

MANUAL FOR TIMOTHIES



Apostolic Assembly



of the Faith in Christ Jesus



GEAR
5

School of Discipleship

the STRATEGY of *Jesus*
FRIENDSHIP GROUPS
Trinity

MANUAL FOR TIMOTHIES

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Printed in the United States of America

Manual for Timothies



Apostolic Assembly
of the Faith in Christ Jesus

Presentation



I present to the pastors and assistants in the supervision of Friendship Groups, the **Manual for Timothy**s, which is the second manual for gear # 5 (the School of Discipleship).

When a visitor to our church, is baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, besides taking care that they continue to nourish their life as a disciple in a Friendship Group, we believe they should study the lessons in the Discipleship Manual, to consolidate their identity in doctrine and apostolic values.

At the end of these lessons, we recommend that the new believers with better growth as disciples, study the lessons of the **Manual for Timothy**s. These lessons are designed to help train new assistant directors and future leaders of cell groups.

We ask that you remember the seven gears of the Strategy of Jesus, to make use of them all. They are the result of the experience of our congregations in the Apostolic Assembly.

- Gear 1: Spiritual Strategy.
- Gear 2: Evangelistic Cycles.
- Gear 3: Friendship Groups.
- Gear 4: Evangelistic and Launching Retreats.
- Gear 5: School of Discipleship.
- Gear 6: Weekly Meeting for Leaders.
- Gear 7: Excellence in every ministry.

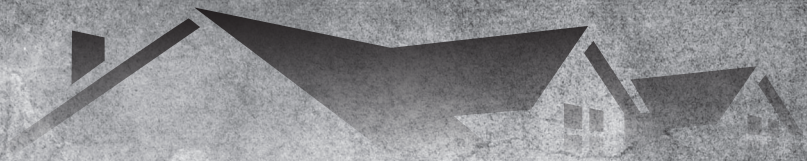
I thank Bishop Elias Paez, General Treasurer of the Apostolic Assembly in Mexico and his leadership team in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, for writing these lessons. I also thank Pastor Joe Aguilar, Coordinator of our committee, for the first review of these lessons.

May the Lord Jesus raise thousands of new leaders for Friendship Groups!

Bishop Ismael Martín del Campo,
President, Strategy of Jesus Committee

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SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY



Lesson 1

Operation *Timothy*



2 Timothy 2:2

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' Strategy for homes is implemented through an evangelistic cycle, using the procedure called "Operation Timothy," which provides the pastor and his team with an efficient implementation of the cellular vision in his church.



Why “Timothy”?

Timothy was a spiritual son and disciple of the Apostle Paul. Etymologically, Timothy means **“Honoring God.”** We strive to honor God in our lives and fulfill Paul’s exhortation to Timothy: *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”*

Operation Timothy:

A multiplying discipling effect with excellence.

Through Jesus’ strategy of at home, God gives the church a triple opportunity:

- **To the Pastor:** to exercise his ministry and his calling to prepare the saints for the task of ministry.
- **To the Timothies:** (brothers and sisters), members willing to “honor God” in the service of winning the world for Christ, bearing fruit to 30, 60, and 100.
- **To the Congregation:** to exercise their talents and gifts in the conservation, care and maturity of the new believers.

THE DISCIPLES’ PILOT GROUP FORMED BY TIMOTHIES

The pastor will work in a direct way, forming, growing and developing the potential of each Timothy, helping them to acquire the following features that are the product of good disciple teaching:



1. A GOOD WITNESS

The congregations of Derbe and Lystra spoke well of Timothy.

2. A PASSION FOR SOULS.

One feature of the passionate is the ease to turn any occasion into an opportunity to introduce Christ, and lead people to the knowledge of the truth.

3. POTENTIAL

Paul could see potential in people. He saw the following in Timothy:

a) A collaborator. He strives to achieve a common purpose. (**1 Corinthians 3:9**)

b) An approved Worker. What is Timothy's testing time? The moment he opens his cell and is faithful to his pastor and church. (**1 Corinthians 4:17, 2 Timothy 2:15**)

c) Create a transparent relationship between the Pastor and Timothy.

Paul circumcised Timothy out of passion for the lost. Timothy's formation consists on cleaning him of his Adamic nature and turning him into a believer endowed with the nature of Christ.

d) To love God's word. (**1 Peter 2:2**)

4. AN EXTRAORDINARY DISPOSITION

Each Timothy must have an attitude of willingness and commitment to God. The arrangement is characterized by "Prothumus"



which means “**a person willing to serve.**” Timothy’s dedication and disposition are learned from his teacher.

5. CHARACTER

It refers to a form of conduct based on principles, and these principles dignify our own lives and those of others. Character is developed this way but requires a strong basis. The pillars of character in Timothy are:

- **Recognition of Authority:**

People who learn to recognize an authority are those whose character is oriented in the right direction to achieve a mature character. When a person recognizes an authority, he or she is in a position to recognize his mistakes. A person is not respected for what he is, but for what he represents.

- **Assumption of responsibility.**

Timothies who take responsibility for their errors in different situations become according to **1 Timothy 3:18** trustworthy people. Timothies will one day become leaders and will be in charge of leaders that will provoke growth (**Acts 16:5**). As such it is required for the pastor to prepare and equip them with the highest possible objectivity to have in the vision a healthy, exponential and excellent growth.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, Timothy is a potential leader, someone who is preparing to perform a duty spreading God’s work. He will learn from his leader, and earn an honorary degree: Becoming a Leader.



Lesson 2

How does *a Cell Group* work



INTRODUCTION

This section will discuss the development form of a cell meeting. It is worth mentioning that the functioning of cell groups also implies the fulfilling of the purposes that God has designated for his Church.

Usually, a regular session of a small group should last from 1 to 2 hours in every case. It must be said that the study will take from 45 to 60 minute maximum.



We present to you, seven practical steps for the functioning of a cell group:

1. WELCOME

The leader must have arrived early and checked that everything is ready to start. The deputy (Timothy) must be with the leader and the host. Everything must be prepared, in a clean setting, comfortable, etc. He should begin at the appointed time and welcome the brothers and the visitors they might have brought along.

It is important to place ourselves in the hands of God; so that everything we do, it's in the name of the Lord.

2. ICEBREAKER

Immediately following the welcome, we must do an icebreaker activity, which aims to remove the tension or the prejudice that people may bring. Here, they are told about the purpose of the meeting, perhaps including small testimonies to motivate congregants, making them feel comfortable, as if they were at home, thus promoting an atmosphere of trust. Questions may be asked, seeking to calm fears, and abate prejudice.

3. MOMENTS OF PRAISE

If there's something we must learn and teach is worship. The word of God tells us in **Psalm 22:3**, "*But thou art holy, O You who dwell on the praises of your people...*" That's why we should invite the group to praise the Lord for a few minutes, with a maximum of three songs that will help us to become intimate with God. We recommend that written copies of these songs be ready and handed out to those who visit us, so they can read them and sing. We must take advantage of this time by introducing new worship songs, which will begin to be sung in the temple, so that they can begin to familiarize themselves with these new songs.



4. BIBLE STUDY

Bible study should take no more than 30 minutes. The topics in the cells can be optional, as decided by the shepherd, according to the needs of the group. This method works when we have mature leaders who know how to develop study topics. It's recommended that leaders attend the weekly meeting, where they will be presented with the lesson, and they in turn, will deliver it in their cell. Thus, it can be assumed that they will find it easier to teach the class.

The homogenization or equality of topics amongst all cells is also advisable; that way, the whole church will be in one accord, and will receive the same teaching. It is also recommended that the topics taught in church that week be allusive to those taught in the cell groups, in order for these to be reinforced.

5. MINISTRATION

After giving the study, ministering will take a very special place because it is the time when we let God take part in the cell. It's when we allow Him to do His work in us. In fact, we would not do anything without His help, like healing the sick and casting out demons.

"Freely you have received, freely give ..." (Matthew 10:7, 8)

This part is also important, because it is the time when we allow the needy to present their need, so we can help him better.

6. OFFERING AND PLANNING

Having completed the ministry, the leader will ask for the offering, explaining that this offering is an act of worship that we, the Christians, do for our God. It is not necessary for visitors to do it.



Furthermore, at this time, we can plan the next meeting details, such as who will bring something to the gathering, or a special detail that is important to consider.

7. FELLOWSHIP

Some do not go beyond the gathering, thinking that the cell has already accomplished the most important goal. However, those of us who have been working with cellular churches can truly say that fellowship is as important as any other part of the cell. Without it, the cellular activity would be incomplete. It is through this gathering that true *“friendship ties”* develop, linking the visitor to the Church. There are many testimonies of people who decided to commit their lives to Christ, more out of companionship than for the teaching they received.

You can organize many things, but a small reception is acceptable. A cup of coffee or soda and cookies would be fine. It is recommended that all the members share the fellowship and the cost, so it is not too expensive for a few members or for the host.

The Bible tells us:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity ...” (Psalms 133:1)

8. FAREWELL

Here, you must use the time to make announcements regarding the next meeting, suggestions and reports, but also to motivate the group to bring new souls.

During the cell meeting, the purposes of the cell spring into action:

• **WORSHIP**



It purposes to create a model of life dedicated to God within the church. It is the school where the unconverted learn to worship God through songs.

• **DISCIPLESHIP**

This is given in relation to those attending this meeting. In turn, they learn how to develop a meeting. Every week, they are taught by the leader about biblical truths. The cell is the best workshop that exists, because it takes discipleship into practice, there's nothing left as a mere theory.

• **MINISTRY**

It is also through the cells, that we learn to serve others better, knowing their needs, which they present during the ministration. Thus, we help them to develop their Christian life.

• **FELLOWSHIP**

A true partnership would never develop without the help of the cells; as in the Temple, we only casually greet each other. However, at home, we learn to relate with others, to know ourselves, to accept ourselves despite our mistakes, failures and shortcomings, since this is the time when they come to light in the intimate relationship that is in the houses.

Here, we understand that God created us to engage with our brothers, as we will be with them forever in heaven. So we must learn to live with them here on earth.

• **EVANGELISM**

The best way to evangelize is not to tell a lost soul that Christ loves him, but to help him to know Christ. Take him every week at a



house where in a figurative sense, we will drink, eat and clothe him with biblical truths. We will teach him to grow as a Christian. We'll look after him until he grows and can stand on his own. After that, he will become a true disciple who can do what they did for him. This would be the cycle of evangelism, to achieve what Christ has commissioned us: ***“Go and make disciples of all nations ...”***

CONCLUSION

What a blessing it is to be able to give life to others; that others receive sincere and true love from us and from God; to bring the Kingdom of God closer to them. Jesus said: ***“The Kingdom of heaven is at hand ...”*** In a home we do just that: we bring the Kingdom to them. Let's remember that sometimes people have prejudice about going to a temple. But to a house, anyone can and wants to go. While the people are there, God takes care of the rest. He will heal them, release them from bondage; they'll learn to love, they will be loved and, above all, they will be saved.



Lesson 3

The networks

(Jethro's Strategy)



INTRODUCTION

The task of God's work is very intense and no man could do it on his own. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ gave a variety of gifts for the whole body to function, each member in his place, and thus perform the important commission to "*go around the world and preach the gospel to every creature*" (**Mark 16: 15**).



When the people of Israel left Egypt, the people were so numerous that Moses had to learn from Jethro (his father in law), the basic principles of delegating responsibilities and obligations to others. **(Exodus 18:14)**

Jethro was a priest of Midian. He knew how to handle a religious organization better than his son-in-law Moses, who only knew the Egyptian method of statism which was not appropriate for this new community of God's children.

When questioned by Jethro about the model of leadership he exerted, Moses responds by saying: *"Because the people come to me"* **(Exodus 18:15).**

This model of thinking does not allow for the delegation of tasks or the participation of the body of Christ, and it tends to concentrate authority in a single person.

Jethro could easily see that Moses was distorting the nature of his divine calling as head of Israel, thus exerting an autocratic leadership model.

Here are some types of leadership:

1. AUTOCRATIC:

This describes a leader who, in order to centralize the authority, limits the participation of his subordinates. This model of leadership is used today in most countries of the world.

2. DEMOCRATIC:

It refers to a leader who tends to involve subordinates in the process of decision making, delegating authority and encouraging participation in the vision and work goals.



However, when we deal with spiritual leadership for God's people, the Bible speaks of the following model...

3. THEOCRATIC:

It comes from the Greek "TEOS" (God) and "CRACIA" (government). We could define it as God's ruling or as a society where authority is considered to come from God, under His Divine command. This government is not elected by pastoral preferences; but based on talents, because it is the Lord who gives them, the pastor only administers those talents. Therefore, the church must establish authorities according to their gifts. (**1 Corinthians 12:4-6**)

Whatever the reason, Jethro understood the wisdom of a decentralized administration with a pious division of labor. Therefore, he presented this concept skillfully, highlighting the consequences of the method chosen by Moses' ministry and said, "It is not right, what you do" (**Exodus 18:17-18**). How difficult can it sometimes be for a leader to hear those words! However, Moses was humble and learned from Jethro this important lesson.

The apostles also understood that they could not do the work of God's Kingdom alone. **Acts 6:4**.

Consider the following:

• DELEGATING ACTIVITIES

Acts 18:20 - This verse contains precise instructions for today's church.

• PASTORAL WORK

The perfecting of the saints, so that they do the work of ministry, is one of the responsibilities that God left the pastor. Pastoral work



does not consist of doing the ministerial work, but in preparing and training disciples, so that the whole body can do that work as a team (**Ephesians 4:11-12**).

The autocratic leadership model of just doing things “is not good.” God provides a working model by Jethro “hear my voice now, I will counsel you and God be with you.” (**Exodus 18:19**)

- **THE APOSTLES DELEGATED.** (ACTS 6:3)
- **MOSES ALSO DELEGATED.** (EXODUS 18:25)

This model from Jethro is a valuable organizational chart for the work of a friendship group.

*“Moses chose able men out of all Israel,
and made them heads over the people, of thousands, of hundreds,
of fifties and of TENS.”*

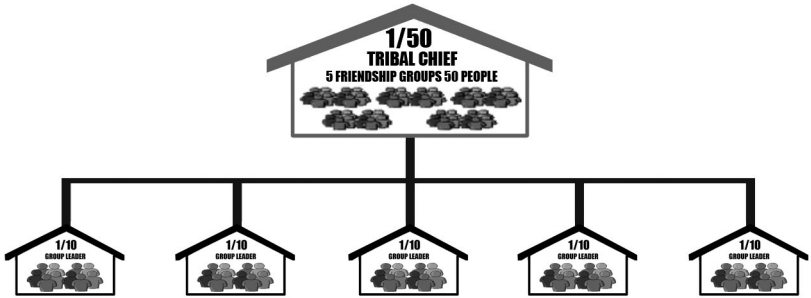




THE NETWORKS OR TRIBES

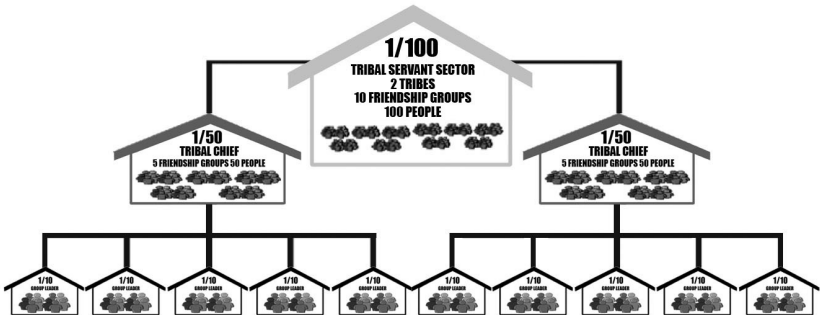
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*“Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, of thousands, of hundreds, of **FIFTIES** and of tens.”*



THE PASTORS OR SERVANTS

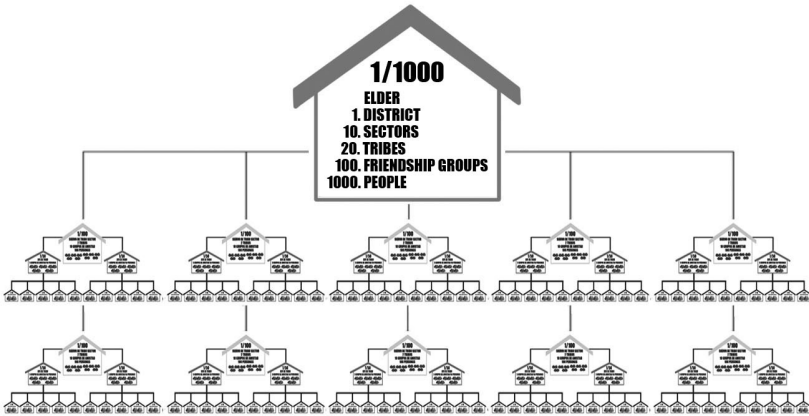
*“Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, of thousands, of **HUNDREDS**, of fifties and of tens.”*





THE ELDERS OR CELL DISTRICT

*“Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, of **THOUSANDS**, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.”*



CONCLUSION

This model is certainly guided by God to bless his people. It is designed so that we all work together in harmony, so that everyone does their job in a focused way. Only those transcendent and important cases should reach the Pastor.



Lesson 4

The importance *of a Spiritual Retreat*



INTRODUCTION

A spiritual retreat is more than one activity of a church, or a time for fun or to get out of stress. It's more than a time to sit and listen to lectures that will help you become a better Christian. A retreat is a special time with God. As its name implies, its chief purpose is to withdraw oneself from all human distractions to achieve a supernatural experience with God,



which can touch the heart and the human soul. It entails a decision to go in search of God. Nothing else is done at this time, other than to seek God's presence, and as a consequence of this search, the result will be a transformation of the whole human being.

"But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and your soul." (Deuteronomy 4:29)

In the Bible, we find many men of God, who moved away from noise to achieve an intimate relationship with God. Even Jesus Christ, while living in this world, retreated to pray and fast. Consequently, this brought along a result.

Let's look at some Biblical characters who took a special time to retreat to seek the presence of God.

• **MOSES, THE PATRIARCH OF ISRAEL**

"Then Moses said, I will go now and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." (Exodus 3:3)

The day that Moses went to Mount Horeb to seek for the presence of God, his life changed completely. He had a supernatural experience with God, leaving behind his past life; and devoted himself to be the liberator of the people of Israel. **Exodus 14: 21 and 22**, *"God opened the sea through Moses' hand."* Then he retreated to Mount Sinai to talk with God, and the Lord gave him the tablets of the Law, which had been written by His finger.

• **THE APOSTLE PAUL**

The Apostle Paul retired to Ananias' house, where he spent three days fasting (**Acts 9:9**), *"he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank..."* A miracle happened there: he got his sight back and not only that, but also his spiritual eyes were opened. He



became one of the greatest apostles, wrote many books of the Bible and preached in many parts of the world, to all sorts of people, including kings and rulers.

• **JESUS, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD**

Jesus went up to pray at the Mount of Olives. He also withdrew from everybody. **Matthew 4:2**, *“and he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry ...”* It is understood as the Word says that Satan appeared to Him to tempt Him, that He had not been accompanied during those 40 days of fasting. Christ’s humanity also needed to be at peace so that He could get into touch with His divine nature.

Luke 22:41, *“and withdrew from them about like a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed.”*

Next, we will answer some questions that some have regarding the retreats:

• **WHY IS A RETREAT SO IMPORTANT?**

Being away from all distractions, free from all disturbances, it’s a time that propitiates reflection and allows the Holy Spirit to act in human life. It is difficult for people to reflect on their spiritual condition when surrounded by problems, whether emotional, economic, and family-care, etc. But by immersing ourselves in a search for God, it is possible to reflect on the condition of our soul and spirit. It is the moment when there is sadness and repentance. Then we will become fertile ground for the seed of the Word of God to fructify.

God works in willing hearts. **Psalms 51:17**, *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a contrite heart will not despise you, O God.”*



• **WHAT HAPPENS DURING A SPIRITUAL RETREAT?**

Much has been speculated upon the activities carried out on a spiritual retreat and why they have been used in our churches. The issues are so simple and practical, that we are surprised by the great impact in the life of the people attending. They are a series of lectures taught intensively and this generates acceleration in the conversion process. There's no magic here, and no distortion or wrong approach to emotion, just ***"an intense search for God."***

Jeremiah 33:3 *"Call to me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not ..."*

Normally, a person receives 1 or 2 weekly lessons in our churches. However, in a retreat, he'll get from twelve to fifteen, over a period of 2 to 3 days, and his spiritual growth rate will increase. It's different if your house is dirty and you clean it bit by bit spending 1 or 2 days a week, than it would be like investing 3 days to do a thorough cleaning. The same thing happens with your spirit and soul.

a) Psalm 55:17, *"Evening and morning and noon I will pray and cry aloud, and hear my voice."*

b) Psalm 1:2, *"but the law of the Lord is his delight and in His law he meditates day and night ... it will be like a tree planted by streams of living water ..."*

• **HOW MANY KINDS OF RETREATS ARE THERE?**

There can be many types, the most common are:

a) General Retreat

b) Leadership Retreat



- c) Youth Retreat
- d) Visitors Retreat
- e) Marriage Retreat

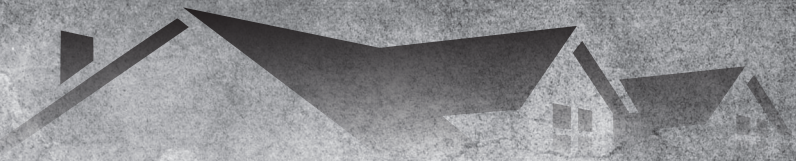
• WHAT TYPES OF TOPICS ARE COVERED IN A RETREAT?

- a) Experience with God
- b) Personal and Family Restoration
- c) Self-Esteem
- d) Inner Healing
- e) Spiritual Freedom
- f) Finances
- g) Prayer and Reflection
- h) God's passion
- i) Healings and Miracles
- j) Many more...

CONCLUSION

It is important to say, that the first thing we must overcome is our prejudice and we go to a retreat with the sole desire to have an encounter with God. Nothing compares to having a moment alone with God, where he will restore our lives; that is, He will renew them. God will give you and your loved ones, a new vision.





Lesson 5

12 Principles *for* *Cells*



INTRODUCTION

Principles are rules or standards of conduct that guide our actions. These are general rules, universal maxims, such as: love your neighbor, do not tell lies, and respect life. Moral principles are also called maxims or precepts.



Through the work in the homes, the Church has seen the need to establish some principles of cellular life. Although these may vary according to context, we present some principles vital to the success of the cell:

1. PARTICIPATION

At the gathering of friendship groups, it is important to recognize that the meeting is not only about the leader in terms of participation. In the cell, the participation of the whole body of Christ is the goal of the leader, who will make the entire body function during the reunion (**Romans 12:5**).

To ensure that each member of the body functions according to his gifts to promote participation (**Romans 12:6-8**).

2. PRAYER

Prayer is the part at the reunion where we yield a place for God, so that He participates with us in the friendship group. It is therefore, vital that no reunion takes place at home without prayer.

a) Prayer before the day of the reunion.

Every Friendship Group aims to become a lifestyle, where the reunion is not the only place where we remember to pray for our brothers and visitors. Let's make of every prayer, an opportunity to remember each member of the group and his needs, to intercede for them. (**Ephesians 6:18**)

b) During the reunion.

A truth that we should all practice is that more is achieved allowing God to act through prayer than by acting ourselves. Therefore, at each reunion, the time for ministering takes considerable time, to



allow the Spirit of the Lord to minister to our friends through prayer.
(Acts 12:12)

3. THE BIBLE AND THE LESSONS

It is always necessary that the Word of God always take first place in our meeting topics. It is necessary to develop just one topic at each reunion to make a greater impact on the lives of the listeners being that the Bible is so extensive and abundant. (John 5:39)

Therefore, our church has developed themes of the Word of God, to avoid:

- a) Improvisation
- b) A speculation on topics
- c) Developing people without a purpose
- d) The group losing focus
- e) Leaders without compliance to the vision of the church

(2 Timothy 3:16)

4. AVOID DOCTRINAL DISCUSSIONS

Our main scope is concentrated on the community close to each group, which is home to all kinds of people with different beliefs. Therefore, it will be important for the leader to avoid friendship groups becoming a place of debate, which will only lead to the loss of congregants to the reunion (1 Corinthians 11:16). In a group where discussions are not prevented, the reunion will not achieve its goal of producing disciples of Christ, but will produce misguided Christians. (1 Corinthians 11:17)

Doctrinal discussions only bring about divisions and partisanship. It is therefore, very important for the leader to achieve success in this area. Apostle Paul urged the Corinthian church -which had



become very problematic, to avoid such divisions. (**1 Corinthians 11:18**) Although he made a call to avoid clutter at the Lord's Supper, this also applies to our reunions where, a spirit of unity and fellowship must prevail. (**Psalm 133:1**)

Some recommendations are:

- a) Leave aside other issues for the leader
- b) Questions off topic should be treated separately.
- c) Identify people with different doctrinal formation and attend to them outside the reunion.
- d) Identify adamant, polemical people and prevent them from dominating the reunion.

5. THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS

During our reunions, it is inevitable that the congregants of friendship groups will get to know the faults of the group's members. (**Ephesians 4:31**) Therefore, it will be a priority for the leaders to be aware of this, to prevent such failures from becoming:

- a) Negative comments
- b) Justifications for others
- c) Gossip
- d) Loss of interest in the group

During the meeting, each leader will raise the awareness that holiness is a process reaching up to a goal; and that no one is exempt from making mistakes. Therefore, this aim will help us "until we reach the stature of a perfect man..." which is our example. (**Galatians 6:1**)



The leader will admonish, outside the meeting, any brother or congregant who may be caught in a fault. He should never do it in public or use that time to reveal someone. Whenever he needs to admonish or exhort someone, he must do so with tact, gentleness and wisdom, asking God to work perfectly in them. (**Matthew 18:15-17**)

6. MUTUAL EDIFICATION

Romans 14:19: Paul, writing to the Church of Rome, called it to seek mutual edification. The edification of the new believers is not the sole responsibility of the leader. Therefore, each member of the friendship group should be taught to share with others what God has given him: both the knowledge of God, and what can be good for the edification of others. (**Romans 15:2**) Meanwhile, this sometimes requires a sacrifice on our part: time, money, effort, material, etc. (**1 Corinthians 14:26, Ephesians 4:12, 4:29 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11**).

7. LEAD OTHERS WITH LOVE

Human beings were made by the creator with emotional needs. The world is devoid of love and there are millions of people desperate to be loved by someone. Friendship groups are the most important place to develop love, since that it is the essence of the existence of our meetings. It is in the cells that the love of God is shown to others through our reunions and our sincere friendship to others. To this we owe the name friendship groups, because only those who are connected with the power of love can love. (**1 John 3:16**)

The commandment of Jesus Christ for friendship groups is found in **1 John 3:23**, *"And this is His commandment: That we should believe in the name of His son Jesus Christ, and love one another as He gave us commandment."*



Remember that love (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**):

- a) Endures everything
- b) Gives and expects
- c) Forgives (puts up with)
- d) Looks for the good of the other
- e) It doesn't do anything wrong, etc.

Let's make of each reunion the very essence of God's love.

8. FOLLOW-UP (AFTER EACH REUNION)

The Friendship groups are a lifestyle and not just a meeting. The group's life after the reunion should take priority in developing activities that foster unity and the supervision of new congregants. The absence of any member should also be taken especially into account so as to call him; however, the life of the group daily continues even when absences take place. (**Hebrews 10:24, 1 Peter 5:2**)

Do not forget to promote the group's purposes during the week:

- a) **To grow in relationship with God**
 - Scripture Reading
 - Fasting
 - Prayer
- b) **Growing up in relation to each other**
 - Group reunions
 - Social events
 - Personal invitations
- c) **Growing in numbers and multiply:**
 - Bringing friends
 - Training a disciple
 - Personal Evangelism



9. GIVING BIRTH, PRODUCE LIFE

Two types of births are continuously experienced in friendship groups. This is one of the purposes of the group, as we saw above. However, since it is one of the purposes that guarantee the life of the group, it will be necessary to regard it as an unmovable principle.

• The birth of souls. (Romans 16:5)

New souls ensure the multiplication of members, and do not allow for a diabolical at-ease-in-Zion to prevent growth, they make us work and strive for growth. They also avoid distraction and that cell going into a “coma,” i.e. dead in life, where only baptized members attend as a routine.

• The birth of leaders.

New leaders ensure cell multiplication. Without the birth of new leaders, the cell will never multiply, and the balance of growth occurs when the number of leaders and members are proportional: 1/10 as a minimum, applying the Jethro model. (**Exodus 18:21**)

Without the birth of new leaders, there is a risk that existing leaders will turn despotic over the members of the group, by not letting them reproduce and this causes the cells to get fat but not to grow.

10. A FRIENDLY SPIRIT

The atmosphere of the group determines the motivation of the congregants to attend the reunion. Therefore, the leader, the host and Timothy must be closely united by the same purpose and they must have a friendly spirit toward the members of the cell. (**Amos 3:3**)



Studies determined that people decide to return to our reunions within the first five minutes after arriving. The host determines much of the atmosphere in the groups, so it is extremely important to know his character and that of his family before setting there the cell. **(Luke 10:5)**

The pastor and the leader will determine whether the house is apt to foster spiritual newborns. Let's remember that the vast majority of believers are won more through relationships than through evangelistic reunions.

Some recommendations in cell group homes:

- a) Friendly atmosphere
- b) Environment of Trust
- c) Tolerance
- d) Respect
- e) Clean Environment

11. LEADERS WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE

It is the hosts, who largely determine the home environment. However, the leader determines the atmosphere of the reunion. **(Proverbs 17:22)** *"A cheerful heart is good medicine."* I think the attitude of the leader will be used by God as a remedy for the sick, for him who seeks peace, forgiveness, acceptance, and so on. When people attend to a reunion, most perceive the attitude of the leader (good or bad), which will produce peace or disturbance in the listener. Always remember that, what we bring is what we transmit, and nobody can give what he does not have.

Leaders must take control over their temper, that is, to have control of their attitudes. **(Proverbs 16:32)**



12. VISION

Every church needs a vision to have a direction, without it the work will not succeed. At the time of Samuel this vision was scarce. (**1 Samuel 3:1**) When the vision is poor, there is no discernment for God's voice. Samuel heard God's voice and he did not recognize it: why did you call me? Samuel asked Eli. (**1 Samuel 3:5**)

Without a vision, Christians are formed with knowledge and piety only, but undiscerning of God's work (**Habakkuk 2:2, 3**). Eli is the prototype of a leader without vision, who could not even reproduce his faith in his children.

Vision allows us to:

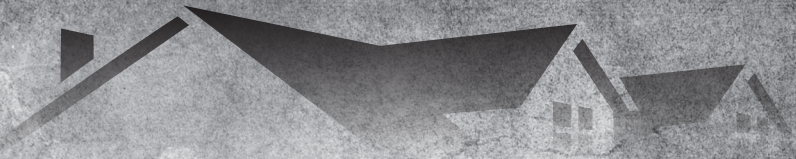
- a) See our progress
- b) Keep together
- c) Be motivated
- d) Have a direction

(Proverbs 29:18)

CONCLUSION

Every beginning has an end. Just as the Alpha has an Omega, so we can say that, if you use well these principles, you will have a good ending. Let's learn and procure the best gifts. Let's use every teaching we have received, and let's learn not just to be listeners, but doers of the Word.





Lesson 6

The Group's *Perseverance*



Acts 2:42 - *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, in fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers."*

(Acts 5:42) *"And daily in the temple (**Celebration**) and houses (**Friendship Group**), ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."*



INTRODUCTION

In the Old Testament, God promises to Abraham blessings and multiplication. It says in **Genesis 12:3**: “...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed...” In New Testament times, the family retained its importance. For this reason Christian missionaries set out to win the homes for the sake of Christ. According to modern studies, the strategic importance of the houses in the evangelization of the great cities of the Roman Empire was essential.

God does a special job in the home. It is in our reality where God wants to manifest His grace. The very first reunion of the group of one hundred and twenty in the upper room was in a house, they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit there (**Acts 1:13**). “And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James...”

In **Acts 18:26** Peter says, “And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.” Then they established a group in their home, so that they could continue to follow the Word allowing it to penetrate even the innermost chambers of their household (their family and their hearts). We see in **1 Corinthians 16:19**: “The congregations of Asia send their greetings to them. Aquila and Priscilla, along with the congregation that is at home, greet you warmly in the Lord...” not only established a gathering place, they saw it as a congregation at home.

These New Testament homes served to communicate the Gospel through the word expressed to those who were akin to them, but above all, the Gospel was communicated through the normal



activities of daily life. In these conditions, the proclamation of the Good News with lips and demonstration of personal changes, a thing that can only be shown in intimacy, had a great persuasive power on others.

It's noted that the use of the home was central to the proclamation of the good news, and for many activities of the early church, such as:

1. Evangelism

"And they spoke the Word of the Lord along with all who were at home."

A classic example of the use of the home for evangelization was the house of the Roman Cornelius (**Acts 10:23-44**),

An important example to others because it constitutes a vital link in the spreading of the Gospel throughout the rest of the world in the times of the Roman Empire. Cornelius and his family came to be the first gentile converts, and to Peter's greater amazement, also recipients of the gift of the Holy Spirit, which sealed God's work among the gentiles. Once you open your home to get the message of salvation in, the good news, this message is for the whole family, for those close to them and for their neighbors and their families.

2. Prayer

Acts 12:12, *"And after consideration, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John who was surnamed Mark, where many were gathered together praying."*

One of the first things to be done in a group is prayer. People learn to pray there; to communicate with God. Once God begins to manifest, people notice the power of prayer. Begin by asking for



prayers for the visitor, his family, their needs and their problems. Then they begin to pray by themselves. They learn the lesson of the power of prayer. This is a very important lesson because undoubtedly, much of its foundation will be prayer. Always, at the house reunion, people should pray at the beginning and at the end, and then it should proceed with a time for ministry or prayer for those present and the needs that they manifest.

3. Teaching

Acts 20:7, *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”* **Acts 20:20**, *“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house.”* A fundamental part of the reunion is teaching the Word of God. People learn to savor it, to enjoy it. It is in the house and in that confidence, that you can explore the topic; you can ask questions, etc. The Word has power on its own. The Word does not return empty. It begins to penetrate until it “breaks the soul...”

4. Accommodation and Communion

Acts 16:15 *“Now when they were baptized her and her house, she said, pleading: “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” Thus, they simply forced us to accept. (Acts 2:46) “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.” (Acts 2:47) “Praising God and having favour with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*



CONCLUSION

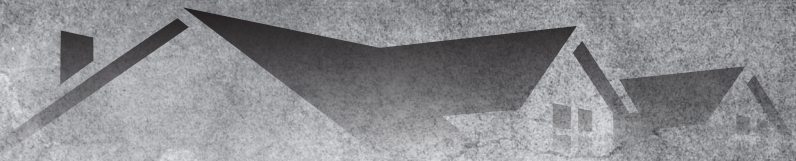
We have been talking about some important elements in a Friendship Group, which undoubtedly bring blessings to the congregation. Therefore, we must understand that the house activities should not be suspended for any reason.

It is sad to see a group start, people begin to attend to it, but for any circumstance, we interrupt our work, postpone it, or end it. The groups must receive our complete solemnity, responsibility and respect. Our work in this group is given directly by God. He is waiting for us to do our mission. When we don't attend to the group, when we arrive late, or don't give it enough time, we fail the Lord.

When, due to special circumstances, or by force majeure, the leader can't attend, the Timothy must do so. Otherwise, the tribal chief can do it, the servant of the sector, or someone must be designated to answer to the needs of the congregants.

When we go to church, we never find signs that say, **"CLOSED"** or **"THE SHEPHERD IS NOT IN, THERE WILL NOT BE WORSHIP."** The worship celebration is always performed, there is always someone who makes up for the absence, and there is always someone willing to be a blessing to others. So in the group we must, as the Word says: **"persevere"** and it also says: **"every day..."**





Lesson 7

The growth of the Organism: *Church*



INTRODUCTION

As discussed in the preceding section, the house meetings were a key instrument in the New Testament church. In **Acts 2:46-47** we are told: *“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*



The use of the homes was one of the most important methods to ensure **THE GROWTH** of the gospel in antiquity since; due to Jewish and even Roman tradition, homes were a fundamental entity in society.

The family of blood relations, slaves, clients and friends, was one of the bastions of Greco-Roman society. Christian missionaries deliberately set out to win any possible family so that just like beacons, they could illuminate the surrounding darkness through the gospel. The basic thrust of the New Testament Gospel was not individualistic, neither was it centered on the masses and, of course, neither was it centered on the evangelization of children. The normative pattern of evangelization in the early church was conducted through the family home (cells). However, through the history of the church, little by little the interest for Christian living became gradually lost, directing the focus towards ritual, so that the value of homes in biblical teaching and practice, lost momentum. Later, the individual reading of the scriptures was prohibited, furthermore, closing the possibility of using homes as places of prayer, instruction and fellowship.

Next I will show a comparison between the New Testament Church and the churches today:

It is very important to know the Word of God because it teaches us how the Church that Jesus established was. Reading the book of Acts, we learn about the emerging church, how they behaved, what they did, their lifestyle and more. The contemporary church should be like the early church. The Bible tells us about its founder: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever" (**Hebrews 13:8**). So the Church today should resemble to what he formed.

Miracles should still be seen, there should be healing, there must be a change in the lives of people who come, unfeigned love, forgiveness as something we receive from God first, and as **Mark 16:17, 18 says**: "*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they*



shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

AREA TO OBSERVE	NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH	CONTEMPORARY CHURCH
LOCATION	Temple and houses	Buildings and temple
SIZE	Small groups, members know each other	Large, impersonal
PROGRAM	Daily	Weekly
SUPPORT SYSTEM	Each other	Pastoral (recur to Pastor in case of problem)
RELATIONSHIPS	Intimate, transparent	Remote, poor transparency
DISCIPLESHIP	Direct, verbal	Classes, books, preaching
LEADERS' TASK	Equipping the saints for the ministry	Compliance with a program
PRAYER	Daily, much emphasis	Limited, individual decision or program
PASTORAL WORK	Modeling the believers	Preaching in the pulpit
MEMBERS' EXPECTATIONS	Minister to others, service	Attendance to service, work on the program
VISION	Small groups as a center	Congregational
KEYWORDS	"Go and make disciples"	Congregate
EDUCATION	Application of the Scripture to the needs and relationships	Adherence to the creed and rules of the organization
GIFTS	Regularly used by everybody	Ecclesiastical
COMMITMENT	The Kingdom of God	Institutional
EVALUATION	How do we serve?	What do we know?
MINISTERIAL RELIEF	Internally developed and tested Servants	Clerical and professional

Jesus' Strategy was preaching to the crowds and discipleship in the homes. Thus, growth could be seen. The church was growing every day. We must never forget that God is the one who gives this growth. **Acts 2:47**, "Praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."



Acts 16:5: *“So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”*

The church is composed of two elements necessary for the functioning of the church on earth: the body and the organization. It is important to understand how to work for a healthy growth. We must organize and work for a better growth of the church. Here, we present the two types of growth:

1. THE ORGANISM

The organism describes the church as a body with different growing members. Thus, the church is called the body of Christ (**Ephesians 4:12**) *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* This body is being built here on earth. So, each person who joins the church is helping the body of Christ grow here on earth.

2. ORGANIZATION

The organization is the part that cares for the body, so that it grows more and becomes healthier every day. This is what regulates the order, the technical. It’s the human part of God’s work. It establishes the discipline according to the culture and society, caring for the church (body); it is the institutional part (**Ephesians 4:11-12**) *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers...”*

God institutes the organization “for the perfecting of the saints”; for the work of the ministry (service); for the building (growth) of the body of Christ. It is important to understand that what God expects, is the growth (building) of the church (body).



The modern church has confused these two elements and has focused more on giving growth to the organization (making deacons, ministers, pastors, etc.), than in giving it to the body (**church**).

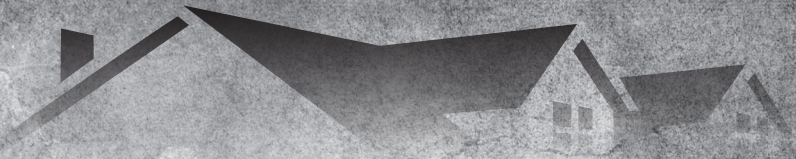
CONCLUSION

In today's church, when a member enters the body of Christ, his growth approach is not to reproduce as an organism, but to grow in the organization (as a leader, deacon, minister, etc.), not understanding what God expects from him.

The right thing would be that each member dedicates to reproduce (**make the body grow**) and in reproducing, God will place him in the place he should occupy within the organization (**Romans 12:4-8**). It is God, who gives us the function we (**organization**) execute in the body (**organism**).

Romans 12: 3-5 - If we invert the way to grow: from personal growth (**in the institution**) to growth of the body (**organism**), the churches will expand faster in the world.





Lesson 8

The Power *of* *Multiplication*



God places **challenges** in front of people because he likes to be believed in. Networks and groups work exactly the same way: **challenges** should be accepted as coming from God.



INTRODUCTION

GOD MAKES THE CHALLENGES

We will always be tested by God. He will always set challenges on us. It seems that when they do not exist, we don't do anything or slow things down. Man can say no to everything, friends, family, neighbors, but when God speaks, then the man can't say no. Rather, he instantly leaves everything to follow Him. We see the case of fishermen or that of Matthew, who only needed one word from Jesus, to leave it all: **"follow me ..."** (**Mark 2:14**)

We also see it with Peter in **Luke 5:3-11**: *"And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."*

At the time, Peter was a tired man, sleepless and frustrated. He brought out all the frustration he felt, but still obeyed.



Jesus set a challenge to this man. Symbolically, Jesus was performing the blessing of the crowds to come. After seeing this, Peter had only two choices: accept Him or turn away.

God places challenges in front of people because he likes to be believed in. Networks and groups work exactly the same way: challenges should be accepted as coming from God.

I invite you to think about the following:

1. THE DESIRE OF GOD IS TO MULTIPLY YOU

Hebrews 6:13-19. *“For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil...”*

God wanted to give a promise to Abraham, and this reflects how important Abraham was to God. He wanted to multiply him with abundance, and demonstrated this to him swearing by Himself.

This hope is intended so we don't have to go from one side to another; it functions as an anchor for the soul. The more intense the desire of your heart for something, the more you're willing to give everything for it. Your heart's desire is manifested in the price your willing pay for something.



You must give up being small, mediocre, and having just a few friends, because this is not what God wants for your life. Having little things has never been God's desire for people. The Scriptures exhort us to be of one heart with Jesus, and Jesus wanted everyone to be saved. God is willing to give masses to those who put aside laziness and fear, and who give their lives for the sake of those souls.

2. YOUR DESIRE MUST BE TO MULTIPLY

One achieves that for which one is prepared for. If you prepare for big things, you're going to achieve them. If you neglect this, you neglect what God wants to give you.

When an athlete competes, he competes to win, if you're going to preach, preach so that everybody converts to God. What you do, you need to do it as if for the Lord. You must believe that God has the power to do great things with your life. God wants to use you for the crowds. We don't have a God of scarcity, but rather have a God of abundance. When Abraham received the promise of multiplication, he not only believed in what God told him, but also longed for his offspring. When God asked him for his son, he had no doubt that God will fulfill His promise. But Abraham's desire was to see that offspring, that family, which will receive the blessing, which would enjoy God's plans.

It didn't matter that time passed, the important thing was to think that God was with him. That He would fulfill his desire to multiply. After all, he said to Adam the same thing: *"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..." (Genesis 1:28).*

In **2 Peter 3:8-10** says, *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repen-*



tance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

3. GOD'S DESIRE MUST BE FULFILLED

God is waiting for us to preach. If we don't do it, the stones will, but God will do what He promised. We are responsible that our city, country and the world belong to Jesus Christ. The prophet received the word: *"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, here am I. Send me."*

2 Peter 3:11-16, *"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."*

Genesis 13:14-17, *"And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee."*



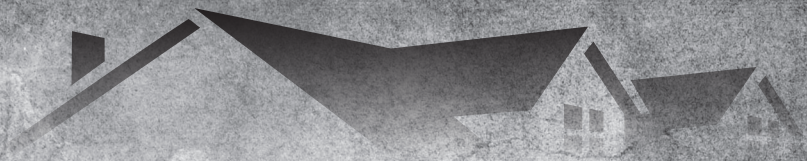
God made a promise to Abraham, which was that his offspring would be so large that no one could count it. Although Abraham was an old man and his wife barren, God fulfilled His promise and created a nation from this couple.

But the important thing here is that Abraham did not stay in Ur of the Chaldeans. He rose and left his home. At home, he would not receive the promise. He had to leave home. God was going to take him to another place. It was in another place that he would carry out the multiplication. As with Abraham, God wants you out of your house, wants to take you to another house to receive the promise of multiplication. He wants you to establish a place to talk about His love, so that people will begin to know God. He wants to heal many, liberate others, renew, and save the masses.

CONCLUSION

God has made the same promise of multiplication and prosperity for you, if only you believe. Sometimes we say that we are not prepared to do it, but it shouldn't be like this, because we can't make people change. All we have to do is stand up and obey. God will do the rest. He'll pour out His blessing. He will give growth. He will multiply.

I just want to point out that God uses only men and women who believe and obey him. Men who walk straight, those who are active, those who want to progress, those who do not give up. He uses only those who have dreams, those who yearn to wear out their lives because of that vision. They who know that the work in the Lord is not in vain.



Lesson 9

What is expected *from a* *Leader*



INTRODUCTION

It is common for leaders to talk about the expectations they have of their followers or the characteristics they should have. However, on this occasion we'll see how our leaders should be. Let's approach this lesson with fear of God, and in a proactive manner, because this is not about exposing things; rather, it will serve us a lot as leaders, given that those who follow us spiritually also want to see the following in us:



I. STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

When we talk about character, we're not talking about bad temper. We do it from the perspective that the leader may be able to take decisions even in special situations, to act when he has to, to have the balance to act wisely. There are three functions that a person of character must have:

a) Have kindness, and the ability to do an act beneficial to others (*Isaiah 32:8*)

b) The discipline to do justice, to do the right thing, to weigh things with the same scale, the scale of God (*Deuteronomy 16:15 and 19, Psalm 34:19 and 30*).

c) Tell the truth, express honesty, sincerity and integrity *"let your word be 'Yes' for 'Yes' and 'No' for 'No'..." Matthew 5:37*

II. MORAL CHARACTER

There is a contrast between honesty and dishonesty. Let's take a look at the details of the blessings and curses:

1. Curses to the dishonest:

a) Family problems: *"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house..." (Proverbs 15:27)*

b) Financial problems: *"Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished..." (Proverbs 13:11)*

c) Unhappiness problems: *"Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivers from death" (Proverbs 10:2). The same passage in the TLB version says, "Ill-gotten gain does not produce lasting happiness, honest life if..."*



d) Eternal problems: *“Getting treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death” (Proverbs 21:6).*

2. Blessings promised for the honest:

a) Family Blessings: *“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him...” (Proverbs 20:7)*

b) Financial Blessings: *“In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble” (Proverbs 15:6).*

c) Blessings for Doing *“Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight” (Proverbs 12:22).*

d) Eternal Blessings: *“The labour of the righteous tendeth to life” (Proverbs 10:16)*

III. ABILITY

This means, that he be competent, qualified and capable. We live in a world where people prepare more each day. So it is that leaders should also be prepared. In fact, Paul says, *“Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil” (one Timothy 3:6).*

There are three skill levels:

- a)** To see what needs to happen.
- b)** To make things happen.
- c)** To make things happen even under pressure.



IV. CAPABILITY OF SETING UP GOALS OR CHALLENGES

Why do we need goals? Because they help us get what we want in life. Maybe you still do not know what you want, and it's not bad. However, sitting down and making a list of goals can help you find what you want.

When a person lives without goals, it is said that he is lost. Goals can be simple or complex, long or short. However, if you do not have a plan, not even a path to follow to get to the supermarket today, for instance, you may never get there. Maybe you'll just walk aimlessly and never find the supermarket. But if you plan ahead, you'll get there.

That is why the leader must know what he wants, so that his followers may clearly define what you want or where you want to get to. Paul was a leader who knew what he wanted. So he said in 1 **Corinthians 9:26**: *"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air."*

Every good or great leader has 2 special features:

- a) He knows where to go.
- b) He can convince others to follow him (followers)

V. CONVICTIONS

There is a cycle of convictions:

- ✓ Believe what is right.
- ✓ Believe what is right for you.
- ✓ Believe what is right for others.
- ✓ Believe what is right for others now, and they shall answer.



God's word tells us in **Ephesians 4:14**, "*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*"

CONCLUSION

How important it is that our leader be convinced of exalting the Lord, because the most important thing is that the glory be to God. There may be good leaders, there may be good followers, but the important thing is that whatever we do, whether in word or deed, that it be done in the name of Jesus Christ.

The prophet **Hosea 11:7** says, "*And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.*" Together, followers and leaders should give the glory to God, and together as a single army in perfect unison, parade before our teacher and as the list is called, respond: Amen! Say like Samuel did: "*Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth*" or answer as Isaiah when the Lord asks in Isaiah 6:8: "*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said, Here am I. Send me.*"





Lesson 10

What is expected *from a* *Disciple*



INTRODUCTION

A good leader needs followers who have certain features, as it is important that they walk beside him, that together they can perform a work that is effective and of great blessing. This is why we have developed a list outlining how a "follower" should be and present it here by way of a Decalogue:



1. MUST BE POSITIVE

Disciples must have the ability to work and interact with people in a positive way, even when circumstances aren't favorable. There are some signs that show when a leader is positive:

He is enthusiastic, confident, creative, persists in what he believes, also seeks solutions, his actions are well accepted, and he is oriented in one direction. When necessary, he takes the initiative, he knows how to be generous and his goal is success-oriented.

Let's recall that, of the 12 young spies who were sent to the Promised Land, 10 returned with a negative message, but there were 2 who got a message, which might as well be for us, *"for we are well able to overcome it..." (Numbers 13:30b).*

2. MUST BE A SERVANT

He must be willing to submit to others, to be a team player and to follow the leader. It is said that the measure of a leader is not in how many servants he has, but in how many people he can serve. And a servant is one who as soon as he sees a need takes responsibility of it as if it was his own and satisfies it.

Questions that every servant should ask about his leader:

- What is the load he carries at this time?
- How can I help him with that burden?
- How can I show him my help?
- Is the Pastor doing anything that I can do?

Being a servant is not so difficult to describe, it is rather difficult to achieve. **Mark 10:45** tells us: *"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*



3. MUST DEVELOP HIS GROWTH POTENTIAL

A follower must have the ability to be constantly growing in all he does. (Philippians 3:12-13) He must be “hungry” for work and personal development. When we speak of growth, the fruit or trees come to our mind, and it is because, when a tree stops growing, it is dead. It shows it’s vitality through growth. The follower must grow just as their leader is growing. Let’s recall that the growth is given by the Lord. **1 Corinthians 3:7**, says, *“So then neither is he that planted anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”*

The relationship between followers and leaders should also show that growth. There are 4 words that start with “C” to help us see something important:

- **Communication:** Where do we need to grow?
- **Change:** What are the areas that we must change to grow?
- **Cost:** How much will I have to pay for, for that growth?
- **Courage:** Can I grow, or am I willing to grow?

4. MUST TRACK EVERYTHING

He should always finish the job entrusted to him. There should be no excuses. The work must be done in a timely manner and it must be delegated. It must be done. John 13:36 tells us: “Simon Peter said, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, whither I go, I can follow now, but thou shalt follow me afterwards.” What it means is that we should not let anything half done. That is why Paul said: *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith...”* (**2 Timothy 4:7 James 1:8**)



5. MUST BE LOYAL

Loyalty should not be optional for a follower. It must be an imperative. It means that the person whom you serve wishes to be blessed, that he may be able to trust you and trust that you will do as he asked. We must be loyal in these 3 areas:

✓ **To God** who loves us greatly and makes no distinction of persons. (**Acts 16:15**)

✓ **To the Church** that welcomes us, just as we came, full and loaded with sin. (**Hebrews 3:5**)

✓ **To our Pastor**, that no matter our condition, readies everything necessary for our salvation. The Bible tells us that they have kept watch over our souls. God places them as His representatives on earth and anoints them with oil to bring blessing through the laying on of their hands. (**Hebrews 13:17**)

David knew what loyalty meant, for he had the “opportunity” to kill Saul; however, let’s look at what he said: **1 Samuel 26:23**: *“The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered thee into my hand today, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD’s anointed.”*

6. MUST BE PERSISTENT

There is a sign that we should see in a follower of his leader. He must be persistent. He should continue, even if his forces are exhausted. David said in **Psalms 92:10**, *“But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil..”* And **Isaiah 40:29** said, *“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.”* (**Acts 1:14 and 2:42**)



7. MUST BE UPRIGHT

Job teaches us that he was a person of integrity. Everything that happened to him: the tests, the scope of them, his losses, his wife finally said in **Job 2:9**: “Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die” and it says in **Job 31:6**: “Let me be weighed in an even balance that God may know mine integrity.”

Reputation is what people say we are. Integrity is what we really are. (**Titus 2:7**)

8. MUST HAVE A BROAD OVERVIEW

Once the leader has the vision, then the followers should:

- ✓ Walk together with the leader
- ✓ Customize their view
- ✓ Widen their hearts

We should not feel that we are called to serve a few, or that we are not called to reach multitudes. (**Isaiah 54:2**) We have Jesus Christ on our side and in His name, we can do great feats. John the Theologian in the book of **Revelation 19:6** says “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

The Lord does not like fishing small, but large catches. He sent us to bear much fruit. Recall that he said, “**Throw the net on the right...**”



9. MUST BE DISCIPLINED

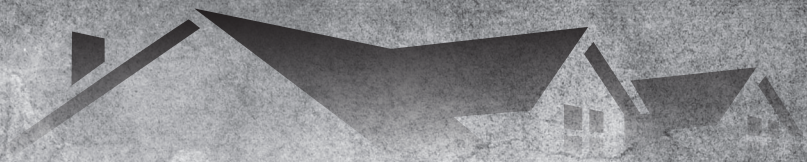
Thomas Harry said, *“perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to put yourself to do the things that you have to do, when you have to do them, even if you don’t like it, this is one of the lessons to be learned.* So the writer of **Hebrews 12:11** said: *“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby”* (**Proverbs 15:32, Hebrews 12:18 and 11**).

10. MUST BE THANKFUL

We must acknowledge our debt to God, to life and to others, for much has been done for us. Some others have, consciously or without knowing it, blessed us. *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...”* (**Romans 8:28**), and **Hebrews 12:28** says: *“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”*

CONCLUSION

After studying the profile of a follower, let’s do a little pause and see how our walk is, if we walk together, if we want to overtake others, or if we are stopping the progress of our leader’s good plan. Let’s pray to God that He may give us wisdom, understanding and the desire to be a great blessing to our leader. We can paraphrase: ***“Let’s give as much grace, as we have received...”***



Lesson 11

principles for cell group *Leaders*



INTRODUCTION

The principles are rules or standards of conduct that guide action. These are general rules, universal maxims, such as: love your neighbor, do not lie, respect life, and so on. Moral principles are also called precepts.



It is very important for people to have principles and values, which characterize them in their lives. This is even more important in the church and its leadership. It should be noted that the leaders are the ones who are at the forefront; and as such, we are somehow a portrait of the congregation. So here we present some important principles that leaders must take into account:

1. MONEY

Economic issues play a major role for new believers. Usually, all visitors have a distorted concept about money in church, so it is important that the management of money matters is well understood. If the church determines that offerings will be collected during the meeting, it is the responsibility of members to hand them in. Our friends at the meeting will learn that it is an act of worship, and that they may do so voluntarily.

The personal life of leadership in matters of money reveals our character, how we use it or how we spend it. It speaks more about our spirituality than how we speak in languages or any other spiritual act. The friendship group leaders should refrain from becoming entangled in matters of money, such as lending or borrowing from a member or visitor. They should also prevent it from happening in the group. The experience of the church in home labor tells us that people are abandoning our groups and churches because leadership can't answer to an issue of money. Even baptized Christians can still make this mistake. (Psalm 37:21)

2. SHEPHERDING ONLY HIS SHEEP

An important principle in terms of friendship groups is with respect to the sheep of another leader. Benito Juarez, a Mexican president, immortalized a phrase "respect for the rights of others means peace." In the cell multiplication of the church, many leaders will



be tempted to use people from other cells to multiply, and this becomes a problem.

Some things that every leader will consider are:

- a) Not to interfere with disciples of another leader.
- b) No proselytizing for his own cell.
- c) To channel the problems of disciples from other leaders.
- d) To make negative comments about other leaders, and so on.

3. AVOID PARTISANSHIP

Humans have the tendency to identify themselves with others through certain affinities, whether it is a familiar, cultural, religious or ideological formation; and sub-groups form within a group. The leader, as a spiritual man, should always avoid taking sides with one or more of his disciples, remaining impartial before any differences that may arise within the group, so as to lead them to unity. Favoritism tends to send the wrong messages to those under our authority and it provokes resentment. Therefore, leaders should not be partial. They all form one group, although with differences, but with a common vision or purpose: making of each meeting *“a group of friends” (1 Timothy 5:21)*.

4. A SERVANT SPIRIT

Matthew 20:26 says, “But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister.” Leading people to Christ requires leaders with a spirit of service. If you think that being a leader means privileges, you will end up disappointed and frustrated. This is far from working in friendship groups. It requires effort, patience, and continuous work, to see fruits reflected in new believers.



Some believers who start work in the homes soon end up leaving it when they realize that this requires dedication to serving others. The work of the kingdom of God on earth can be summarized in the words of our teacher when he said: *“The Son of man came not to be served but to serve” (Mark 10:45)*. Serving others is how we can lead them to the Kingdom of God. Every leader who is not willing to serve can’t lead others to Christ.

We present some recommendations for leaders:

- a) Do not lord over the life of your disciples.
- b) Do not expect others to serve you.
- c) Do not strike others as a foreman.
- d) Do not expect a reward from your disciples.

5. TIME

In our globalized world, time has become very important. Companies are ruled by hourly work. Time is money at airports, and in today’s world, time represents something very valuable.

Proverbs 15:23 also tells us that *“and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!”*

Ecclesiastes 8:6 says, *“Because to every purpose there is time and judgment”*

Weekly meetings should not violate the dynamics of one hour duration to make the meeting more attractive, considering the time of others. **Therefore, we must avoid:**

- a) Extending the teaching
- b) Make a cult out of the meeting
- c) Wanting to teach them everything in one day
- d) Staying late at the host’s home
- e) Using the time to refer to other issues



6. NOT TO LOSE SIGHT

Friendship groups are the home where the spiritual baby is related to his brothers. However, the group is not the entire map. After learning in a group, every visitor should be taken to the church to be fed. Later, he should be motivated to attend a spiritual retreat, as this will serve as a detonator in his spiritual growth. After attending a retreat, the leader will seek to enroll himself in classes for baptism, and meanwhile, he should continue to attend the group. After being baptized, the next step will be to turn him into a Timothy, and thus send him to classroom instruction to become a Timothy, until he becomes a friendship group leader. This process must achieve its goal within six months to ensure the reproduction of the members. That is why leaders must know the vision to stick to it. Jesus' strategy is well defined; when we get out of the strategy, we stop seeing the results.

7. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING

"And daily in the temple and at home ..." (Acts 5:42)

The early church learned from the Master, our Lord Jesus Christ, to celebrate 2 types of meetings: in the temple and at home. (Luke 9:4, 10:5)

The Lord performed these meetings as a working principle in his visits to the houses:

- ✓ He was beloved at home. (Luke 7:38)
- ✓ He taught the importance of persevering in the houses. (Luke 10:7)
- ✓ He celebrated Easter in a house. (Matthew 26:18)



Furthermore:

- ✓ Since He was a child, He attended the temple. (**Luke 2:46**)
- ✓ Although He is greater than the temple. (**Matthew 12:6**)
- ✓ He taught at the temple. (**Matthew 26:55**)

The meetings at homes and in the temple are of vital importance in the development of the church. That is why it is imperative that the two meetings are carried out at the same level of importance, not belittling either. As a Sunday service is never suspended, as the house meeting should never be suspended, because He, who is worshiped in the temple, is also worshiped in the house: Jesus Christ. When the group meeting has reached that level, then the friendship group has been given its place.

8. COMMUNICATION

Each host family is not separated or isolated from the general meeting. The success of the Sunday celebration depends very much on the work at home. Because of this, communication between team leaders, supervisors, and the pastor should be constant, since all form a network.

After Paul's conversion, Barnabas played a role in the introduction of this new disciple. Due to the past life of the apostle, no believer trusted him, but Barnabas effectively communicated the conversion of the Apostle, so that he could be accepted. (**Acts 9:26-27**)

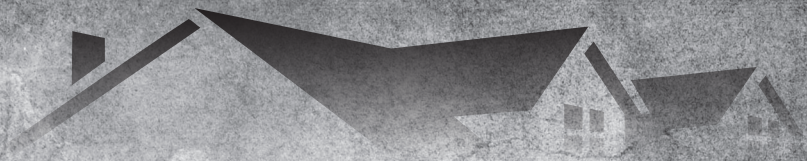
Every pastor who has implemented the strategy of Jesus shall hold a weekly prayer and training meeting of his leaders where he will receive every week's reports and maintain an active communication. This meeting can't be entrusted to some leader of evangelism, as he is the rudder of the pastor, to give direction to the leadership each week.



CONCLUSION

Do not be afraid to do things right, Jesus says: *“Behold I show you a more excellent way ...”* (**1 Corinthians 12:31**) God wants our effort and dedication, but He can also give us direction to do well our work in Christ. Remember that everything we do, in word or deed, we must do it as unto the Lord. If anyone has problems with one of these principles, he should ask God for wisdom to meet this laudable work of winning souls. *“He who wins souls is wise ...”* (**Proverbs 11:30**)





Lesson 12

The Character *of a* *Leader*



INTRODUCTION

For those who have read about leadership, we agree that there are very important issues, such as qualities, attitudes, influence, working together, unquestionable laws, developing the leader, and so on.

When we speak of character, it doesn't mean "*bad temper*". Having character is the art of learning to control our emo-



tional states and the stability of our temperament, not according to circumstances, but a way of life that we may cultivate everyday growing from within. But I invite you to consider two questions:

I. HOW THE CHARACTER OF THE LEADER MUST BE?

• BEFORE GOD

1. Approved by God (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
2. Fearful of God (**Acts 18:7**)
3. Humble (**James 4:6**)
4. Of prayer and fasting (**1 Timothy 2:1, Acts 14:23**)
5. Simple and transparent (**Philippians 2:15**)
6. Faithful steward, who testifies with his tithes (**meets**) (**Titus 1:7**)
7. Blameless (**1 Timothy 3:2**)
8. Holy (**Titus 1:8**)

• BEFORE HIS HOME

1. Prudent (**Titus 2:2**)
2. Proper (**1 Timothy 3:2**)
3. Hospitable (**1 Timothy 3:2**)
4. Rules his household well (**1 Timothy 3:4**)
5. Good administrator of his house (**1 Timothy 3:4**)
6. Who searches the Word (**John 5:39**)
7. Having his children in discipline (**1 Timothy 3:4,5**)

• BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES

1. Always under authority (**Luke 7:8**)
2. Respectful to creation (**Romans 13:7**)



3. Willing to serve the community (**3 John 1:15**)
4. Honest (**1 Timothy 3, 8**)

• BEFORE OTHERS

1. Prudent (**1 Timothy 3:2**)
2. Just (**Titus 1:8**)
3. Able to teach (**1 Timothy 3:2**)
4. Kind (**1 Timothy 3:3**)
5. Peaceful (**1 Timothy 3:3**)
6. Good testimony (**1 Timothy 3:7**)
7. Knows how to follow the Word or uses the Word well (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
8. Not a novice (**1 Tim 3:6**)

• BEFORE IMPORTANT DECISIONS

1. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)
2. Blameless (1 Timothy 3:2, Luke 1:6)
3. Sober: Applies to the person who controls himself and is moderate in his ways, especially when eating and drinking. (**1 Timothy 3:2**)

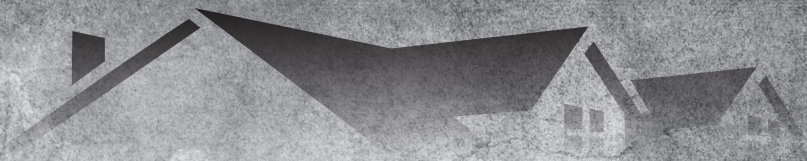
II. HOW THE LEADER MUST NOT BE?

1. No arrogant (**Titus 1:7**)
2. Not irascible (**Titus 1:7, Proverbs 15:18**)
3. Not avaricious (**1 Timothy 3:3**)
4. Not given to wine (**1 Timothy 3:3**)
5. Not quarrelsome (**1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7**)
6. Not greedy for money (**1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7**)
7. Not contentious (**2 Timothy 2:24**)



CONCLUSION

I want to quote the words of Ernest Hemingway (1896-1961), an American writer: ***“A man of character can be defeated but never destroyed.”*** We must ask God to help us to have always a character according to God’s own heart. May we please Him and that our character would be a blessing to others, with our expressions, our manners with our decisions and our attitudes. Let’s learn from Jesus, who was ***“meek and humble of heart...”***



Lesson 13

Enemies *of the Vision* I (bitterness)



INTRODUCTION

To study this lesson, we will see some roots of bitterness that exist in the lives of men that prevent them from living better. Bitterness is a spiritual problem. The law of reproduction teaches us that everything we sow grows, bears fruit and multiplies; and if a cell group leader has bitterness in his heart, that will reproduce in his disciples. It follows from the importance of this lesson; because not only do we want to reproduce and multiply, but also we want to do it in a healthy way.



Bitterness in the Bible is represented by a TREE, which is a living organism that can reproduce itself. Similarly, the Bible states that bitterness, being a living feeling in people has the ability to sprout (reproduce), and can lead to major problems within the Church.

The Bible describes three important parts of the bitterness

Hebrews 12:15: *“Looking good that no one apart from the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing prevent you from, and thereby many be defiled...”*

1 Samuel 22:2: *“And with him were assembled all the afflicted, and everyone who was in debt, and all who were in bitterness of spirit, and became captain over them: and took him four hundred men...”*

- a) ROOT = PROBLEM
- b) STEM = ATTITUDE
- c) BLOSSOM = SYMPTOM

Here are some of those roots that affect us and those around us:

1. HATE

Its root is so deep that it causes bitterness towards those who are friends of the hated one, such as: friends, family, relatives, etc., since it is a negative feeling of profound antipathy, disgust, contempt, hatred or repulsion toward a person, thing or situation.

2. REBELLION

It is a stem that comes from a root of bitterness. A rebellion is, in most cases, a manifestation of rejection of authority. It can manifest itself as:



- ✓ Arrogance
- ✓ Complaints
- ✓ Negative attitudes
- ✓ The demand to do things “my way”, and so on.

3. INSECURITY

Uncertainty can be defined as the difficulty of choosing between different options to achieve a particular goal. It can also be defined as a constant doubt about whether what we or others have done or said has been accurate or not. Your safety depends on things that you have that can be taken from you, so you live with insecurity. Your safety may lie in things such as:

- ✓ Fame
- ✓ Money
- ✓ Power
- ✓ Etc.

4. Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a twisted attitude and implies the use of ridicule or biting irony. It’s hurtful, humiliating, and offensive. It also includes abuse. It involves the use of harsh words and an arrogant attitude, and so on. Sarcasm is proverbially described as “the lowest form of humor, but the highest form of wit.”

Example: John arrives at work, and the first thing he does is sit and puts his feet on the desk to cool down. The boss sees him and says: “John, keep working this hard!”

5. LAZINESS

Sloth is the lack of motivation or willingness to do a certain thing, especially to move or work. It’s negligence, boredom or refus-



al to perform any task or duties. It is also known as laziness, idleness, indolence and shiftlessness.

a) Negligence, boredom or carelessness on the things we are bound to do.

b) Looseness, neglect or delay in our actions or movements. It is also described as a lack of energy to perform actions.

6. FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

This is like the flower of bitterness, i.e. it sprouts from the very root. It's about the creases that mark facial expression lines, the most noticeable ones being the expression known as "frown" or the pursing of the lips. This happens because the person spends most of the time with this position. So the face muscles tighten and mark the face.

7. IMPETUOSITY

Impetuous, hasty, thoughtless. *"You are too impetuous, and you should think more before acting."*

These are the characteristics of people who are always rushing: Changing home, work, church groups, friends, always trying to have things "their way", and in the event of not getting it, they seek for another place where they can have it.

8. CRITICISM

Negative criticism is directed to the person or the identity of the person, while feedback is directed to the conduct or behavior. It is not the same saying: *"you're stupid,"* as it is saying: *"what you did is nonsense."* The first case involves the whole person, while in the second case we are talking about a particular deed.



1 Samuel 30:6

“And David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people I was with heavy hearts, each for his sons and his daughters: but David worked hard in the Lord his God.”

Job 7:11

“Therefore I will not refrain my mouth will speak in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.”

Job 10:1

“My soul is weary of my life I will give rein to my complaint about me, talk to the bitterness of my soul.”

Which is the result of bitterness?

It is unimaginable what it produces, among its consequences are: anger, hatred, fierce attacks regardless of the consequences, the bear syndrome, etc.

“For, said Hushai:

Thou knowest thy father and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.” (2 Samuel 17:8)

BITTERNESS PROVOKES GOD

Hosea 12:14

“ Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his LORD return unto him.”



CAUSES OF BITTERNESS

• VERBAL ABUSE

1 Samuel 1:6-7: *“And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.”*

• EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Genesis 26:34-35: *“And Esau was forty years old, took to wife Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and to Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite: And they were a grief of mind unto Isaac and Rebekah”.*

• PHYSICAL ABUSE

Genesis 49:22-26: *“Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.”*

• SEXUAL ABUSE

“Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.” (2 Samuel 13:14)



“And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of diverse colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom’s house.” (2 Samuel 13:19-20)

• DISOBEDIENT CHILDREN

Proverbs 10:1: *“...A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.”*

Proverbs 28:7: *“Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.”*

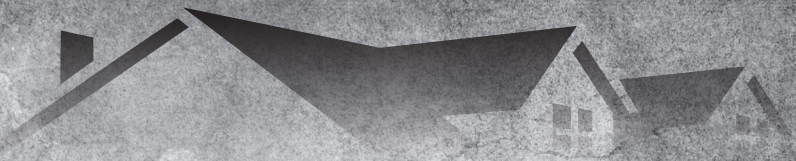
CONCLUSION

TO BE FREE, RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD, GOOD SAMARITAN.

To be free of those deep roots of bitterness, we must receive God’s grace, He is our Good Samaritan. He removes our root and places new fruit. He plants the good seed and makes it grow with joy and happiness.

Isaiah 38:16-17: *“O LORD, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live. Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.”*





Lección 14

Enemies *of the Vision* II (greed)



INTRODUCTION

This emotional disorder is described as a vice and/or desires to acquire and hoard money, treasures or other things of value. It's the desire to hoard goods. Possessions can be an overwhelming passion. It's one of the most maddening inclinations. It is reinforced by the desire for security and power. It is also reinforced by the desire to show off the results from having a lot.



Never in history has there been such wealth as there is now and, at the same time, so much nonconformity in humans for more.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:6-10 KJV)

By contrast, piety and humility are attitudes of reverence, devotion, submission and obedience to God. As a synonym for devotion; it's defined as love and respect devoted to God, parents or sacred things.

1. THOSE WHO WANT TO ENRICH THEMSELVES:

Luke 4:5-8: *“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”(NKJV)*

• FALL INTO THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL

Psalms 18:4-6 *“The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.”(NKJV)*



- **FALL IN FOOLISH AND HARMFUL GREED**

Job 5:2: *“For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.”*

- **SINK INTO THE RUIN AND DESTRUCTION OF PRIDE**

Daniel 4:30-31: *“The king spoke and said: Is not this great Babylon that I built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty? Even the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven say to you, King Nebuchadnezzar, the kingdom is departed from thee.” (NKJV)*

- **ARE DESTROYED BY PRIDE**

Proverbs 16:18: *“Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”*

- **BECOMES AN IDOLATER**

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” (Colossians 3:5)

- **DO NOT LET THE WORD ACT**

“And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19)

2. THOSE WHO WANT TO FOLLOW GOD:

1 Timothy 6:11-12: *“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*



- **HATE GREED**

Exodus 18:21: “Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

- **ARE NOT ARROGANT**

1 Timothy 6:17-19: “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”(NKJV)

- **HAVE GOOD HABITS**

Hebrews 13:5: “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- **MUST BEWARE OF EVIL**

Luke 12:15: “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

- **WILL SEE THEIR DAYS EXTENDED**

Proverbs 28:16, “The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.”



CONCLUSION

THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL IS THE LOVE OF MONEY

When we love money more than anything else, we have a real problem. This affects us very badly and we lose our faith.

Acts 5:1-11: *“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things”.*

Money is important and we must strive to have it. In our society, we can’t live without money. This is true, of course. But care must be taken with it. We accept that we can’t live without money, but Job says: *“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and Naked shall I return. Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, is the name of the Lord.”* There are more important things than hoarding wealth.



Job 11:6:

“And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth....”

2 Corinthians 8:9:

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”



Lesson 15

The Holiness *of the Leader*



"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord..." (Hebrews 12:14)

INTRODUCTION

Holiness is not an option, it's mandated by God. **1 Peter 1:15-16** says, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."



In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word **Kadosh (holy)**, meant being separated from the secular or profane and dedicated to serving God.

Holiness must include a sacrifice of our desires and wishes. In fact, **1 Peter 1:15 says**, *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.”* This leaves on the floor versions of those who say, *“what is on the outside does not matter.”* The Bible says it should be in all manners of living... and not only at certain times, or when we go to the temple. Holiness must be in time and out of time.

In fact, Paul goes further, for he speaks of our body, that it must be presented as a sacrifice to God. Notice what **Romans 12:1** says: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”* And Paul goes even further, apparently knowing modern thinking, *“That was before”, “times have changed”, “the messages were to the early church.”* That’s why **12:2** is supplemented as follows: *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

To understand better the issue of holiness, we must consider the following:

1. DESIRES OF THE FLESH DO NOT HELP US TO BE SAINTS

We begin by quoting **Galatians 5:16**: *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* The lusts of the flesh are enemies of holiness. It seems that Paul wants to make this clear. Now let’s look at **Galatians 5:17**: *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*



In fact, when we speak of holiness, this includes flesh and spirit. That's why **2 Corinthians 7:1** says *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

The Bible tells us in **Galatians 5:19-21** what are those fruits, as well as Paul's invitation to walk in the Spirit. *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*

2. DEEDS DO NOT HELP US TO BE SAINTS

Our salvation is not by our ability, or our ability and intelligence, even less by our actions. That's why **Ephesians 2:8-10** refers: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

The deeds we do, we do them because we are saved, not to be saved. **James** makes a good dissertation in **2:14-23** and says, *"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says unto them: Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? So also faith without works is dead in itself. But someone will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works. Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. So also faith without works is dead in itself. But someone will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works. Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe and tremble. But*



wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham justified by works, our father, when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and that faith was perfected by works? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was counted as righteousness, and was called the friend of God."

3. BAPTISM HELPS US TO BE SAINTS

It should be noted that when we were baptized, God worked in us His saving act. Sin is removed. In Baptism we are washed and sanctified by God, but from then on, it is our responsibility to stay clean of all manner of sin and evil.

1 Corinthians 6:11

Says, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and the Spirit of our God."

Paul, writing to the **Ephesians in 5:26-27**, says, *"Sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, to present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or blemish, but holy and without blemish."*

4. THUS, HOW CAN WE BE SAINTS?

To be holy, we must put off the old man and dress up with the new man, which is the new creation. We must leave all earthly things that hurt, affect and hinder our spiritual growth. When the Christian is not dressed up with holiness, he turns away from God. If holiness means to set oneself aside for God, then the opposite means that one turns away, but from God.



It is the Lord who purifies us, who cleans us. It is by His Holy Spirit that we are transformed. Jesus helps us to rid ourselves of the old creation; He gives us the strength to leave all that hurts our inner self. His Holy Spirit can guide us into all truth and empowers us to abandon the works of the flesh.

There is a widespread belief that holiness is only internal, and that what's outside doesn't matter. However, there are many passages that speak of the need to obey the word and to refrain from certain practices that affect us in our Christian life and our bodies. In fact, the Bible provides us with some guidelines for the look of our body, we'll see some of them:

- **There is a spirit of lust, of stripping the body, we see it in the possessed Gadarene. Luke 8:27** says: *"And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs."* However, after he encountered Jesus we see it differently: **8:35** *"Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid."*

- **1 Timothy 2:9** says, *"I also want women to dress modestly..."*

- **1 Peter 3:2-4** says, *"While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."*

- **Clothing must be the appropriate for the distinction of sexes.** In fact, today we can see an androgynous fashion. Those who follow this fashion are those people whose clothes, demeanor and other things do not belong to those of their own sex. People wear typical clothes of the opposite sex. Men wear women clothing and women wear things made for men. But the Bible is very emphat-



ic and says in **Deuteronomy 22:5**: *“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.”*

- **God does not tolerate the spirit of Jezebel. Revelation 2:20** says, *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”* **2 Kings 9:30** says, *“And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.”*

- **The use of the veil on women.** The Bible sets some parameters of spiritual discipline that must be taken into account by all spiritual leaders, specifically the women. Wearing the veil is mandatory when praying or taking part in the prophetic word (read or inspired).

1 Corinthians 11:3-5

Says, “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.”

The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthian church corrected 2 excesses:

- **First:**

The new converts were treated like Jewish women. Since they were asked to cover like them; that is, be covered all the time, just like today. The apostle defines its use only for prayer and the prophetic word (scriptures).



- **Second:**

The women were to be prevented from not wearing a symbol of authority by not covering their heads, thus being left out of God's authority, as well as their husband's, and the protection of the angels. **1 Corinthians 11:3 and 10** says: *"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God... For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels."*

- Paul teaches that Christian women should not remain covered during their daily activities, but only in the two times already mentioned. But to stay under authority, God asks the woman to let her hair grow. **1 Corinthians 11:15** says: *"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."* This excludes when they perform the two activities mentioned above: To pray or prophesy (read or inspired).

- Still, some people have misunderstood these instructions and have neglected God's authority on women, by not covering during prayer and the prophetic word and using the short hair in their daily lives. **1 Corinthians 11:13** says: *"Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?"* **1 Corinthians 11:16** says: *"But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."*

- **2 Corinthians 7:1:** *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

- **Ephesians 4:24:** *"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."*

- During the time of the prophet Isaiah, God called the Israelites to leave behind all outward adornment taken from the Egyptians and all pride in dress. (**Isaiah 3:16-23**)

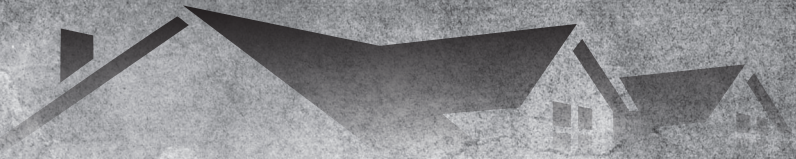


CONCLUSION

1 Thessalonians 4:7 says, *“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”* Holiness is very important. Without it we are lost. It is an indispensable part of the Christian life and of every leader. **Hebrews 12:14** says: *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”*

Do you want to be sanctified? Or do you want to turn away for God? The best way to know what is from God is to know and obey His word. Hosea mentions that the people perish for the lack of knowledge of God. And Solomon says that the foundation of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

Paul says in **1 Corinthians 11:1-2** *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.”*



Lesson 16

Spiritual *Authority*



INTRODUCTION

We must begin by specifying that all authority has been established by God; that all rebellion is Satanic, and that disobedience can be compared to the sin of witchcraft. God establishes and delegates authority. Faults in our authorities, are a test to see whether there is rebellion in us (as in the case of Ham).



When there is service, but there is no order, it is also a rebellion. We see it with Nadab and Abihu. Speaking against an authority produces the intervention of God, as it happened to Miriam and Aaron. When someone rebels, he goes mad and upset, remember the case of Korah. In some cases, when you must disobey, you should keep a submissive spirit. As God is just, He sets the path to appeal. (**Proverbs 21:1**)

AUTHORITY IN THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

The fullest manifestation of God’s authority is in the body of Christ, which is His church.

Mark 1:21-23: “And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out.”

If there is no authority from God, we can’t exercise it.

1. HE WHO HAS AUTHORITY

IS BECAUSE HE IS UNDER AUTHORITY

God is the Lord of all that exists, even things visible and invisible. Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28: 18). Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 3:23** “And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is



God's." Thus, all spiritual authority on the believer will always be delegated from Christ. Pilate told Jesus: "...Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin." (**John 19:10-11**)

We repeat then:

That everyone who has authority, it is because he is under authority, since all authority is given only by God.

One of the best examples can be seen in **Matthew 8:5-10**: "And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."

I think this man, the Roman centurion, knew this principle. He gave orders, because he was under orders, and knew that the same happened with Jesus. So Jesus spoke well of his faith.

2. HAVING AUTHORITY

DOESN'T MEAN TO BE AUTHORITARIAN

There is a difference between having authority and being authoritarian. Matthew **21:34-41** applies to the person who abuses his authority. Next we'll see a comparison between a leader and a boss:



THE BOSS	THE LEADER
Exists thanks to authority	Exists thanks to Goodwill
Considers authority as a privilege to command	Considers authority as a privilege to serve
He inspires fear	He inspires trust
He knows how things are done	Teaches how to do things
He tells you: You Go!	He tells you: Let's Go!
Arrives on time	Arrives before everybody
Assigns the tasks	He gives the example

3. ACCEPTING AUTHORITY

When one accepts the authority of a leader, it is a blessing to our lives. Not accepting it is rebellion, from the biblical point of view. His obedience is not to man, but to Christ. Remembering that all authorities have been placed by God we must accept our authorities. So Paul was rejoicing because of those Christians who obeyed. There are great blessings for those who obey. You can read it in chapter **28 of Deuteronomy**.

Romans 13:2: *“Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”*

