

**KNOWING
FALSE
MINISTRIES
AND
FINDING TRUE ONES**

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Knowing False Ministries

and Finding True Ones

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Knowing False Ministries

THE CALL OF THIS PROPHET

I was brought up as a born again christian. However, not one of the churches I attended when I was young believed in all of the five fold ministry. Most of them did not believe in miracles today. As far as I know not one of these would accept the office of the prophet; and would consider anyone who called himself so a false prophet. This is what the Lord had to start with when teaching me concerning truth.

The Lord called me to be a prophet at age 18. During the time from this call until He began to give me prophecies and visions (1973 to 1994), the Lord taught me concerning Him and the Bible. This was an important period when I had to learn the importance of the call and the humble obedience that was required. I had to learn to discern between the false and the true. It was a time when I had to get used to the idea of God speaking to me on a regular basis, which He did. Many concepts I had of the Bible and of christian practices had to give way to Biblical teachings.

It was after this teaching time that God began to give me prophecies, starting in 1994. I had received a few before this, but only rarely. From this time on God began to use me as a tool for His kingdom.

God has told me to publish the prophecies, visions, dreams, and other revelations that He has given me so others can read and understand what He has to say to the church and to the world today. Most of these deal with the sin in the church and the judgments of God that are coming (and have already come) upon the earth.

Thomas S. Gibson

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CHAPTER ONE

THE QUESTION AND THE COMMANDMENT

One of the most frequently asked questions is that of “Who is a False Prophet (or apostle/evangelist/pastor/teacher).” It is a matter that is of great concern to most christians. They are bombarded with much mail, in this electronic age, which comes from some apparent ministry. But how do you know which ones are real and which are not? That is, real from God’s point of view, not ours.

I hope it is obvious that it is God Who appoints ministries. We find in Ephesians this word:

11 And He gave us some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; Ephesians 4:11-12

It is Christ who appoints (or gives), us these ministries within the Body of Christ (which is the church). It is these which He uses to train and perfect us. We are to listen and learn from such ministries.¹

However, it should also be obvious that not all those who are calling themselves a ministry are from God. As a prophet, who also has the “distinguishing of spirits” gift from I Corinthians 12:10, I can see that many of these ministries are not from Him. Indeed, as God shows me this, I see that many more are false than true.

It has become a problem to be able to determine which ones are from God and which are from satan or from the flesh.

¹To read more on the subject of appointed ministries of God see my book “What’s Wrong With the Church” on my web site. The site’s location is in the first few pages of this book. There are also articles which touch on this subject.

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Some false ministries come from demonic activity. They are designed to deceive and pervert the gospel.

Others, however, come simply from the flesh. That is, they come from a person who desires to be great—to be someone—and not from any spiritual source, whether that source is from below (satan), or from above (God).

Then there are the others, which come from the person's flesh, but satan has worked hard at to pervert their thinking. It has become one of the tricks of satan that he "creates" many false ministries to lead christians away from the truth. These ministries do not agree among themselves. The only real purpose for them is to distract us from, and to pervert, the gospel of Christ.

The people in charge are themselves deceived. They tend to go about seeking attention, always making a great noise. This is not to say that only false ministries make a great noise. Many true ministries also make a great noise if the Lord leads in that direction.

All of these false ministries, of course, have an appearance of truth, but they have a deceptive spirit that lives within. It is this "appearance of truth" that is so problematic. It has become the most troubled aspect of the restoration of the five fold ministry. The false are outnumbering the true, making it difficult, almost impossible for some, to find those few true ministries who are appointed of God.

It is rare for me to specifically state that someone is a false minister. The only time I would ever consider doing this is when the Lord gives me a command to state it to someone privately. This has always been in a personal notice and never in the public eye. Even in that context, it is rarely done. Usually God just does not allow me to talk about this, even though He does reveal it to me.

It surprises me how many emails I have received concerning this subject. It may very well be that I have received more questions on this subject than any other.

We need to approach this subject without any religious (read man's) ideas, and see it from a purely Scriptural context. God began, early this year (2001), to teach me and to have me study extensively in the Bible about how to determine false ministries.

The following chapters are the result of this extensive New Testament study. I do not claim, by any means, that this is an exhaustive study. But I do believe that this covers the subject in great detail.

It has been a point that I have noticed that there is little, even very little, written about this subject. It appears to have been avoided by many—perhaps even avoided by almost all—of God's people who are writing on the ministry. It is not a subject that is

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comfortable to deal with. But deal with it we must if we are to go on in the gospel of Christ unto maturity. After all, how can we reach maturity if we are constantly in danger of being deceived.

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:12-13

From this teaching and studying in the Bible to determine false ministries, came also a command to write it in a book to be published on the internet and elsewhere. In this writing I am not going to name any false ministries, but rather to look to the points which can identify such a ministry.

I do not take this subject lightly. It is of great concern that those reading this understand that it is God, as the final judge, who will have the say as to who He has appointed to do what. But we, on this earth, must be able to look at any person's ministry and be able to determine if it is of God.

To be sure, this will always take time. No one, without knowledge from the Lord, can easily determine what is true and what is false. It will take time in closely watching and studying a ministry to see if it lives up to the truth or not.

The importance of knowing the false is evident from the Bible.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; Ephesians 2:19-21

The church is being built on the foundation of the apostle and prophet. If we have false apostles and prophets where will we be headed? Clearly we must look to the work of determining the true from the false!

We are even commanded to test those who call themselves apostles. Look at what Jesus stated to the church at Ephesus:

2 I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance. And that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false. Revelation 2:2

Here we have an example to test apostles in scripture. The next point is how. What is

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the main area in which we can determine whether a ministry is true or false?

15 Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they?

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Matthew 7:15-18

Again, we see a commandment to know the false and avoid it. We also see that we shall know them by their fruits.

In the chapters that follow the Lord has shown me the various different false fruits that these ministries have, and how they hide them so that they are not so easily seen.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 Gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:19-24

While many of these false fruits may not seem to be in any ministry we know, we shall see that some of them are actually there. However, they are hidden and painted over so as to look proper.

As we look at these false fruits, however carefully concealed, we shall see that there are ways found in the New Testament to determine where, and in what ministries, they are found.

We do not wish to go on a "witch hunt" here. We must remember that no ministry of God, through man's hands, will be perfect. The pull of our flesh does cause us to stray from what God would truly want in our lives. But we must also determine which "works" are from Him, and which are not.

To that end we must understand the full meaning of "false."

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CHAPTER TWO

UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF FALSE

It may seem strange to state that one must understand the meaning of “false.” But as the Lord started to show me the different types of false ministries that can exist I realized that we must first understand the exact meaning of this term.

He showed me three types of false ministries:

The types of False Ministries

1. Ministries satan has raised up to deceive the church. They look and appear as Godly on the surface.
2. Ministries (people) who have, in pride, called themselves into the ministry in order to look and be important. Another reason for their calling themselves is to be in control of others.
3. Ministries that God has raised up, but who have left the obedience of the Holy Spirit’s guidance, to follow their own command. These are led astray after the lusts of the flesh for money and prestige.

Let’s take a look at these one at a time.

1. Satanic “Ministries”

The concept of these “ministries” comes right from the heart of a demon. They use the Name of Jesus, the Bible, and other forms of truth to appear good. Many times, and indeed most times, the leader is demonically possessed.

The general practice, in these types of evil works, is that there is a “revelation” which comes from a demonic source. The demon will look and act like God, usually claiming to be God (see II Corinthians 11:14; also quoted below). It is designed to deceive the

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potential leader into believing he or she is some great person with a great call.

Then there is the rise to power. At first it may appear Biblical with many concepts coming from the Bible. Within a period of time, usually a short time, the person starts showing signs of deception. It may be that they think they are Elijah or Jesus; or it may be that they change their doctrine to things which contradict the Bible; with long explanations of why it is still “truth.”

I brought up Elijah above for a reason. It seems there are so many that follow this deception. There are more Elijah’s running around--some now dead, some still alive--than I care to count!

But the pattern here is important. They appear to start on a Biblical basis, drift off of it into some questionable doctrine, and then they begin the steep decline. Some of them end up on the TV news when they go off the deep end.

The general mission of satan here is to destroy the reputation of the Bible and of Jesus. If satan can get people to claim--in a high profile manner--that they are sent from God and then do the most evil thing, he has succeeded to a very great degree in such destruction.

When these things do not work out it is not the person who was deceived that gets the blame, but Jesus and the Bible who is blamed. Just ask those on the street the next time you see an obviously satanic “ministry” go very wrong, whether it was the person’s fault or God’s. It will always be God’s fault in their mind. Satan wins another blow!

2. Called Themselves Into Ministry

This one is very common. So many wish to be an important person in the church, or in other peoples eyes, that they push their own mind into thinking that they are someone of great importance. Almost anything can be interpreted as a sign from God that they are indeed called.

While there is a danger here that satan can get a hold of such a person and put him or her through the satanic “ministry” above, it is not that common.

In order to be well noticed of others, they will pick high profile positions to which they wish their name attached.

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. II Corinthians 11:13-14

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In addition to the call of an apostle, they go after prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. I have been surprised at the number of pastors that God has shown me who are not called by Him. It is, after all, an easy job with most everyone in the community looking up to you.

These false ministers seem to mostly like the travelling type of ministry: apostles, prophets, and evangelists. Usually this person starts a big ministry. They will follow the rules of the churches to which they cater to: after all, they wish to make big bucks from these churches. They tend to have long “talks” at offering time. Many times they will demand a minimum amount of money before they even consider showing up at a church door.

Pride is a big issue here. They like their name in big print; it is usually that way on the front of their headquarters. They are also constantly making a point of how much they are doing for God. Those at it a while will be very skilful at making this look correct, wording it in such a way as to hide their true motives, but it still the sin of pride!

3. Left The Obedience of the Holy Spirit

As the Holy Spirit guides and directs a person into the ministry, the flesh, or for that matter satan, can work at and pull him into the work of the flesh. They then begin to fall into the sins of number 2 above. Indeed, they can completely go down that road all the way to the end. It is unfortunately a common occurrence.

We are all subject to falling into this error. No one truly called to the ministry can say they are not tempted in this. The pull of the flesh and the pull of satan can be very strong at times. We must be constantly aware of this and resist it at every turn. As we resist this sin, we become strong in our onward walk in serving Jesus.

There is the one thing that satan fears the most: strong christian ministries. He has no defense against it. The only thing he can do is to get us to fall into some sin somewhere. Once he does this, he has a foothold to work on. If we let him, he will destroy any and all work we have already done for the Lord, and of course, any future work too.

True ministries are always on the defensive. They need to be. But as they stand strong against the pull of the flesh and the pull of satan, they become strong, bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

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However, we must remember that just because a ministry falls into some sin, does not mean that this ministry is lost. They can repent and pick up again in their work for the Lord. Whether or not they continue after this without falling back into the same sin is important.

Also, we must be able to tell the difference between ministries who have fallen into sin, and those that God has never called in the first place. The next chapters will help us make that determination.

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CHAPTER THREE

SELLING THE GOSPEL

This is something that the Lord has shown me very clearly in my Bible studies on false ministries. We have accepted, and even promoted, the selling of the gospel. It was not like this during the life of Christ. Jesus clearly stated that you have freely received, and therefore, you must freely give.

8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give.

9 Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts.

10 or a bag for your journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. Matthew 10:8-10

The gospel of Christ has been freely given. What right do we have to charge for it? None! But you ask, have we charged money for the gospel?

Let's look at what the average preacher does. He comes to a church and sets up his display in the rear of the church. After the service He is there, selling books, tapes, and other material. It pays for his ministry!

We have sunk to the low of selling anything we can. Jesus has made it apparent that we have freely received, therefore we must freely give. We have become like the world in the selling of goods to get ahead. It is a sign of a false ministry. But it is also a sign of a true ministry of God that has allowed itself to become like world's system in its operation.

One can almost understand how they can get carried away in this area. For today, the only examples of ministries that operate on a strictly biblical manner are so hard to find that almost anyone could miss them. So they start out copying the ways that they see in the church, not knowing any better.

One must take a close look at the Bible to realize that we have strayed considerably from the pattern we are shown from God.

The argument for today is that this simply cannot work. It costs money to produce

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things today. While this is true, and the costs always seems to be going up, we are still to produce books, tapes, and so on, without selling, because that is the pattern in the Bible. I have always made it a point to give, and not sell. Anything that is printed (and at this time these items are only printed from my computer), I always give without charge.

Yes, I do accept gifts from anyone who wants to give in helping with the costs. But I would never, and will never, ask for such a gift. I have found that this giving is something that God has blessed. I have never been short of money for this.

Furthermore, I have seen other ministries that make a point of giving away printed books, CD's, and other material. They do accept gifts, but make a point of not asking for it. Instead, they provide the information needed, without requesting it, for those who wish to give an offering to help with their work. It is rare to find these types of ministries, but they do exist. It also works well because God will bless this selfless giving!

These ministries operate on a giving level, not a selling level. A giving level is a sign of a true ministry that operates as God has designed it. A ministry that operates on a selling level may not necessarily be a false ministry (though it can be); they may just have been carried away with the sin that they see all around them.

Paul always made a point of giving and not selling.

18 What then is My reward? That, when I preach the gospel, **I may offer the gospel without charge**, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. I Corinthians 9:18

This was a practice throughout the New Testament as we will see by the end of this chapter.

We are to produce such material for the body of Christ, but not for our personal gain. Let's look at what Jesus did when He ran into the same type of selling in His day. (We can also find this story in Matthew 21:12-13 and Mark 11:15-17.)

14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated.

15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables;

16 And to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise." John 2:14-16

To say that Jesus was upset about these moneychangers making money off the sale of goods for sacrifices would be an understatement! To actually make a whip (or a scourge) and drive someone out of a church is not something that I have even seen. But

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it shows how upset Jesus was over this issue. It makes clear that this is not an acceptable method of distributing material, whether for the sacrifices of the Old Testament or the preaching of the gospel in the New Testament church.

We must make a point of giving and not selling. This entire idea of making selling acceptable to the church has come from two sources, which are really the same source.

The first source is the world. It has become a common practice in the church today to try to act and look like the world. If we do, then they accept us more readily; that is, they do not make fun of us or persecute us. But we are commanded not to compromise the gospel to make us acceptable to the world. We are to stand for the gospel as the Bible lays it out without any compromise whatsoever!

The second source of this comes from greed. But greed is what makes the world the way it is. So in many ways this is the same source.

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. Colossians 3:5

We see that this greed is not only from the world's ways, but that it also amounts to idolatry. We have come to the place where we idolize the world's ways and place them in the church. We have come to like the greed, the getting ahead in selling, even unto the idolizing of authors within the church. It is nice and comfortable to be like the world; they no longer go against us as they used to. And is it no wonder, for we have become like them!

There is yet much more evidence from scripture of selling being spoken against in a very strong way.

17 For we are not like many, **peddling** the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God. II Corinthians 2:17

The word **peddling** in the Greek means *to retail, or sell, or huckster (which means to promote by showmanship!)*. This is what we have come to accept has the norm in the church. Yet here it is spoken against, leaving no possible explanation other than this is wrong and that it is sin!

Let us now look at another aspect of this business of money, that is, the asking of gifts for the church or ministry. Did the early ministries in the Bible ask for finances when they were preaching at a local church?

I have, under the instruction of the Lord, looked throughout the entire New Testament for any examples of ministries asking for gifts when they were present at a church. I could not find any such examples.

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Instead I found a number of examples of ministries that received gifts only when they were offered without asking.

1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,
2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of you and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality,
3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability **they gave of their own accord.** II Corinthians 8:1-3

Here we find that **they gave of their own accord.** No one was asking them to give, but they chose to give to help Paul with the work of the gospel. As we look throughout the New Testament church we find example after example of this giving without being asked.

15 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, **no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;**
16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.
17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. Philippians 4:15-17

Here we see that Paul and Timothy wrote that **no church shared with them in the matter of giving.** This indicates that they did not ask for gifts from the churches they were at, but left it to the church to bring up the matter of giving to their ministry work.

It is obvious from this passage that they had been to many churches, but only one brought up the matter of a gift. Did they ask to receive from the other churches? Again, there is no evidence of this. They went on with the preaching of the gospel without receiving gifts except when the church offered it to them.

7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached to gospel of God to you without charge?
8 I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to serve you;
9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia, they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so. II Corinthians 11:7-9

Here Paul was in need during the time he was preaching to the church at Corinth. But at no time did he ask for any gift from them, but relied on gifts from another church.

This is the attitude we must walk in. To humble ourselves and not ask for money, for the preaching of the gospel is without charge. Freely we have received and freely we

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must give. It is up to God to provide for our needs. And indeed, He will be faithful to do so, as in this case, where He sent some brethren from Macedonia to Paul with the gift that was needed.

This is also the way it was after Pentecost.

32 After the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales,

35 and lay them at the apostles feet; and they would be distributing to each, as any had need. Acts 4:32-35

We see this attitude here in the book of Acts church. They were willing to sell of their own property to give to whatever needs the church and the people had at that time.

This is the way God intended it to be, and the way that we must return too. It has been a deception of satan to bring us to the place where we will ask, and yes, even beg, for the offerings. These offerings are to be a free will offering, not a coerced one.

Satan has taken the ideas from false ministries and promoted them successfully to those of the true ministries of God. The true ministries have picked up on this without realizing the deception that was there, and we have strayed a very long way from the method of ministry found in the Word of God.

There is yet one other point of ministers gathering finances for the work of God. Ministers actually worked jobs to make money to pay for their costs.

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,

8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you;

9 Not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.

10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

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13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

14 And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame.

15 And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. II Thessalonians 3:6-15

We find here that Paul, and the others with him, would work and pay for their meals while they were at this church. They were presenting themselves as an example of how to be. The commandment was “if they will not work, neither let them eat.” Work is clearly in God’s plan.

1 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth.

2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tentmakers. Acts 18: 1-3

Again, we see a clear example of how Paul was looking for work to pay his way in the ministry. He stayed with this person for one reason, so that they could work together at their trade.

The Lord has shown me that there are three kinds of ministry callings, with respect to finances. Sometimes these overlap; that is, at different times people will walk in different callings to meet their financial needs.

These callings are as follows:

1. **Full time ministry;** no work. No time available for work. They must support themselves with gifts all of the time.
2. **Full time ministry;** part time work. They gain some or all of their support from working part time. At times, some finances may also come from gifts.
3. **Part time ministry;** full time work. Ministry is restricted to times that they have available.

With these types of callings identified we can see that there are different ways in which God wishes us to bring in the money needed for the work of the Lord.

It is my prayer that today’s true ministries will return and follow the ways of God in the meeting of their financial requirements. If they will do so, I know that the Lord will bless and support them in all that He commands them to do.

No ministry could stand and walk in this system if it was not operating from God’s will. False ministries cannot survive in this method. They need to ask, and beg, for money to

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continue; or else they will need to sell to make the money.

When we return to clear biblical methods of providing money for the work of God, it will become extremely evident who is of God and who is not.

I firmly believe that the financial trouble that many ministries are experiencing comes from a greed type of system, rather than a free will system of giving.

Let us return to the ways of God and let Him be a blessing unto us.

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CHAPTER FOUR

PRIDE AND ITS FRUITS

Pride and its fruits come from the spirit within. If the spirit within is of a demonic source, then pride comes forth and we see it in the form of its many fruits. Some of the fruits of pride are clear to the observer. Many are disguised so that they cannot be easily seen.

Let's look at some of the warnings in scripture concerning these evil fruits.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:25-26

One of the fruits that can be so easily hidden is boasting. One of the examples of this is speaking of God's work that you have accomplished. A skilful speaker can glaze over the boasting aspect so that it appears that he or she is only talking concerning the Lord's work. But in this talk they can and do specifically mention, and draw attention to, their own success.

The person talks about how they have accomplished much for the Lord, putting themselves in a high position in the peoples eyes, worded in such a way as to disguise their end result. But disguised or not, it is a fruit of pride, and it comes only from the spirit of the world.

Challenging one another, as well as envying one another, is much the same. It can be easily disguised to look as a needed defense, when it is really trying to build themselves up at the expense of another.

A person who is humble has the Spirit of God. That Spirit within you will never try and exalt itself, but rather it will brag on someone else. This is the true sign of humility: no flattering words, no building up of themselves, but rather they will brag on about the Lord.

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5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—

6 nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. I Thessalonians 2:5-7

When we find a person who completely ignores various aspects of themselves and talks of the Lord, and of others with their accomplishment, then we have truly found someone who is humble in spirit and seeking the benefit of others.

These are truly a blessing of the Lord and are almost always those that the Lord prefers to work through. They have found that they are not important—except as the Lord chooses to use them—and have chosen to build up others. They are the ones the Lord will build up, even though they themselves will not do it. They become important as the Lord leads, not as they themselves decide.

In fact we must recognize that it is not even ourselves who are of service to God, but rather it is the Spirit of God within us that empowers and gives us to be a service to God.

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.

28 And the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are,

29 that no man should boast before God.

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

31 that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.” I Corinthians 1:26-

31

To say that we are wise in the Lord simply means that we are really foolish; that is, foolish to the world and foolish in the world's eyes. If God is using us, it is proof positive of our weak nature in ourselves. For God uses the foolishness and weakness of the world to confound those things which are strong.

How can God use weakness to make strong? It is simply that He empowers us and works through us so that it is not us who are doing anything—we are weak—it is Him who is working through us, being strong within us. We have become nothing; He has become all.

All those who think they have attained any stature with God must remember that, if this is even true (that they are important to the Lord), it is because they are absolutely

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nothing at all!! It is only God who is working through them; they have become nothing.

This humility is unfortunately rare in the churches. They have become accustomed to the world's idea of boasting about themselves. They have come to the place where it is natural to think like the world. The world's ideas are now so far into the church that many cannot, or choose not, to see the evil of the world's ways in themselves and make a change.

They have chosen not to look at the commands of the Bible, but use arguments of man to justify their boasting. They like to have it like this, for it is comfortable. The world will then like them, and they can find justification to the church for their behaviour; and because it has become so common, no one will really object.

Those who will brag about themselves and what they have accomplished are clearly displaying a sign of a false ministry. But it is also true that those who are truly called of God fall into this sin from time to time.

Those called of God who walk in a boasting and prideful manner, even though they are truly called of God, are not walking correctly with Him. Indeed, they are beginning to slide down the slippery slope to destruction. So many of God's called ministries have slid down here. Slowly fighting what they think is evil coming against their work, when in reality, it is God slowly bringing judgment upon them for their sin.

Many true ministries have gone down to the count over this. That is, they have fallen to such a degree that God will undo their ministry. He will destroy that work because it is no longer of Him, but it is of the world and its ways.

We must be extremely careful to keep ourselves from such error and sin. Satan uses many tricks to get us to fall into this trap. It has been one of his most successful attacks against the church.

Once he has succeeded in destroying ministries with this sin, he can use them to destroy the church with the same sin, from the inside out. This is the main reason that the Lord must make a stand against such things, even to the bringing of judgment against a work that He began. But even then, He will be slow to anger, allowing much time for the ministry to repent of its sin. But if it does not, it can count on the judgment of God!!

Those who walk in pride do not wish to see the true cost of a ministry work. That cost is persecution. Paul experienced this.

24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers

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from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches. II Corinthians 11:24-28

Clearly, this is not the picture of a ministry that many have. They seek pride and comfort. They do not understand that once committed to the ministry, satan uses all he has to confront them and turn them away from the work. He comes against them from all directions to tempt them into sin, sends many into their path to persecute them, and attempts to send all kinds of calamity on them.

It is only the power of God, and the protection of Him, that protects us as we walk with the Lord. Paul had many types of persecution against Him. Are we willing, should we be called to the ministry, to be in this kind of persecution for the cause of Christ?

Let's look at something else Paul had to say by the Holy Spirit.

9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;

12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

13 When we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now. I Corinthians 4:9-13

Not exactly a picture of the ministry that many would like to think of. Here Paul gets down to the dirty facts about serving the Lord. He worked with his own hands (see chapter 3), did not have much money, was persecuted, slandered, and had become the scum of the world. In the ministry this is what we have to look forward to.

Once we make a commitment not to compromise the gospel, we will find that persecution comes out of the places we least expect with bold attacks. Satan will not stand idly by while we make a commitment to not compromise the gospel in any way. He will fight this every way he can.

So many, in these last few years, are calling themselves apostles. Some of them truly are. But many have wished from their heart to be an important person for God. It is the sin of pride. They have called themselves into the highest calling in the New Testament. With their pride and lust for power they have gone forth to deceive and be deceived.

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But have they counted the cost, or even admitted that there is a cost, a high cost, to serving the Lord?

It would seem to me that the higher the calling, the higher the cost. As I have noticed in my reading of the Bible many times, this is a spiritual principle that applies to every calling of God. Therefore, the apostles, have the highest cost; and prophets seem to be close behind.

As we put all of this into perspective we can see that true ministries, which are following the leading of the Holy Spirit in a complete way, will regard others in the ministry as more important than themselves.

They are willing to take on a less important, more background roll, provided the Lord leads them in that way. If He leads them into a prominent roll, which is above others, they will not promote themselves, but rather they will go out of their way to promote the Lord and other ministries. This is a strong sign of a true ministry walking after the Lord the way He has chosen us to walk.

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself. Philippians 2:3

The lack of pride, and a strong humility, is one very good sign of a ministry that does not compromise the gospel. Those who walk in these sins of pride are clearly either a false ministry not called of God, or one that has been lead astray into sin by the world, and the spirit of the world, that is found in the churches today.

Neither one of these is a trustworthy work. Those who are not called of God are truly not to be listen too. But also, those who have gone after the sins of the world are a *must avoid* ministry. These, while once called of God, are no longer following after that call; and will inevitably lead people into error.

Always look to the Bible for any leading. If there is any contradiction between scriptures and the teaching of a ministry, always follow scripture.

Remember that love one to another is more important than getting every doctrine correct. I know of no ministry that can keep everything perfectly accurate. None of us have perfection in this flesh; but that perfection comes from above as we are changed in the last day at Christ's return.

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CHAPTER FIVE

LACKING LOVE

The lack of love for one another is a sign of falseness in a ministry. Love is shown in many ways.

Those who go out of their way, inconveniencing themselves to teach and help others, are showing the love that comes from the Lord. Many of those called into the ministry avoid this. They do not wish to take the time to lend a hand in teaching when their ministry seems to be in another area.

But they have not realized that those who seem to stop going forward, so that they may take time to teach others who need to understand, are indeed doing their ministry work. Others must understand, or they are failing in their work. Those who will humble themselves in the helping and teaching of others are showing a love for the other person and not for themselves.

Are they willing to go out of their way to help others, to teach them, to humble themselves to lend a hand? To be helpful to others?

There are many who put on an air of helpfulness. But when you get down to what is really going on, they are pushing those who ask questions, who want to know more, onto others so they will not have to deal with the questions and teachings. It is not important to the building of their ministry to spend time in such things. This attitude comes from pride.

To spend time with those who wish to question and learn is to spend time building up knowledge in others and not in yourself. This takes a humility that comes from the Lord. It is not what the flesh wants to do. But every one who is called to any type of ministry is called also to participate in this helping of others.

But what about love to those who disagree with a minister? What about those who disagree with certain teachings?

To be sure, all teachings within the Bible are not to be compromised. Before we make a judgment that some teaching is wrong, let us make sure that our point is **clearly stated**

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in the scriptures, and not our own interpretation. It is so easy to build up our own thinking and interpretation into a must believe doctrine. Then we begin to fight against our brethren in the Lord to make them believe what we do.

It is quite correct for us to make a stand on what we believe, but we must not take this stand into a “fighting of others” within the Body of Christ. It is enough to make the stand and state, from a scriptural point of view, why we believe it. To get beyond this is to get into a fighting spirit between one another.

In the Bible we read a warning concerning this subject:

15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.
Galatians 5:15

It is so easy to get into an argumentative state. When we sink into this state we have come down from believing and standing for our beliefs, into an area that satan controls—that is, into an argumentative attitude. Once we get into that place we have begun to despise those who dare to disagree with us. We have become willing to divide the Body for the sake of us winning an argument.

This is not a place of the Lord, but rather it is a place of deception from satan himself. It is clearly to his advantage to have us argue and divide ourselves (as has and is happening), so that we leave the important work of preaching the gospel to get into the satanic work of divisions within the church, that is, within the whole Body of Christ.

This has been a victory of satan for many years. It is this that the Lord has been working to destroy. He is seeking to bring about again a love within us such as once existed in the first century church in the book of Acts.

It is this love that will cause us to be willing to go out of our way to help others in whatever we can do for them. This is not something that is just shown to those in the church, (that is, the Body of Christ, not an individual church), but is shown to all those we come in contact with throughout each day.

But it goes beyond this. We must also seek those who need help, go out of our way to find them, and then show them the love that comes from God.

26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless.

27 This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit the orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. James 1:26-27

Here we find that not only must we go out of our way to help others, we must also keep our words in check and keep ourselves out of the world’s sins. It takes the same

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kind of discipline to hold our words in check so that we do not say what we should not, as it does to go out of our way in the helping of others.

In order to do this we must not follow what our flesh would want, but instead, we must learn to humbly obey the work of the Lord as we reach out to others in need.

It is this attitude that divides those who are in the ministry for selfish reasons--that is, those who are not called into the work; and those who are called, but have gone astray after their own wants and desires to build themselves up and not the Lord--from those who seek the Lord's will and to help others. It is this selfish motive that determines false ministries from true ones.

Those who have built their ministry on selfish desires will, without thinking, follow with their actions in a selfish way. They cannot separate the two. They are linked and cannot be separated. Those who want to help others go out of their way to do so without making any showing of this. They are indeed coming from a love point of view and not from a selfish one.

Those who help others, but make a big showing of it to the world and the church, are helping only in the building up of themselves. They are saying, "look at me and how good I am in helping others." This is not a humble attitude, but a prideful one. If these people could not make themselves look good in other peoples eyes, they would never help anyone. They are truly in a false spirit of ministry.

The question here is who is more important? Who counts the most: others or ourselves? Those who base their actions on others being more important are the ones who have their hearts set on the right motives.

Those who have based their actions on selfish works are the ones who have gone into the ministry for selfish reasons. Even if they were called of God in the first place, they have now turned to their own way, and are no longer following what God wishes.

Let's look at what Paul and Timothy wrote by the Holy Spirit concerning this:

11 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstances I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-13

We find that when we are seeking the needs of others and not the needs of ourselves, that we will be content in whatever circumstances we are in. If we are in prosperity of the world, (large house, cars, etc.) we will be happy. If we find that we are in want and

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suffering need, we will be **just as happy** knowing the Lord is with us and will meet all our needs as we trust Him.

Those who are content in whatever situation they find themselves are truly in a ministry that is helping others and not helping themselves. One that is based on love and not on selfishness.

It is these ministries that are placing the Lord first, others second, and themselves last, that are true and holy ministries from God. These are the ones that are showing the fruits that come from the Lord and not the fruits that come from the world. For by their fruits we shall know them.

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CHAPTER SIX

DIVISIONS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Divisions within the Body of Christ, that is, the church are not from God. As we read in the book of Acts, the first century church was of **one accord**. They did not have divisions within it. They were in unity with Jesus and the concept of divisions and factions did not exist.

46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

47 praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

This is how the Lord Jesus set up His original church. No division of any kind; just unity one with another!

However, factions, or division within the church began to occur over time, and were spoken strongly against in the scriptures. Such divisions were classified as being of the flesh and not of God.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

Factions, (or divisions or denominations), are here along with all the rest of the deeds of the flesh. Why would they be here? Because such divisions within the church are just as fleshly and just as sinful as any of the other deeds of the flesh.

Yet, today we find more divisions of Christ than any one of us would care to count. For who could keep track of every different denomination that there is? There are so many division within the denominations that it is indeed impossible to count them all.

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And yet the argument for such denominations is that they must exist because “other denominations” are in such error. But is this correct?

Having a denomination that is correct in their doctrine is a contradiction. If they wish to be correct, then according to Galatians 5:20 they must not be a faction or division, which is the basis of any denomination.

My point here is that the very idea of any such division does not come from the Bible, but from the flesh. It is one of the deeds of the flesh, and therefore cannot be considered correct doctrine. The argument that their denomination is correct in doctrine does not hold water. They are already incorrect because of the division they have made!

The moment anyone creates any type of division within the church, they have created what the Bible commands us not to do.

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For I have been informed concerning you, by brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you.

12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ.”

13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 that no man should say you were baptized in my name. I Corinthians 1:10-15

Here we see that the process of dividing the church had already begun. This process comes from the flesh and from satan. If he can divide us, he has gained a significant foothold over us. Now all that is left to do is to get us to argue back and forth about who is right. This is very easy, because that is what created the various denominations in the first place!

6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:6-7

So you see that these divisions come not from God to bring truth without error, but from satan. Such divisions are themselves sin and cannot be truth for they distort the true unity of Christ!

With such distortions of the gospel we come to the place of accepting that “our denomination” is correct; and therefore, we will not receive (at least not in a complete

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way), someone from another denomination. This leads to another error.

43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him.

44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?" John 5:43-44

As we accept the denominations we fall into the error of receiving man and not God. We will receive and give glory to one another, instead of giving the **complete** glory to God. This is yet another error, or another sin, that comes from such divisions within Christ.

But how, now that these divisions have been created, do we return to the Biblical based church? Can we bring about a return to unity again? To be sure, we cannot bring it about ourselves; this must come from above. For if we attempt to bring about this unity ourselves we are likely to create even more denominations.

But God has a better plan. As a prophet, God has been showing me that He wishes to bring about a return to the "book of Acts **one church**." I believe that God is now beginning the process of this return.

But we cannot begin a process of combining various denominations and factions. This is as much in error as the process that created them. For if we combine several of the divisions we have only created one unified division; but have not destroyed the divisions at their base. There is only one way in which we can destroy this work of Satan. That is, to destroy the very denominations that were created, for they are evil.

We must return to a church that makes its foundation of doctrine *every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God*, that is, the Bible. This is where we find true doctrinal correctness. If we have any kind of disagreement we must return to the scriptures and search them out to find the truth. If there is any kind of uncertainty within the Bible concerning the question, then let the people decide for themselves. It is not important to have every doctrine absolutely correct. There is no way on this earth that we can achieve this.

However, if the Bible makes the point clear, then we must change our thinking to line up with the Word! This is how one keeps unity within the various ideas that man comes up with. But always the deciding factor must be the Word of God! Anything else is not of God but of Satan; and will again create divisions within the church.

We must return again, to the days of **one church**. Denominations must crumble and be dismantled. The churches must become the **local church** in a given area. These things must be or we are walking in the deeds of the flesh, and that is sin!

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As we return to such a Biblically based system, true unity based on the Bible will return; and so will the power of God within the church because we will no longer be ruling out of our man-made systems, but be bowing down to be ruled by Him above, and therefore, His power will reign within us!

But will such a system really take place? I hope and believe that it will! But if we look at this in a realistic fashion we must realize that the leaders of the denominations are truly entrenched in power and wish to remain so. Therefore, it is foolish to expect this to happen. It is this man-made power controlling the church that has, and is, holding back its own revival and its own return to God's ways.

From the beginning of the reformation, beginning with Luther, the Lord has pushed to bring about a return to truth based Biblical doctrine, not with any denomination, but rather, outside of such divisions. If the church of the day rejected truth, God called those people out to a renewed truth outside of a man-made, and man-designed structure.

This is again happening today. God is calling people out of the man-made systems. But we must be very careful to not again fall into the trap as has occurred in the past; that is, to create another denomination to replace the old one. If such a thing happens, then we have fallen for the same sin that we have just left!!

As God calls out His people from such sin, we must note that the churches that rise up must be **truly local churches**, *without a name aside from a local name that denotes their location*. Anything more can and will recreate the sin again.

We can now see that the very concept of a denomination is not of God, but is from the flesh and from satan. This, in itself, brings about the false type of ministry. Each of the various denominations seeks to build itself up as the correct one. They look upon themselves as being the only one that has researched the Bible and come to the "right" conclusions.

Even the attempts to bring more unity between these divisions will only bring about a compromise and a distortion of the gospel. When this type unity takes place, no one is seeking the Bible to find out what the truth is; but rather, they are seeking to find common ground based on their own preconceived notions of what is correct.

Only as we listen to God's Spirit calling us to unity--destroying or leaving the man-made denominations and returning to true local churches--can we begin to walk as one church, truly unified, following only the Bible in **one accord**.

We must, if we intend to walk fully with God, return to the one church concept that **He created** and that we find within the original church of the book of Acts. God help us as we find the courage to accept all of the Bible, and not our own man-made concepts of how things should work.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

LACKING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In any ministry that is called by God, walking correctly with the Lord, and serving in true humility and obedience, we will find that there is a noticeable power of the Holy Spirit operating through them. False ministries do not have this power because it comes from God and they are not called by Him.

This power of the Holy Spirit will only show up in areas and in people that are truly anointed for the task that God has called them to. God does not give His Holy Spirit in power to those that He has not called. This is one area that we can use to determine if a ministry is called of God or not.

If they are called by God they will demonstrate this power in signs and miracles. The higher called the ministry (such as apostles and prophets), the more they should be showing signs and miracles in their work. Paul had this kind of demonstration of power.

12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles. II Corinthians 12:12

It is one of the most important signs of a true ministry that they will demonstrate these signs and miracles, especially if the calling is of an apostle. With the demonstration of signs and miracles there must also be a humility and weakness of the flesh. We must understand that these two go together in the Lord.

If there is a push from the person's own mind, his own flesh, to be in power, this will quench the power of the Holy Spirit in his ministry. We understand from the following passage that we have the power to quench the Holy Spirit.

19 Do not quench the Spirit; I Thessalonians 5:19

True power from God operating through a person can only come from one who is weak in the flesh, and therefore, the power of God is strong in him. There are many ministries that operate in great power of their own actions. This is not the power of God. To stand up and make a great showing is to operate in the flesh and not in the Spirit.

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But a true ministry operating in all that God desires will produce a weakness of the flesh, and therefore, allow the power of the Spirit of God to come through with miracles, signs, and wonders.

Paul had this weakness when he preached. He was strong in the Spirit of God, but weak in the flesh.

1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.

4 And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. I Corinthians 2:1-5

So we see that true ministries speak not with the strength of themselves, but rather, with the power of God. Those who demonstrate the power of the flesh, that is, the strength of the speech which they have, are not operating in the power of God but in the power of their own flesh.

Clearly it is a sign that a ministry is not right with God if there are no miracles and great signs being performed.

The highest calling in the ministry is that of an apostle. With this call there should be the strongest of miracles and signs. Those who are called to the office of a prophet, will show forth miracles of that line. Those that are called to that of an evangelist, pastor, or teacher, will show miracles of that nature.

The greatest of the miracles are done by the those who are in the highest calling. Those in lower callings will demonstrate less powerful miracles. I do not wish to attempt to identify what a mighty miracle is compared to a less powerful one. I am not sure that such a definition, if it is even possible, could be properly understood by our minds. A comparison between different types of miracles is not important. What is important, is that we realize that the highest callings will demonstrate the greatest power.

As God calls each one which He chooses into the five fold ministry² He will operate through them with signs and miracles. Each individual calling will have its own demonstration of power from God which will line up with the work of how God is

²See my previous book, "What's Wrong With The Church?" for an explanation of how the five fold ministry should operate within the Body of Christ. It can be found on my web site, the address of which is noted at the beginning of this book.

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using that person. The greatest of the signs and miracles will be through those of the highest calling.

It is important for each one of us who are called into the five fold ministry, to operate in the humility of the flesh, and therefore, in the power of God which must flow through us. Those who attempt to call themselves to various ministries for the elevation of their so-called work of God will not be able to operate in such power, which only comes from God. They will clearly and obviously be lacking such signs and miracles.

This is an area that cannot be faked by the flesh. They can bring forth great speeches to cover up the fact that there is no power of God operating in them. But those who are wise in the things of God will look not to the power of their actions, but to the power of God in their work. They will look for signs and miracles, and not for a great operation of the flesh.

Indeed, great sounding words are a warning sign. If they are accompanied with a lack of signs and miracles, we can confidently make the determination that God is not operating in power within that person. With this conclusion we realize that this ministry is not correct with God.

What we cannot do is to determine whether the problem is one of being called by God and not staying in that call, but rather seeking the power of the world over God; or whether it is one that was never called in the first place. This information, if God will even allow us to know, comes only from Him. Almost all the time God will not reveal this to us.

It is enough to know whether a ministry is operating in the power of God or not; and therefore, which ones to avoid and which ones to listen to. In this way we can determine those who are operating by the power of God, and those who are operating in the power of the flesh.

Knowing False Ministries

CHAPTER EIGHT

CONCLUSION

In many ways this book is hard hitting. It needs to be so. There is no accurate way to say these things without taking the hard line. It is time that the fruits and reality of the false ministries be laid out so that the people of God can clearly see what is of Him above and what is perverted with the world below.

To be fair, all ministries will have some type of perversion of the flesh. We are ourselves flesh, and this flesh opposes the Spirit of God at every turn. Paul talked about this in Galatians.

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. Galatians 5:17

But even though every ministry must fight the flesh, and therefore has the potential to have some fleshly influence within it, we need to be able to determine which ones are submitting to the Lord, and which ones are coming from the world. This is why the Lord gave me the commandment and direction to write this book.

The purpose I have here is that we gain enough knowledge to be able to determine whether a ministry is following the Spirit of God, or the spirit of the world. If they are showing forth fruits which the Bible states are true fruits of a true ministry, then we should welcome such a work. But if the ministry is showing forth false fruits then we must be aware of this so that we can avoid such a work.

It is obvious to me that many of the ministries in the denominational churches are of a false nature. They show forth some, or even most, of the false fruits that I have mentioned in this book. But as we look to the book of Acts, and the original Spirit filled first century church, we see that they did not have these false ministries. They did, however, have an attempt by satan to bring in such falseness into the church.

Knowing False Ministries

Look at the story of Annias and Sapphira:

- 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property.
 - 2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.
 - 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?"
 - 4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."
 - 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it.
 - 6 And the young men arose and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.
 - 7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.
 - 8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."
 - 9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well."
 - 10 And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
 - 11 And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.
- Acts 5:1-11

We see here that the sin was in lying about the amount. Recognition was much greater in the eyes of those who heard of it that the person gave all of the amount of the sale. So satan put it into their hearts to lie about the total sale price.

But here God is in control. The sin did not enter the church, even though satan tried hard to bring it in. God's judgment on the two of them stopped it from entering in. The sin came only to the door of the church, to the apostle Peter, and then it was destroyed.

This is what happens when God is **in full control** of the church. Sin cannot, and is not, allowed to come in and dwell with the people. It is stopped at the door, and that ends the attempt to pervert the church.

For this to happen, the people and especially the leadership, must be submitting to the Holy Spirit without compromise. But when the compromise starts with the leadership, that is, the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (see Ephesians 4), then there is no one left to carry out the will of God, and judgment does not come immediately. This is what has happened to our denominational churches, which divide and break up the true unity of the body of Christ. They have been founded on a division, (or sect, or name of man), instead of being built of the Rock Christ Jesus.

Knowing False Ministries

So it is with us today. Much of the leadership (e.g. apostles, prophets) that God appoints in the church are not even recognized as being from God, as they do not believe in such things today. So therefore, the power of God is not in control, and sin is constantly entering into the church unchecked!

Today God is renewing the church, with a return to the true apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. As these true ministries rise up God will again be in control through those He has placed to be in charged of His church. The denominations, or sects, must fall, and a true local church must rise. As this happens, there will be a block which will keep out the sins from entering into **the true one church**.

As the people of God recognize the true ministries, and resist the false, God is going to purge His church of sin and bring about again, the true pure church of the first century.

THE END