



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

TRUE PASTORS PART IV !

Welcome to issue # of the Weekly Christian Focus! We are almost up to 4 full years of weekly articles, with no breaks so far. Please see our web site for more information. www.weeklychristianfocus.org

We are continuing this series on True Pastors. This is part IV today.

- **Here we are focusing on messages or advice for any flock no matter how small or big who have a Pastor. I am also sharing some messages of encouragement for a True Pastor.**

MESSAGES FOR THE PEOPLE 'UNDER' A TRUE PASTOR

But first let's start with you, the flock of God. The Lord has given you a Pastor. Here are some ways you can help him and appreciate what God has given you.

1. How do you know if you have a good Pastor?

You know you have a good pastor, because he does or tries to do those three main things we discussed in detail in part I, which are:

(i) If he feeds God's People the Word of God.

(ii) If he lays down even his own life for God's true sheep.

(iii) If he is personally aware of the devil's fight against you and understands (ongoing process), what to do about that.

Your Pastor will also have other God-given talents and abilities and gifts which we will eventually come to. He will also have an emphasis on the importance of prayer, prayer groups, and also an emphasis on Evangelism and bringing the Word of God to the local town/city/villages and global peoples.

2. Prayers for your True Pastor (Praying for your pastors/ leaders/shepherds)

The Scriptures teach us to pray for our elders and those who 'rule over us'. They need prayer.

Hebrews 13:7

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow,

considering the end of their conversation.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

The Apostle Paul said:

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And (prayers) for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

I truly believe you will be amazed at how well, in the Holy Spirit, things will go in your 'church' or flock if you would only pray more for your leader and Pastor. Try it and see! I always can feel when others are praying for me, and the difference positively this

makes in my own life. It's a wonderful experience.



In the Bible, "School of the Prophets" refers to a structured training and community of prophetic figures, primarily mentioned in the Old Testament. These groups, often referred to as "sons of the prophets," were involved in worship, prophetic ministry, and the transmission of prophetic wisdom.

3. Coming to a meeting of God in the correct spirit and attitude. Leaving the meeting. In times past, I think it was better understood that any disciple of Jesus Christ, should come to a meeting or service/sermon etc with their hearts already prepared. What should they be prepared for? **They should be prepared in their hearts to receive the Message and Word of God that their God- ordained Pastor will be bringing them.** They should, in my opinion, be ready in their hearts to have nothing else on their minds that could distract them from the main thing which all hunger for: The Word of God!

This same principle applies to any personal or small group meeting with the same Pastor. If you fail to do that, it is your 'fault' if the Word of God has not changed you sufficiently during that time of listening to it.

When you have a personal meeting with him, this should also be a time when you have already prepared your heart for any counsel, advice, Word of God, advice

or warnings and prayers your Pastor may wish to pass on to you. If the Lord sees that you are doing your part, He will send the best messages your way that will change your life! Jesus promised it: Matthew 5:6 blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Leaving the meeting in the correct attitude.

in older days many true believers tried to get straight home from their Sunday meetings for various reasons. They didn't want local banter, or the after-church chit-chat to interfere with the powerful messages that they had just been hearing. They wanted to go home and some part of their afternoons or evenings would be dedicated to meditating or absorbing the Word of God from the morning. Excellent attitude.

4. Warnings a true Pastor must give to you or the flock. How to receive these warnings in the right way.

The above counsel is also true for more sober messages (solemn or reflective) or warnings from God. Let's face it, the Bible is full of warnings; one only needs to read any book in the Bible and you will find a prophet, or God, or Jesus or someone godly, advising or warning somebody!

I think quite a few Pastors **struggle** when the time comes they are feeling God wants them to warn you the flock, or bring out some sins, or errors in people's spiritual or financial lives.

You make it easier for your pastor by being always prepared for God's Word for

that day or meeting!

5. Loyalty to a godly man.

Although many of us fail in this regards, your being loyal to your True Pastor is an enormous strength and encouragement to him, because after all, he is only human! When he can sense your loyalty and commitment and love in Christ for him, he will undoubtedly do a better job! Praise the Lord. **Ask God to make you loyal. Ask God what else you can do to help God's work through him to go forward. The Lord will show you amazing things.**

If you consider your pastor a scumbag, then you can move to another place as you have that freedom, but loyalty is a great virtue. David was loyal to Saul, knowing he was wicked, yet believing God had placed him there. Saul truly was an awful example, Samuel was very loyal to the High Priest Eli until God took Eli out of the picture.

You should ask the Lord who you should be loyal to, alternatively there is that possibility you don't join any particular church or fellowship, which is something that is not wrong necessarily, but if you have committed to somewhere, try to be loyal. Otherwise be loyal to yourselves and Jesus!

6. Helping your Pastor escape over the Wall!

Along with this concept of loyalty, all flocks should understand that a true pastor will be persecuted or troubled by outside events and people. Some of these events must be faced and dealt with by the pastor himself, preferably with the attendance of one or

more elders/deacons etc. but in other cases, there are times in the Pastor's life when other elders or members can step up and run interference for him (as the Americans love to say!) **

The term 'escape over the wall' comes from these verses:

Acts 9: 23 after many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, **24** but Saul (later Paul) learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. **25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.**

I believe disciples should view their fellow disciples and Pastor as a united army for the Lord.



If you approach things with this mind-set, you will understand the concepts of loyalty and escaping over the wall much better! **Thank God many Christians today retain this positive attitude.** When trouble comes, you should become like a secret (if necessary) network, exactly like the disciples in the Book of Acts! Why do you think that God gave us this blueprint? It was for our wonderful benefit. The angel delivered Peter from prison because many were praying

'without ceasing' for him (their pastor). Paul escaped over the wall, a secret inside operation that was organised by other disciples.

7. Volunteering your gifts and talents for use in your congregation and for the Lord.

Your several or many gifts can be used greatly by the Lord. All ministries need men and women who do many things as unto the Lord and not unto men. The first major example of this in the New Testament was Acts chapter 6 verses 1-7. Let's delve into this for a few important minutes:

Acts chapter 6:

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **2 So the Twelve (Apostles) gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and (but we) will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."**5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. **6** They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

These new seven men were not only helpers in the physical distribution of food or organization of other material items, but they were all most notably filled with the Holy

Spirit. These men received the anointing also from the Apostles' laying hands on them; something that should be done in all new selections and elections of places of authority however small in a 'church' or ministry.

We know two of these seven went on to be evangelists and witnesses, and one of them became the first Martyr for Jesus Christ.

At the same time, the Apostles knew they had to be laser-focused or its equivalent on the Word of God, prayer and hearing from the Lord for the next Guidance. They would never be able to accomplish that without these seven, and probably more as numbers multiplied.

So you can help your work of God grow by being faithful in the physical and material dimensions of your Pastor's ministry. God is watching and He will exalt you to new and greater things as He sees you are faithful in that which is least. 'Whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men.' Colossians 3:23-24.

A final warning from this author!

As we close this week, I do feel pressed to again share this key point: This series is not designed to only talk about buildings, brick and mortar churches and established locations as we primarily have today in Christendom. This series is trying to bring out the scriptural and spiritual points of who is a true pastor, his job, gifts, and calling and the ways his flock can help him and his ministry to succeed as a person and how you as a flock can also thereby succeed.

Again I wish to say it is highly likely, enormous changes will happen in the world, greater persecution will arise and God is looking for True Pastors. He will use who He has now and he will

also be looking to raise up many more for the days ahead. I pray this simple series will help focus our minds and hearts on these things. Amen.

Until next week, God willing,
Jerry for the WCF TEAM.

Still to come in this 'True Pastors' series!

By God's grace we will close out this series with two or possibly three more editions! The content of them will hopefully include:

MESSAGES FOR A TRUE PASTOR

Words of encouragement

Where can you find real help for your ministry?

How to solve problems and discern people

Prioritizing and knowing who your

key people are.

Visitation

Who leads the church really, the Pastor, or the elders and Pastor, or the main financial supporters, or all of the above? Easy to answer this!

Why is being a True Pastor the most difficult job in the world?

The Rewards of the Pastor!

The spiritual gifts a true pastor will have or some of these!

Plus:

THE WORST TYPE OF PASTORS OF ALL!

EZEKIEL 34

MATTHEW 23

MANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL PASSAGES OR VERSES.

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BUT JESUS CALLED THEM TO HIM, AND SAITH UNTO THEM, YE KNOW THAT THEY WHICH ARE ACCOUNTED TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES EXERCISE LORDSHIP OVER THEM; AND THEIR GREAT ONES EXERCISE AUTHORITY UPON THEM. BUT SO SHALL IT NOT BE AMONG YOU: BUT WHOSOEVER WILL BE GREAT AMONG YOU, SHALL BE YOUR MINISTER: AND WHOSOEVER OF YOU WILL BE THE CHIEFEST, SHALL BE SERVANT OF ALL. FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY. MARK 10:42



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