

The BREAD OF LIFE

What's INSIDE



Pastor Tony Mason, Ph.D.

A publication of Touch by the Word Ministries Apostolic Center

Church Leadership

While embarking upon a major milestone, it's pertinent to focus on church leadership. Church leadership is an important role in the body of Christ! God equips church leaders with supernatural ability to carry out their assigned responsibilities. In Ephesians 4:11, "And he gave some *apostles*; and some, *prophets*; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors and teachers*," which are supernatural gifts and require a level of grace to fulfill.

Take for example, the office of the pastor is a key leadership position in the church. The functions of the pastor have emerged over the past few years. The pastor must be quick on their feet and are called upon to handle various tasks simultaneously! Some of the pastor's duties include being a visionary, counselor, budget analyst, caregiver, along with several other areas of responsibilities.

Along with the numerous responsibilities, the pastor may be required to satisfy their constituents (deacons, board of trustees, etc.). Some pastors endure a lengthy hiring process, and therefore he or she may be forced to walk a thin line as they carry out their assignments. As you can probably discern, being a pastor is not for the faint of heart!

As you can imagine, God holds the pastor to a strict standards of righteous

living and accountability! God entrusts the pastor with oversight of His people! As such, the pastor is called of God and God does the equipping for them to fulfill their assignment. The Bible states that "*My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation*" (James 3:1). The Holy Bible offers criteria that members of the Five-fold ministry should adhere to. It may be appropriate to examine some of the criteria as this will illustrate the characteristics that pastors and other church leaders should exhibit.

The purpose of this information is for the reader to gain an understanding and appreciation for church leadership. One of the main references that deals with church leadership comes from 1 Timothy 3:1-7, which describes the office of the bishop or overseer. Additional guidance is given for the office of the deacon in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. These are good guidelines that can be used to determine one's qualification for church leadership in general!

One important scripture of note is 1 Timothy 3:6 which states "*Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*" In other words, persons serving in leader-

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HOW you can HELP

Church membership will not suffice. It's time to get involved in what your church is doing. Get planted in the local church so you can make a Difference!

Monthly Scripture

Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV)

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers, ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:





Church Leadership

Ship should not be brand new Christians. Such persons are not mature and will encounter significant challenges attempting to fulfill a leadership position in the church.

“So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker, or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s

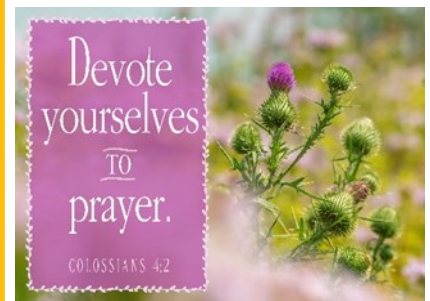
God’s church?” (1 Timothy 3:2-5). This list provides clear guidance as to how we should examine prospective church leadership.

Church leadership is dissimilar to secular leadership. Secular leaderships possess certain authoritative power with which to enforce accountability. Technically, church leadership does not have such authority. Church leaders work with volunteers which require a level of “grace” to persuade others to participate in the vision. Church leadership depend on the believer’s respect and submission to God (Hebrews 13:7,17). Church leaders, through the practice of servant leadership execute God’s ordained vision. God bless!

The Prayer Room

Prayer is a strategic tool God has given us to conduct spiritual warfare. We do not realize that our adversary, Satan, is committed to interfering in every way to stop the move of God. We must do our part to advance the kingdom of God. It starts with prayer!

Prayer is simply communicating with God! God is omniscient. Prayer creates a powerful relationship between us and God. Get in a practice of spending some time alone with God each day.



Managing Our Thoughts

People need encouragement! Encouragement is something that has been taken for granted. Let’s never take for granted that because people are at church that everything is okay. Encouragement is easy. A simple smile goes a long way to lift someone up!

Believe it or not, people who are going through a difficult period, come to church. Your willingness to encourage someone is worth its weight in gold! Take an opportunity to encourage a person who cross

your path.

There’s another benefit to encouraging another person. It makes you feel good! Never underestimate your ability to influence someone else. God created us to be a blessing to others. Sometimes, the blessing comes in the form of encouragement. Purpose in your heart to encourage someone. Some may not be accustomed to encouraging others, but it is a powerful method to help others. Please encourage someone today!



Sunday Mornings:

Discipleship Class: 9:00—10:00

First Step: New Members Orientation 9:00

Worship Service: 10:30

Wednesday Nights:

Intercessory Prayer 6:00

First Step: New Members Orientation 6:30

Training Center 6:30—7:30

Intercessory Prayer:

1st and 3rd Saturdays 9:00—10:00

Stay Connected

Change is inevitable! One way to manage change is to being connected. God is doing some amazing things in this church. We try to ensure that each member is kept abreast of all activities. The only way we can help you is for you to help us.

Some have provided updated information and we are thankful for the assistance. We are committed to ensuring that each member is informed. It takes a determined effort, but the rewards are immeasurable! We’re asking you to help us to make this effort more manageable. Your assistance is appreciated! Let’s stay connected!



Pastoral Anniversary

November 13th is a monumental day for Pastor Tony Mason. He along with Prophetess, celebrate a major milestone. Approximately, thirteen years ago, they answered the call to launch Touch by the Word Ministries! What an incredible step of faith.

First, all glory and honor are given to our heavenly Father! He is faithful. God has empowered us to experience His glory like never before. Over the previous thirteen years, God has done some amazing things! For this reason, we must give God the praise and adulation that is due to Him!

The Bible emphatically states “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in

vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” (Psalms 127:1). There would be no thirteen-year celebration if God had not empowered Pastor and Prophetess!

It would be a travesty to not recognize the contributions of the leaders and partners/members. You bought into the vision, and it shows! Some are happy to operate in the background. Others may not recognize your sacrifices but God sees everything! This is an opportunity to say thank you! We celebrate because God has given us such precious people to shepherd. It’s an absolute honor to lead God’s people. Happy Anniversary!



Perspective on Leadership

“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation” (James 3:1). Why does God hold leaders to such strict accountability? That’s a great question. Leaders serve in a position of authority and influence! For that very reason, leaders must guard against misrepresenting the kingdom of God.

The scribes and the Pharisees abused God’s people and Jesus was hard on

them! They lied and manipulated the people to benefit themselves. In one instance Jesus stated, “... The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not” (Matthew 23:2-3). Leadership should not be entered into lightly! God judges leaders who abuse their authority. Do not take leadership lightly!

Evangelism Corner

Never forget the purpose of the church! God has called us to be a light (Matthew 5:14). God has called us to be salt (Matthew 5:13-16). The existence of light means that darkness will not prevail! You don’t need to be reminded that there’s darkness all around us. God has positioned us as light before the world!

Salt is a preservative. Salt has flavor. God has installed us to preserve and to provide spiritual flavor to the world. We cannot function as light or as salt if we

partake of darkness. God requires that we separate ourselves from our former lifestyle. After all, we are called to be difference makers in the world!

The responsibility as “Kingdom Ambassadors” is immense. Our lives are on display and we must remain on guard to ensure we’re representing the kingdom of God. It is imperative that we guard our testimony so others will not find fault! Remember, God has called us to be light and to be salt!



Birthday Celebration!

Sis. B. Gibson 10 Oct
Dea. E. Peoples 31 Oct

Bro. W. Slade. 10 Oct
Sis. T. Randolph 31 Oct

UPCOMING EVENTS



Touch by the Word Ministries Apostolic Center Fall Revival
10-12 November 2022 @7:00 Nightly

Touch by the Word Ministries Apostolic Center Pastoral Anniversary
November 13, 2022 @10:30

[Touch by the Word Ministries Contact Information](#)

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Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram to complete Isaiah 40:8,
a Bible verse that speaks to the autumn season.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
														1				22							

13	12	7																							

2	5	1	26	7	20																				

26	1	20	18																						

22	13	16	24	18																					

2	1	20	7	14	7	20																			

ISAIAH 40:8

Answer: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8, ESV