind. It doesn’t matter how Holy you are, it doesn’t stop Satan from suggesting wrong things and drop a wrong thought to your mind. If Satan would approach Jesus and began suggesting certain wrong thoughts and things to him, do you think you are exceptional to Satan’s suggestions?

What matters is not Satan’s suggestions, but how you will react and respond to them, because he will suggest them to you and drop them to your mind. We must learn from the example of Jesus. He reacted and responded to Satan’s suggestions by the Word of God and we saw Victory against the devil. We must be able to quickly identify Satan’s suggestion in thoughts, words, and in dreams. And then respond to them with the Word of God.

And when he drops the wrong thought to you, he waits to see how you will respond. He knows that there are only two responses, ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION of his suggestions.

Always watch out for this, whenever God speaks and promises you something, or when he tells you to do something, Satan will also suggest and drop to your mind something which is contrary to the Word of God. Be careful of the second voice. You must remain and stick to the first voice. The second voice is always of Satan not God, and something funny about the second voice is that we easily follow and believe this second voice. Remember Adam and Eve, they obeyed the second voice which was opposite to the voice of God, what God had told or spoken to them.

Back on our two dreams above that we have used as example. You find that the second dream is the devil trying to counter the good dream. The second dream is a lie, that the devil wants you to believe. You know, it's so easy to believe a lie, and so difficult to believe the truth, and most people will believe the second one- a lie. And as a result they begin to live depressed, displeased, discontented, complaining, grumbling lives. They begin to complain against God like it was God who gave them the second negative and bad message. If they were to hear the heart of God speaking to them, they would hear Him say, “I am not the one who spoke this second message which has broken you, that was from Satan not from me. It is I who spoke to you of the good message, because I have good plans for you not plans to harm you but to give you the future that you expect. **Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. NKJV**. The problem is with you. You have chosen to believe the lie of Satan and not the truth that I spoke to you in the first place. Stick to the first truth that I spoke to you.”

* Have you ever encountered these things. You set yourself into the season of prayer and fasting. You set specific items to present before God in prayer when you begin to pray, while in an intensive hot prayer, you begin seeing only bad and negative dreams. Or you get some sort of satanic attacks in your life or in your body; body weaknesses, disease and sickness and some discouragements of any sort

You ask yourself, why do those messages and challenges come at the time of your prayer.

Those messages, attacks and discouragements always are a tool of Satan intended to distract and draw your focus and concentration from what you determined to present Before God. Satan wants you to put your eyes off God’s ability to help you and to answer your prayer, and set them into the reality of your situation or circumstances. What do you do then? You just ignore and reject those bad and negative messages and concentrate with the items that you determined to present before God.

This must keep you focused in prayer.

**God’s Nature in answering prayer!**

What is God’s nature in answering prayer?

**Jeremiah 29:12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.**

**1 Chronicles 28:9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. NKJV**

**Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.** The Lord was telling him to call. And the outcome would be a revelation of great things, not bad things. You would see those great things begin to be unveiled from verse 6-26. All these good promises of restoration were I believe God’s response to Jeremiah's prayer.

The Lord never said, call unto me and I will show you negative and bad things,

What does the word of God teach us in all those portions of scriptures above.

Does it teach us that when we come before God and present specific items, he will begin showing you negative things instead of answering your petitions.

Note: Yes those negative and bad messages could be warnings to you sometimes, but they should not be as a rule of command that whenever you prepare your self in seasons of prayer, that you only begin seeing negatives and bad messages. Why not good messages over the items which you prepared before God in prayer. That is why discerning is needed in prayer so you will know the source of the vision and dream.

Because if not, those negative and bad messages could be an attempt of the enemy to offer to you a different prayer list of distraction. And instead of you concentrating and devoting your attention on the items you committed before God, you begin to devote much time to the negatives. Instead of you praying based on the list you prepared, you begin to pray based on the list that Satan prepared for you. As a Result, you end up wasting your prayer time. You pray and don't receive, because the enemy succeeded in putting off and taking away your attention from what you determined in your prayer to present before God.

**Satan is an interrupter, he is a disruptor.**

Why does Satan love to disrupt and interrupt in prayer?

Satan loves to disrupt and interrupt us in prayer because he knows when you set your focus before God with specific uninterrupted and undisrupted prayer to God, you receive what you are asking for from God.

He wants us not to receive anything from God, that is why loves to disrupt and distract us in prayer.

His goal in this is for us to blame God. Because due to our distracted and interrupted prayer, we may not receive anything from God. And as a result of our failure to receive from God, The devil who interrupted and disrupted you in prayer comes to speaks to your mind loudly, "What have you got in prayer, did you receive anything, haven't you just wasted prayer to God who can not answer. He tells you, God does not answer prayers." He speaks to you though he was not the cause of your not receiving answers.

But the plain truth is this, God answers prayer! I can write books, and books, with the title, "**GOD ANSWERS PRAYER**." On this I must also add "**GOD ANSWERS SPECIFIC UNINTERRUPTED AND UNDISRUPTED PRAYERS."**

There are people we can see as the best examples to this.

1. The first is the Phoenician woman\_ she refused to get disrupted from her prayer even when Jesus tested her by calling her a dog. Mark 7:24-30

2. This second is this widow woman who went to the unjust judge to avenge her of her enemy\_ she refused to get distracted even when the judge seemed to be not hearing her. Luke 18:1-8

3. The third person is this man that went to his friend to ask for bread late at night\_ his friend never responded immediately, he said I have slept leave me alone. But this man never got distracted by the first denial. He persisted. Luke 11:5-8

And the results of these all was that they received answers to their prayers when they refused to give ear to the interruption. They remained focused. They never lost focus of their Prayer

What does Satan use in interrupting and disrupting us in prayer?

He uses negative, scaring, frightening, bad messages. He uses bad dreams, satanic attacks. Sicknesses during prayers and weaknesses.

Message prepared on 1st February 2022, 12:24pm

By John Wilson Okurut

CREATING PERMANENT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

When people get born again, they come from strange set ups; the catholic, Anglican, and Islamic, Hinduism, Buddhism and different set ups. In All these set ups and others, leaders are viewed so many steps away higher. They see leaders at lofty and unapproachable place and distance away from themselves. That is the reasons why some of those people even when they come to fellowship with you, will always fear to greet you, hand on hand, but they do it at a distance. Now when these people from these set up get saved, they remain seeing you pastors, evangelists and church leaders as very holy people, that it is impossible for them to just come close to you, because they still have the other thinking and mindsets. But how do you as a pastor or church leader break that distance between you and these converts who have come from those set ups? Remember, breaking this distance of separation is one of the best strategies of making committed membership! As a pastor or church leader, you have to come down from that lofty place from which these people see you at, to where they are!

How can you do it? You can break that distance by paying visits to these new believers' homes. When you do this, they will see the difference between you and their former leaders from where they came from. When you visit you believers, this distance is broken! A personal relationship is created between you and them. A bond is created by you visiting these new converts at their homes \_ not just meeting anywhere.

Jesus Christ did this!

When Christ appeared on the scene, he was viewed at that higher and unapproachable distance and position. He was viewed at the level of a king, just as he is. Remember the centurion with a sick son, Christ desired to go to his home but the man refused due to that view on Jesus. He said, that I am not worthy to host you in my home, because he viewed Christ at a very high, holy and unapproachable area- so holy to go to his home. But how did Christ break that view on people towards him? He did it by directly relating to people and mainly going to their homes! Look at Zacchaeus\_ He sow Jesus at a very higher and unapproachable position. And due to this, he only desired to see him. This caused him to climb the tree to see Jesus. But how did Jesus clear that view from the thought of Zacchaeus? Jesus did not just greet him. Jesus desired to go to the home of Zacchaeus. And remember how grateful Zacchaeus became when Christ visited his home! He became so excited to the an extent of paying back to people what he had stolen.

Christ visited Mary and Lazarus not in a synagogue but in their home. He visited, prostitutes, tax collectors, sinners and stayed together with them. This was an act that the Pharisees, Sadducees and high priests never dared to do, because they considered themselves so holy and living in unapproachable High places to relate freely to their followers. Unlike Christ, He went to where people stayed. He visited them in their homes, and for this purpose the Pharisees criticized him for visiting people in their homes. The Pharisees had only one things; they waited to only receive offerings, gifts and tithes from people\_ and the relationship ended there\_ End of the story. They never cared to know how their flocks faired, where they stayed and other concerns. My own finding here is that, "Until a Christian comes to know that you care/ concern for him/her, they will never be true members of your church. They won't open up the issues of their families to you. I have visited some families, and I have learnt these things practically. The Christians open up their issues and requests you and ask you not to let any one know. They assure you that they have been fearing to tell anybody and that they are now telling you to help them in prayers for the first time. They build much trust in you than ever when you visit them in their homes The relationship link is created and severed. The Pharisees were like some pastors/ prophets today, who need their Christians to see them with money. They milk them without showing concern for them. They don't pay them visits but only wait to receive something from them in church.

***YOUR MARRIAGE IS SO DEAR THAN YOUR MINISTRY OR JOB***

Marriage is a very serious and vital issue to the Christian work and service. Remember, right after God created man (Adam), the next thing that God created was marriage, by forming Eve for Adam. And the danger of our later day churches is that, "they have trampled marriage under their feet and taking it that "ministry is so important than marriage."" So today, we can see marriage breaking and we don’t care fixing it as long as we get the joy of our service to God in ministry. Most people instead of fixing their unsuitable home problems put it in the cover of getting so engaged into ministry. And get rear and scare at home. That was not what God meant. God did not mean that **MARRIAGE** and **MINISTRY** have to be rivalries. Your number one ministry, is the ministry of Marriage not the ministry of church. God meant marriage and ministry to work as one body without distinctions. Actually, God values marriage as number one before ministry, ministry should be number two. When God created man, and committed unto him ministry. Before, God commended unto Adam the work of ministry, he committed unto him marriage first. The bible says that God said, "…Let us make for man help suitable for him". This makes it clear, that through marriage, Adam would be HELPED by his wife to carry out the ministry that God committed unto him.

I believe Adam was another style that was careless about his marriage that was why Satan failed his ministry. If you are careless about your family situation like Adam, and put much of your efforts all in your ministry, the devil will ruin and fail your ministry using your own spouse.

Eve was not the cause of sin, But was Adam's carelessness to manage his marriage. Adam ignored, neglected and left behind his wife like some of us do today. As a result, the tempter accessed Eve, who was alone.

Pastor, or servant of God, which style are you. Are you the style who values your work of ministry or job and neglecting your marriage. Or you are the type that Aims at balance between your family and marriage? Which type are you?

*John Wilson Okurut*