

The Lord is raising us as leaders. In various spheres of our lives, God has made us leaders, either among our friend groups, social circle or in the church. Leadership is not necessarily based on position; it is being an example. Through out this meditation, we have looked at the topic of grace. We saw grace as the delivery man that brought salvation to us. We also considered the grace that enables us to live a life above sin. Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds, *Romans 5:20*. Hence, with each temptation, there is a choice to make. However, God being merciful provided an advocate, just in case any man should sin. We see this provision when Adam and eve sinned, *Genesis 3:21*. God had a cloth of skin. This lamb had already been slain before the foundation of the World, *Revelations 13:8*.

### **GRACE FOR MINISTERIAL EMPOWERMENT, FOR AUTHORITY BUILDING.**

The recurring theme for this ministration is building. *Isaiah 66:1-2* shows that God's intention is to build man as a house. It is the Word of His grace, the Word of God that builds us up. Every believer as soon as he gives his life to Jesus is a lord. However, he is under tutelage until the time of Showing, *Galatians 4:1-2*. The Lord Jesus is coming back for His Church; However, He is not going to step into this current set up of the church and we will see why as we progress.

*Romans 1:3-6, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Ephesians 3:7, 1 Peter 4:11* show that we have all received a ministerial grace. *1 Peter 5:1-5* is also addressed towards leaders. A definition of true leadership in this scripture is being an example. Jesus as well had a do and a teach style of leadership, *Acts 1:1*. The message and the messenger need to be one, in order for the minister to be effective. A leader disciples people after Christ. External manipulation, which sometimes involves people twisting the scriptures for their profit, only leads to behavioural conformity. This never goes beyond the surface. Sometimes people we work with can be difficult, but the underlying principle is long suffering. This is a fruit of the Spirit. It starts from the inside. The result takes time, but it births a change from the inside out. This results in true disciples of Christ.

Every leader is a student. *1 Peter 5:1-5* gives a guideline to leaders. It says let the younger submit to the older. This elder here is presbyterious, which is a factor of age. Each leader needs to be humble. Humility is actually a perception of oneself. Pride is the opposite. The death to self message is very vital for ministerial grace. *John 12:24-25* shows that if any man lose his life, he will gain it. This can be

interpreted in two ways. Spiritually, you must learn to die to your appetites and ideas. This means that when you feel your idea is best and your idea is not chosen, you will not feel down or disregarded, you will consider the ideas of others as better. Physically will mean you will even be willing to lay down your life for Christ.

The vast majority of Christianity today is like the Babel project, built by men as seen in *Genesis 11:4-5*. There is a city which God is building and there is a city which man builds. In the Babel project, they used brick for stone and slime for mortar. Brick is a man-made stone. It is made by breaking stone and reshaping it to ones pleasing. This is symbolic of men twisting the Word of God to their own pleasing. They then burn it thoroughly, meaning they test out their ideologies. They had slime for mortar. Mortar is used to join two stones together, so that they can stay. They used slime instead. Mortar can be interpreted to be love. However, slime is greasy, it is slimy. It is pretense and hypocrisy. Slime assumes unity, but it is not true unity. Any unity outside the blood of Jesus is not real.

### PRACTICAL STEPS FOR GROWING IN GRACE.

We grow in grace by growing in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, *2 Peter 3:18*. You cannot grow in a higher grace than the knowledge of God. Grace has been given to us equally. The only difference is in expression. *Ephesians 4:7-8* shows that God has given us grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. The gift of Christ is 100%, however, this does not mean we are all working in the fullness of the grace given. The disparity is growth. God did not give some men more grace and some less grace. Grace is Charis, Gift is Charisma. Having gifts differing as seen in *Romans 12:6* means, a person can be a manager of Sales and another a manager in technology, however, both are managers. The difference in the expression of grace is according to the proportion of faith. Grace differs according to the knowledge we have of it. It is important to note that people can have gifts, but no grace. There are gifted singers and athletes in the world, but this does not stem from grace. This means that giftings can be developed by practice. Graces can also be developed when we exercise them by reason of use, *Hebrews 5:14*. This is not just for gifts, but for fruits of the Spirit too, *Acts 24:16*. Someone can practice and perfect patience, love, etc. This is to remove unnecessary strife and envy that comes with comparing another person with ourselves. God has given us all things. If we are not working in the fulness of them, it is because we are not practising. This is how we grow in grace. There is no limit to the way God will use us. The limitation is in the mind.

To put all this in perspective, during the time of the law, there were three temples, Solomons, Zerubbabel's temple and Herod's. During the time of the dedication of Solomons temple, there were 120 trumpeters, *2 Chronicles 5:12*. Similarly in the time of the early church there were 120 disciples (Acts 2). This is simply drawing a comparison between the temple in the old covenant and that of the new covenant. During the time of Zerubbabel's temple, *Haggai 2:9* says the glory of the latter house shall be greater than Solomon's temple. We saw its fulfilment in Herod's temple, which was simply a renovation of Zerubbabel's temple. Herod's temple was the temple that Jesus was dedicated in.

We often refer to the glory of the early church, however, the temple the Lord Jesus will return to, the latter house, will exceed in glory than the times of the apostles. Zerubbabel's temple is a period of preparation. *Malachi 4:1-5* speaks of the coming of the Lord. In the beginning of this, two categories of people will emerge; those that fear the name of the Lord and the people who do not. The fire that will burn on the Lord's day is a category of people, those that fear the Lord and the wicked shall be stubble under their feet. In verse 5, we see that the Lord is sending Elijah the prophet. John came in the Spirit and power of Elijah, *Luke 7:27*. The company of Elijah will come, just as seen in the time of Jesus and people will not recognize them. Those who have given themselves to preparation will be part of the Elijah company. The coming of the Lord should be the motivation of anything we do. These people turn the heart of the Father to the people and the people to their heavenly Father. This word is coming now so that we will not just be church goers or given to religion. *2 timothy 2:14, 19-21* shows us our role. It is simple: Give yourself to preparation, live a righteous life, to consecration, give yourself to service, to love; love for the brethren.

*So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

*Acts 20:32 NKJV*

*The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with your Spirit. Amen!*