

How to Take the Right Decision Part 14

“1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:1-7 KJV)

We continue in this message to discuss the responsibility of the church to continue to raise up workers, leaders, elders, overseers or bishops to lead the work of God in order to impart God's Word and His will to the people that the Lord is reaching out through His church, and to help them to make right choices and right decisions in their lives. **For this purpose the church should follow the Scriptures to find out who is fit to fill the office that needed to be filled so the service of God will continue and the people will be well guided in their lives and taught well to take the right decision and to do the whole will of God.**

To learn more about this matter let us meditate on **Acts 6:1-7**:

“1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.” (Acts 6:1 KJV) Here what we can understand from the Scripture that the church had expanded where the number of the disciples was not only increased but was multiplied as well as the church had more than one ethnic group included in the church as we had read the Grecians were added. With that increase in the size of the church there were also increasing responsibilities that cannot all be met. What is the proof that could not be met? We are aware of that because there was grumbling as some widows were neglected and food was not given to them. The Apostles were carrying more precious responsibilities and they were not having the time to do other responsibilities. ***“2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.” (Acts 6:2 KJV)*** They cannot serve tables because the Word of God no one else will do if they will attend tables and distribute food to the people. Beside that, tables and the rest of the administrative services can be done and achieved by others who had the power to do that. **So here was the need to select people to support this work of God and they needed to be selected well so there will be no further troubles.**

People who are grumbling and who have lot of needs should be served by a real committed people who are after God's own heart and with such the problems will not be exacerbate or bounce back. “3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of

honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.” (Acts 6:3 KJV) The apostles recommended choosing seven men whom they think that number will be enough to do the needed work of God. The apostles said: ***“Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men”***, it means the people who were chosen from among the multitude were known by them. **The apostles here took the right decision to select right people to be appointed to do that work using the following criteria for selection:**

“men of honest report”: That their heart were pure and clean and were of the same mind of God. They didn't have wrong motive, nor love of money, nor love of position or hidden agenda to serve. **Why that is important? The new people that the church is reaching out and even the existing members they are burdened with many troubles and these troubles might tempt them to grumble that is why they need to be handled by honest people who will not go along their grumbling, but will teach them the ways of God. People with honest report are people who fear God and who are willing to do His will. Such kind of people when they are appointed for the service they will do the exact job, as well they will be good teachers to teach the people and train them how to take the right decisions and implement them.**

“full of the Holy Ghost”: People who are filled with the Holy Spirit not only they have the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit have them. They are serving God with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and with the leading of the Holy Spirit of God. People who has talents but they are not full of the Holy Spirit they are serving God and doing things based on their own understanding and not led by the Holy Spirit of God.

“full of ,, wisdom”: They have the wisdom of God, they are followers of the Word of God and the instructions of the Scriptures. They solve problems by going back to God, inquiring from Him, listening to His voice and heeding and fearing His Word and His instructions.

The apostles after they proposed the criteria they said, ***“whom we may appoint over this business.”*** That means they will be appointed as God had chosen them and appointed them to do His work.

The apostles with the criteria that they placed for the appointment they made it clear to everyone the criteria that the church should use to appoint workers. **Such criteria for workers not only the work will be done but problems will be solved, peoples' needs will be met and they will be well taught of how to live for God and how to take and implement the right decisions in their lives.**

Such right and correct appointment will further increase the size of the church because the apostles will be more free and will have more time to do more important things as they declared, ***“4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4 KJV)*** **They will be having more time for prayers to commune and communicate with God in order to receive His Word and His teaching, and later on to convey that to the people who are under their care so they will be taught well and trained how to live for God.**

“5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:” (Acts 6:5 KJV) The people were glad and

at peace because the apostles had made things clear with the criteria that they had put in order to select capable workers to manage the church and how to take the right decisions and how to solve problems. **The church when put a clear criteria to choose workers the devil will be silenced, problems will be solved, and the increase will take place by reaching out new people. The church should make it clear to everyone that only those who are fit according to the criteria will be chosen and appointed for service. They are appointed because certain problems need to be solved and certain needs need to be met, and therefore that is why they needed to be fit according to the criteria.**

“and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost”, here speaks about the choosing of Stephen whom we know, as we read about him in *Acts* chapters 6 and 7, what he did and how his life ended by being martyred by the Jewish. Here in choosing him there was another criteria that had been added.

“a man full of faith”: Full of faith it means, the worker need to be full in faith on God, and that entails that he should be in full faith on what God had said in His Word, and in full faith on what God had ordained of plan for him and for His church to live on.

“and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch”: The other men who were chosen were various men; Philip we know what he did and the part of his life as we read in *Acts* 8 how he planted the church in Samaria, and how he baptized a man of Ethiopia and how he preached the gospel in various cities, **“40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.” (Acts 8:40 KJV)**, and how he was hospitable to the church and how he raised up his four daughters in holiness and in the fear of the Lord, **“8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.” (Acts 21:8-9 KJV)**

“and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch”: We can see that the new chosen and appointed leaders were not only from the Jewish but as well as from the Gentiles who were converted, among them **“Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch”**. **The church should choose and appoint workers; those who are fit and equipped for the task from whatever ethnic group they are.**

“6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.” (Acts 6:6 KJV) The congregation helped in choosing the right men based on the apostle criteria and they brought them to the apostle to lay hands on them to impart to them the anointing and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to impart to them the authority and the honor that they need to do the work.

“7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7 KJV) The outcome of that Godly decision and the outcome of choosing men to serve God based on criteria from the Word of God led to the followings:

1. The problem solved: Peoples' needs met. Widows satisfied and grumbling disappeared.

2. The Word of God increased; more opportunities had opened to spread the Word of God. More evangelism and more areas were reached out with the gospel of truth.

3. The number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; Further multiplication in the number of the disciples took place.

4. A great company of the priests were obedient to the faith: Those who were so adamant and opposed the faith now they came and believed on Christ.

“2 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.” (2 Timothy 2:2 KJV) Here Apostle Paul was instructing Timothy that he needed to entrust the teaching that he received from Paul to faithful men. Those faithful they should also be capable to teach and impart the same to others. What Paul meant to tell Timothy with many witnesses, **“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses”**, that the teaching Timothy received from Paul was followed and agreed upon by many others whom Timothy knew and aware, therefore, Timothy needed impart the same teaching to others and not to be deviated and teach other doctrine and other way of life. If he will do such then those other witnesses will ask Paul why Timothy is doing such disorder and they will get confused. **In the same way for us as one church we need to follow the same teaching so there will be no confusion and no division among our workers.**

The criteria for the approved worker

The Church of God, United Arab Emirates and all the congregations under its care adopt the following criteria for the approved worker to appoint our workers:

1. True conversion which entail that the worker should remember a moment, a turning point that he turned from sins and decided to follow Christ. This entails also repentance, faith in Jesus, life' testimony, and water Baptism.
2. Sound in doctrine that he know the ways of God and the way God wants His people to live.
3. Spiritual discipline by daily practicing prayer, Bible reading and study, praise and worship, and in fasting as led by the Holy Spirit.
4. Commitment to the local church which include to attend regularly, to meet the financial needs through regular tithing, giving the firstfruit and offerings, and to agree and go along the vision and the leadership of the church. God may give to every believer a vision, but these individual visions should go along the vision of the church.
5. Good Steward for time, talents, resources and money. The worker should be sound in managing these resources, and knows how to spend wisely.
6. Family responsibility. The worker should manage well his marital and parental responsibilities.
7. Work responsibility. The worker should be willing to work in a secular job whenever that is needed besides doing his ministry.
8. Moral purity (No work of the flesh) and no bad habits, (no smoking and no drinking).
9. Good character and attitude, the worker should have personal integrity, and possess the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
10. Modest appearance for dress, speech, conduct and life style that pleases God.
11. Being a good citizen, keeping the country rules, praying for the leaders of the nations and evangelizing the lost.

Why we use the criteria for the approved worker?

1. God call us to work with faithful people; ***“2 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.” (2 Timothy 2:2 KJV)*** Those who are not committed to the Lord and His Word they are disobedient people.
2. This is our integrity and honesty to God and to the church that He entrusted to us. Biblically the criteria we use goes along the Scripture and agree with the Church of God practical commitment and doctrine.
3. No one should think that their disobedience and lack of full commitment can be compensated by their talents or money. As if they are buying their own salvation. The Scripture states, ***“9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:9 KJV)***
4. We don't want to give way for compromises in the church and in the Lord's service because this is an invitation for the evil work.
5. To avoid that others will start to disobey, compromise and not follow correctly.
6. If the disobedient will be part of God's service, then what will be the picture we will give to the non believers and those outside the church? Disobedient acts also include traditions, practices and values that contradict God's Word.
7. If we will give ministry to the disobedient then very difficult to correct them and difficult when we take it out from their hands.
8. As we clean the church from disobedient people and not allow them to touch the sacred things then God's blessings will be abound to us and the more He will add to His church.
9. That set up will expel wolves out. This will spare us waste of effort, time and money, and to avoid division and disharmony in the future.
10. That set up will attract more sheep to enter the pen. That setup inspire others to seek the Lord and work with Him to improve their characters and attitudes and work out to improve themselves being faithful servant of God, as we read ***“15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)*** In such way the church will be a healthy atmosphere to those who are willing to walk with God and that will be the good atmosphere for more disciples and workers to raise up and more disciples and workers to join the church.

As a church we use these criteria to choose workers and to follow up our workers and to equip them and help them to get and receive what they lack so the ministry will be more fruitful.

My dear and beloved: For taking right decisions, the church should continue to raise competent workers who will help the church members and the new converts to take and implement the right decisions in their lives. The church and each and every worker and leader in the church should know and follow the criteria the church is implementing to select competent workers.

When the church take the right decision and the people of God abide with the instruction of God's Word, the Spirit of God will go before us and do mighty exploit. Therefore let us come now to God. Examine yourself and see where you are from what we read and study.

Check yourself and see what you have and what you lack of these characters and the criteria of the approved worker to be effective worker in God's church.

Repent of your sins and be willing to work with God to attain what you lack of these criteria so you will be faithful and fruitful worker in God's church. Work out now to abide with the Scripture and start to walk with God and obey His will. Come to God and be willing to serve Him and be a blessing to other people who need help to be guided to take a right decision in their lives for God.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaching me your ways and how you want me to live my life for you and how to serve you. Lord thank you for the criteria that you showed me from your Word that teaches me what are my responsibilities toward you, toward my family, toward your church, toward my job and toward the society that I am living in. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the rebukes that I received from you through this message of yours to me.

Confess now your sins and renounce them. Confess your failures in certain criteria that you are not keeping well. Confess your failure to read God's Word, lack of prayers, and your lack of tithing and your inconsistent to attend the church worship and the ministries of the church. Confess your failure to meet your family needs, in disciplining your children and in putting your house in order. Confess being bad example to others around you. Confess your bad stewardship, your laziness, and your failure to work and earn your living. Confess your lack of the fruit of the Holy Spirit and your bad characters and bad attitudes. Confess your non concern to the lost souls and your non willingness to share the gospel with them. Confess and renounce your lust, immoralities, lies, anger, fighting, corruption, injustice, selfishness, and the rest of the sins. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to the teachings that I received in this message. Lord I commit myself to work out with you to be a good worker and a servant of you that I will be a noble vessel to bring your Word and the message you send to the people around me and those under my care. Lord I commit myself to correct what is wrong in my characters and attitudes that I confessed to you. Lord I commit myself to work hard to earn my living and to do my part towards my family and to discipline my children and raise them in the fear of God. Lord I am willing to correct the following bad attitudes and characters in me

. Lord I commit myself to be a good example to others. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, faith, perseverance, long-suffering and self-control, that people may see Christ in me. Lord I commit myself to be a good citizen in the country that you placed me and to pray for those who are in authority and to go and evangelize and reach the lost.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and came back to you, committing themselves to live in holiness, to serve you and to do your will. Lord bless them,

provide for them, sustain them with their families and their ministries and provide for them all their needs to continue to go on and serve you.

Lord we thank you as a church for the criteria to select workers that you gave to us. Lord bless all our faithful workers and reward them for all their good service and ministry to you. Lord add to us more faithful workers in the areas and the ministries that we are in need to help in the works of yours. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless and fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

How to Take the Right Decision Part 14. Acts 6:1-7. Acts 8:40. Acts 21:8-9. 2 Timothy 2:2, 15. Ephesians 2:9.

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