



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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Study 28: QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Nehemiah 7:2

Following preparations for true worship Nehemiah appointed Hanani and Hananiah to be in charge of Jerusalem. These two people were considered worthy of the appointment because they were faithful and feared God above many. Faithfulness and fear of God are topmost qualities in God's priority list for leadership. Today, most people fear man rather than God. In every generation God is always searching for people to accomplish His work, but He does not just appoint anybody because the position is vacant. The vessel into which He must entrust divine treasure must first be worthy of the treasure. God has many children but it is only very few He can depend upon. The number He can depend upon is limited not by divine choice but by the number who willingly satisfy divine conditions to merit His trust. The way to heaven is narrow and only few find it. The pathway to spiritual leadership is even narrower and still fewer ever enter it. Just as eagles are few compared to pigeons, so also are "eagle Christians" few. Pigeons may trudge along the valley effortlessly with ease and comfort, pecking around for stray seeds and worms, but it takes effort, consecration and determination to rise above the level of mediocrity and soar into the bright blue sky where vision of the abundant supply underneath is broadened.

1. FAITHFULNESS:

Nehemiah 7:2; Luke 19:17; Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Luke 12:42-46; Acts 26:19

God demands faithfulness of his servants. Faithfulness will make a man accept his responsibilities on divine charges (1 Corinthians 9:7), commit himself to the task despite prevailing circumstances, execute his responsibilities in season and out of season and is prepared to die for the course he is living for. He would not be swerved from the heavenly vision by fierce opposition from the enemy, or setbacks in his personal plans. The demands of family life, education, career and economy never dwindles his / her faithfulness to God. He demonstrates commitment for the total welfare of others. Like Esther, his motto is "If I perish I perish". Men of such qualities may be rare, but it is to such men that God will commit the keys of the kingdom. Dare to be a Daniel and you will be surprised to what extent God will use you. God delights in the faithful. He blesses, protects, guides and rewards the faithful all through life.

2. FEAR OF GOD

Nehemiah 7:2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 14:16; 2 Samuel 11:14-15; 23:1-4; Matthew 10:28; Ecclesiastes 8:11-13; 12:13,14

The fear of God (Holy reverence) is a quality that enables people to live in the consciousness of God's presence, avoid sin both in the public and private (Psalms 4:3-5; Daniel 1:8; Genesis 39:7-9), obey God irrespective of consequences (Daniel 3:16-18; Acts 4:18-20). This quality does not come anyhow to the casual carefree

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believer. It is developed through closeness with the Lord, constant communion and a consecrated living. The fear of God removes fear of man, devil, circumstances, etc. It generates confidence in the ability of God to do that which He has promised (Romans 4:20,21). Generally, the fear of God also leads to holiness of life, sobriety, honest dealings and respect for leadership.

3. FEARLESSNESS OF MAN

Nehemiah 7:2; Galatians 1:10; Proverbs 20:21; Isaiah 51:12,13; 43:1-3

Many people today fear man. This fear is manifested in various ways such as telling lies, living a double standard life, or in hypocrisy and sin, pandering to those in privileged position. These are done to gain favour or escape persecution and punishment. Fear of man generally inhibits right thinking and the freedom to act righteously out of integrity and sound judgment. It ultimately leads to compromise and evil associations that ruin good morals. The fear of man has made many so called Christians to abuse the privilege of restitution and begin a downward spiral that ruin the very foundation for spiritual leadership (Romans 5:20; 6:1; Galatians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 6:1; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-29). ***“It is the acts that make a dog different from a sheep.”*** With the fear of man it is impossible to manifest absolute trust in God or maintain the kind of faithfulness that attracts miracles from God. God’s unceasing clarion call to man still resounds ***“fear not for I have redeemed thee ...”*** A positive response to that call will eliminate the fear of man and implant a faith that will generate a healthy fear of God.