

FAITH IN THE MESSENGERS OF GOD

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Every truly called minister of the gospel is a man of God, a messenger of God with a message for the liberation, deliverance, healing, prosperity and establishment of the people of God.

They are called and given the authority of God through Christ to represent Him on earth and speak for him and manifest His power. To receive them is to receive Jesus Christ, and subsequently receive the Father who sent Jesus Christ into this world. To reject them is to reject Christ who sent them and subsequently, the Father who sent Jesus Christ.

Matt 10:1-16

10:1 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; 10 take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. 11 "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. 12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. 15 I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. 16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

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Matt 10:40-42

40 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. 41 Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

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ANALYSIS:

1. When you receive a messenger of God, you receive God who sent him because he is a delegate, ambassador, spokesman and legal representative of the kingdom of heaven.
2. When you reject a messenger of God, you reject God who sent him.

3. When you refuse a messenger of God all the grace and anointing he carries will not work for you or in your favour. In some cases, it will work against you.

Luke 2:34

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

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Matt 10:11-15

11 "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. 12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. 15 I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

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4. When you receive a messenger of God, you automatically connect to the power, grace and authority that he or she carries, and your needs will be met.

WHAT IT MEANS TO RECEIVE A MESSENGER OF GOD

1. You believe in him as a true messenger of God and not just as my friend, old school mate, brother or relative, or colleague who happens to be pasturing a church or in the ministry.
 - Until you see him as a man of God, you can't tap fully from what God put in him. Others may progress under him, you won't.
 - Jesus couldn't heal people from his native community of Nazareth simply because they refused to acknowledge the anointing upon his life; rather, they saw him as a carpenter. They looked down on him because they grew up with him and knew his family – Their familiarity robbed them of their blessings because it blinded their eyes and made their heart cold towards his calling and anointing.

Mark 6:1-6

6:1 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! 3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

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- Look beyond what you know about him – his past, struggles, weaknesses, and the supposed crimes he committed in the past. He is a new person and not the one you used to know – he is a new version of the one you used to know.

2 Cor 5:16-17

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

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- If God has faith in him to appoint him, then you should also have faith in him to follow.
2. To receive him is to welcome him into your home and fellowship with him.
 3. To receive the messenger of God is to believe his message, practice his teachings and follow his counsel and instructions.
 4. To receive him is to provide for his needs from your income to make sure that he is comfortable and well cared for.

Luke 8:1-3

8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

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Gal 6:6

6 Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

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- If his ministry is a blessing to you, then you have to support him with your income.
- His plan was that the people who receive their gift and are blessed should take responsibility of providing for their needs. So he instructed that they should not carry money, spare clothes and sandals.

Matt 10:9-10

9 Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; 10 take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

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5. To receive him is to support him financially to make sure that the assignment God gave him is fulfilled.

Phil 4:14-19

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

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6. To receive him is to make your gifts, talents, training, skill and services available for the work of the ministry under his leadership and instruction.
 - You may not like or approve all his method, judgments and decisions, yet you are expected to follow and submit with all your heart.
 - The law of follower-ship demands that you:
 - a. Trust your leader's sense of judgment.
 - b. Where you lack understanding, you seek insight.
 - c. But never confront or challenge your leader. That will amount to rebellion. E.g. Miriam and Aaron – Num 12; Korah, Dathan and Abiram. - Num.16.
7. To receive a messenger of God is to support him in prayer that his ministry ends in success.

Eph 6:19-20

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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CONCLUSION

To receive from the man of God you need to change your attitude towards him immediately.

- Do not become too familiar with the man of God to the point that you do not have respect for him anymore.
- Do not be critical of him, leave him to God his boss to judge and punish him when and where necessary. Miriam and Aaron tried it and God became angry with them.

1 Cor 4:1-5

4:1 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

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Rom 14:4

4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

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- Never run down your pastor or any messenger of God, it will bring curses and deny you many needed blessings and favour.
- Speak good of him in private and in public. Defend him if you have to. Never be a party to where he is being run down so you don't carry a curse.
- Many Christians are not progressing and enjoying the favour of God as they should because they are badmouthing their pastor and leaders, disrespect for the man God appointed to lift them up and help them succeed in life and refusal to submit to him.
- Do not be critical of your pastor. God knows his weaknesses, yet he appointed and anointed him. He knows he will change and become better. Leave him to God who called him. Do not play the role of God.
- Love your pastor and pray for him, his family and team.
- Provide for his needs and never withhold your finances from his ministry.
- Whatever good you do for him, his family or ministry, stop telling people about it for it will deny you of your reward.
- Always remember that the fact that you are supporting him and his ministry financially does not mean he owes you or you own him or you can control him. The only thing he owes you is to love you, pray for you and minister to you as he is led. He must rebuke you of your sins and wrong doing without looking back for that is his job. Accept it and you will remain blessed by God.
- Receive every messenger of God and not only your pastor and send them on their way happy – support them in every way you can.
- Receive the messenger of God and you will be happy you did and the grace he carries will always work for you.

2 Chron 20:20

20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

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Matt 9:27-31

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" 28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; 30 and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." 31 But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

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John 13:20

20 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

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1. You need to have faith in your father (pastor).

Jesus said, *"Have faith in God, have faith also in me. (Jn 14:1)* In the same way you have faith in God the Father, have faith in Christ, and have faith in the servants of God (messengers of Christ) also. If you do not believe that your Pastor is called of God and has the mandate of God to bring you close to Him and help solve your numerous problems and challenges through the teaching and preaching of God's word, counseling and faithful ministrations, you will not receive from him and prosper under him.

Jesus could not do many miracles in his home town of Nazareth because the people did not believe in Him. They looked down on Him because of the background knowledge they have about Him.

Matt 13:53-58

53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor." 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

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If faith in Jesus Christ as the sent messiah to Israel was necessary for healing and miracles to take place, it therefore means that if you do not believe in your pastor nothing will flow from Him to you. Faith in the pastor is faith in the one who sent him.

2. The apostles succeeded because the brethren believed in them and held them in high regard.

Your pastor will not succeed in raising you for God except you believe in him as God's messenger of change in your life. Do not allow what you know about his past life stop

you from believing in him. Do not allow the fact that you are more educated than him to stop you from believing in him. Do not allow the fact that you are wealthier than him to stop you. Do not allow the fact that you grew up with him to stop you from believing in him as the messenger of God. Since he did not call himself, trust in the wisdom of the God who called him that He knows what He is doing by calling and anointing him. If you believe, you will be blessed and prosper under him.

3. You need a prophet in your life.

Hos 12:13

13 The LORD used a prophet to bring Israel up from Egypt, by a prophet he cared for him.

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Your pastor is your prophet. Receive him by faith and you will draw from what he carries and better your life to the glory of God. By your pastor God will deliver you and care for you.

How to get connected to and relate with your father

1. Believe and respect your spiritual father.
2. Plant seed faith of intercession for your father. The more you pray for him, the more the grace of God on him works for you.
3. Plant seed of loyalty. Never think or say anything evil about your spiritual father no matter what you hear, see and experience. Don't join people to criticize and condemn him.
4. Serve him.
5. Plant financial seed to him from time to time. Make sure your prophetic offerings reach him regularly (monthly).
6. Be concerned about his welfare and that of his family always.
7. Practice what he teaches you from the word of God without fail. Follow his godly counsel to you.