

Ministry Part 1

The Word ministry used much in God's service. Below is a brief account of its use with some Scripture to give some clear understanding to each and every worker who set his heart to serve God.

In the Old Testament we can find the following words:

1. Shareth: *“And they shall take all the instruments of ministry, wherewith they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a cloth of blue, and cover them with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put them on a bar.” (Numbers 4:12 KJV)* Shareth is the Hebrews word that used for the word ‘ministry’, two times repeated in the Old Testament, which describe a ministry, religious ministry in the tabernacle, within the premises of the premises of God's temple.

The system of the ministry is to wait upon the office that you are placed in till the work accomplished in a perfect way. *“And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.” (2 Chronicles 7:6 KJV)*

In regard to ministry there is always rules and description of these rules in God's Word in any ministry. *“From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that came to do the service of the ministry, and the service of the burden in the tabernacle of the congregation.” (Numbers 4:47 KJV)* Here we can see the rules of age, 30 to 50 years old. The Levites will be taken at the age of 25 to be train, and at the age of 30 they will get involved in service. After the age of 50 they just supervise and keep the charge while others will do the service. *“23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 24 This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: 25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more: 26 But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.” (Numbers 8:23-26 KJV)*

2. Obadah: At the time of David the lower age limit for the Levites to serve was lessened to the age of 20 because the tabernacle was no more in moving. *“24 These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward. 25 For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever: 26 And also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof. 27 For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above.” (1 Chronicles 23:24-27 KJV)* The Levites will be called for training at the age of 20 and will engage in the service after the period of their training. The Hebrews word

that used for service is ‘Obadah’. In total there is 125 use for the word ‘Obadah’, in the old Testament, and the meaning of it is labor, work and service, like a labour of servant or slave, a labour and service of captives or subjects, and the service of God. As we can read here: *“Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.” (2 Chronicles 34:13 KJV)*

3. Yad: In *Hosea 12:10* *“I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.”* The Hebrews word used for ministry here is ‘Yad’, and it is used 1447 times in the Old Testament, and the meaning of it is hand, wrist, support and strength. Some of the application of this word we can find in these Scriptures:

“Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.” (Nehemiah 2:18 KJV) The hand of God is what is doing the ministry today. When we are willing to use our hands and wrist with strength to support the work of God, then that is the hand of God working through our lives and ministry.

“For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.” (Nehemiah 6:9 KJV) The enemy usually attack the mind to discourage and make us weak to weakens our hands in order to delay the hand of God from working and producing service and what God want to achieve.

“And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.” (Nehemiah 8:6 KJV) Lifting up the hands toward God is an act of faith and in agreement with God to do and support the work of God.

In the New Testament we can find the following Greek words:

1. Leitourgia: Which means service or sacrifices offered to administer at the person own expense, to offer gift or benefaction for the relief of the needy. This Word describe the ministry of Jesus, who offered His body to be put to death on the cross; a sacrifice for our sins, to redeem us and give us the gift and our need, the salvation of God, the eternal life.

Hebrews 8:1-6 speak about Jesus who obtained more excellent ministry in purchasing and building His church better than Moses ministry in building the Old Testament tabernacle:

“1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest,

seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. 6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” (Hebrews 8:1-6 KJV) Jesus bore the pain, the shame of sin and the suffering to offer us eternal life. Therefore, ministry in the New Testament is a sacrifice; something costly, given to the Lord, causing you pain, and that you give to the Lord willingly. Serving the lord is not that you are looking for something easy, but it is a Leitourgia, suffering with pain and in complete willingness. The following were further the Word Leitourgia used:

“And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.” (Luke 1:23 KJV) Zechariah left home when he finished waiting on his ministry and office in the temple of God.

“For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.” (2 Corinthians 9:12 KJV) Giving material things to support the ministry of God is a painful sacrifice, given willingly to supply the needs of the saints.

“Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.” (Philippians 2:17 KJV) Paul was willing to offer his life as a sacrifice just for the purpose of building the faith of others, and he was willing to do that with joy as He said, “I joy, and rejoice with you all.” Epaphroditus, the companion of Paul was willing for the sake of Christ work, even to put his life unto death to supply the Philippians to what is lack of the service of Paul to them as we can read here: “25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. 26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: 30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.” (Philippians 2:25-30 KJV)

My dear and beloved: As you read and enlightened with God’s Word, commit your life to the ministry of God, submitting to the rules of God and His church, and willingly let your life be used as a sacrifice, following the example of Jesus, so that the salvation of God will spread to others and enriched God’s church and the saints as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learn from your Word. I am offering the parts of my body as a living sacrifice to serve you and do the work of yours in full as you ordained it to be. Lord gives me good health, strength and

perseverance to continue to be fruitful and effective till you come and take me. I thank you and praise you this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.