

**Course 122:**  
**Women in Ministry**  
*An apostolic teaching of the Global School of Ministry - UK*

**Lesson #1:**

Prologue

Prologue: The challenge of Womanhood

From the day of the fall in Eden, woman hood has faced a peculiar problem: a certain kind of perception of being harbingers of the sad loss of the awesome mantle of God for humanity. Unfortunately contributions to the Eden story tend to flow from that narrative alone.

Two key facts will help us put the issue of womanhood on a more balanced footing.

Issue #1: Creation of the female was not an afterthought

The problem with religion is the thick veil it casts upon truth. From a religious perspective, the creation of Eve was an afterthought. This is based on a textual interpretation of Genesis 2:18. Proponents of this theory of creation would have us believe that Adam was the only one in the mind of God when He first created the world. Let scripture deal with that foundational lie:

Genesis 1:26-29

King James Version (KJV)

26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

It is necessary that we look at the fine prints of the Word and the intent of the Spirit to understand the vital truth in verse 27 above: all that God was saying about the dominion mandate of man who He was to create was in the context of male and female!

Issue #2: Women were not created as ‘inferior’ to men

In creation of man, God took time to do an original work, with earth as His raw material, so to say. Here is the account:

Genesis 2:7

King James Version (KJV)

7And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The breath of God or measure of the Holy Spirit imparted into the lifeless figure caused a quickening which led Adam to come alive with a distinct soul. That triune nature has been passed down to all humans from that day.

There has been a strong wind of delusion propelled by religious perceptions that Eve was an inferior being. This is based on a negative reading of the account of how God created Eve.

In creating Eve, God could have repeated the same procedure He used in making Adam. However He chose not to because He was still at work on creation and had not entered into His rest. How He chose

to create Eve is a classic study in the Law of Process! God made Eve out of Adam as a refined product!

Genesis 2:18-24

18And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

19And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

20And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

21And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

This refined product was obviously equipped with a womb as Adam rightly discerned in verse 23.

More importantly, this refined creature called Eve had some capacities which we need to understand as we allow the Holy Spirit to take us into the deeper waters of the subject. Let us examine a few of those capacities:

1. A 'womb' to conceive and bring forth that which God had ordained in Genesis 1:28 which is fruitfulness and ability to multiply. Take note of this capacity and the fact that Satan, enemy of mankind has been 'jealous', so to say of this facility through which mankind would perpetuate rule the earth which he (Satan) coveted. To corrupt this capacity of woman hood is one of the battles Satan has continually fought. That fight did not end with the fall. It is still raging till this very day.
2. An advanced soul and body which had greater sensitivity to things of the spirit. Ordinarily, this implied a greater capacity for women to 'see' things, even far in the horizon and very active ability to flow in the revelatory gifts. When applied to God and His ways, this produces near perfect discernment and declaration of His mind. Unfortunately too, with this capacity also came the easy tendency to contact spiritual persons and mysteries even on the negative side of the spectrum. That fact was exploited by Satan who bypassed Adam to tempt Eve! Over the millennia, Satan, his spiritual and human agents have actively sought to exploit the desire of women to 'know' and 'see' leading many to be attracted and easily soul-tied with Prophets, Prophecies, various revelatory gifts and in the process opening doors divinations to negative spirits also.

When God pronounced that the Seed of the woman (Jesus Christ) would crush the head of the Serpent (Satan), Satan received it as a declaration of war! Genesis 3:15. Rather than relent, he went on an all out war to destroy the capacity of women to produce the Seed. It is interesting that Satan bypassed an obviously careless (and one may add irresponsible Adam) to converse with Eve and tempt her like he did. A careful reading of Genesis 3:1-6 reveals that Adam was close to Eve in the Garden. This inability to cover his spouse has been passed on throughout the ages leading many women to operate without effective spiritual coverage by their husbands.

Let us examine the two lines of attack Satan utilized:

- Fierce attempts to pollute the lineage God had ordained to produce the Messiah with gross immorality and all manner of sexual sins. This was to be through misuse of the very organs of the Body created to fulfil the divine purpose as they were lent to Satan and the flesh. The result has been instructive: Tamar seduced her Father in law Judah, disguised as a Prostitute to produce Pharez (Genesis 38:11-29); Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho; Ruth, the Moabitess who later married Boaz one of the forebears of David. By the way, Moab and Ammon were products of the incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughters after they were saved from Sodom and Gomorrah! Genesis 19:29-38. We know what happened to David and women leading to the matter of Bathsheba who bore Solomon. In

Solomon, debauchery and immorality went to new heights when a single man had 1000 women for himself!

- The spirit of religion was deployed to negate women and keep them in a permanent state of guilt. The idea was that as long as women were seen as troublesome and difficult to manage, whatever God had planned to birth through them would be received with suspicion and ultimately rejected. Because of the hardness of their hearts, God allowed those of the Old Testament to enjoy the dichotomy between sexes with females in a permanent state of defeat. In that dispensation however, whenever circumstances and situations led Israel to the cliff edge and men scampered for safety, the Lord brought forth a peculiar woman to be used to redeem the situation. The case of Deborah the Judge/Prophetess was instructive.

The New Covenant was sealed by the Blood of Jesus at the Cross and confirmed with His resurrection on the third day. The fact that only a woman (Mary) knew when the incarnation took place (Luke 1:30-38); women were witnesses to the Last Breath of Jesus (John 19:25-30) and were the first to see the resurrected King (John 20: 1-18) is instructive that something critical was at work concerning this specie of creation who had suffered vilification for too long.

## **Lesson #2:**

### Introduction

The Command for Women not to Preach but be silent - The Context and reasons

One of the most controversial aspects of the bible is the interpretation of two Pauline exhortations concerning women and public ministry. We are commanded to compare scripture with scripture to understand the full counsel of God on any subject matter. This course then takes a holistic view of all the provisions of scripture to establish the mind of God that women are called to minister just as their male counterparts. To properly understand the mind of God, it will do us well to examine the principle in Isaiah 28: 10, 13.

Isaiah 28:10-13

King James Version (KJV)

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

By this approach, we can lay out each precept upon a preceding one to comprehend the whole mind of God concerning this sensitive subject.

To do justice to the subject matter, let us start with the scriptures which many use to hold the position that women should not preach the gospel or exercise authority of any significant degree.

What was the context in which Paul charged women to be silent in church?

This was the instruction Paul gave to Timothy concerning how to run the fledgling Church at Ephesus:

1 Timothy 2:11-12

King James Version (KJV)

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Of all the Mission fields in which Paul laboured, Ephesus ranks among the most challenging. Here, the apostle to the gentiles encountered the worship of one of the ancient wonders of the world, the giant statue of Diana, the goddess of the land. The worship of this idol was rocked by the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom to the extent that one of its devotees, Demetrius stirred up a riot against Paul Acts 19:1- 41.

The Church that was planted out of spiritual warfare, power evangelism and deep teaching on the nature and identity of saints and the New Testament Church was an exceptional one. Please read the whole epistle to the Ephesians to grasp the base upon which the first converts stood. Unfortunately, false teachers who had backslidden from the truth preyed on this vibrant church! In Acts 20: 17-38, Paul addressed the leadership of the Church to warn them of the impending effects of false teachers. Those false teachers were to wreak havoc on the church so much so that when Jesus appeared to John at the Island of Patmos, He found the church wanting in a vital area: loss of first love Revelation 2: 1-7.

Paul was so concerned for the Church in Ephesus to have the right oversight that he posted his trusted protégé, Timothy as its first Bishop Philippians 2:19 – 24; 1 Timothy 1: 1- 4. Jewish women who embraced eternal life in Christ were coming into a pure culture shock. Gentile women were loose in morals, had unbridled freedom to do whatever they pleased and were generally given to fashion that was seductive in nature.

Because of the influence of the goddess Diana, women saw themselves as liberated to live anyhow. Because Diana was a goddess (female principality) many women in that culture were wild and controlling. The Church that was planted in this environment needed to understand some principles of the Kingdom. Those principles Paul instructed Timothy to teach had to do with moderation in fashion and the need for order and respect for lines of authority in the House of God.

It is against this background that Paul instructed in 1 Timothy 2: 9 – 14:

1. Decent and appropriate clothing should be worn by women who professed faith in Christ so that their liberty does not occasion stumbling in brothers who may still be in transition to spiritual growth.
2. Women, who were coming into the faith of Christ, were instructed to concentrate on studying rather than seek to teach and instruct 1 Timothy 2: 11 – 12. For Jewish women in the city, this was an extraordinary opportunity since in the synagogues; they were basically on the margins. Faith in Christ had broken down the middle wall of partition and they were now given the opportunity to diligently study the word of God even in public.
3. To drive home his point, Paul pointed out what happened in the Garden of Eden when Eve upset the line of authority God had created for them, by passing Adam to converse with the stranger, Satan who took the form of a serpent 1 Timothy 2:13,14. This allusion was tied to the fact that false teachers who had reared their ugly heads in Ephesus were targeting women first and may have made some progress in their nefarious designs.
4. It is important that we bear in mind the context of the early Church which was birthed amidst Judaism. The full counsel of God was yet unfolding so the Church was evolving based on the degree of light that was released and accepted. Men generally had the head start in hearing and therefore receiving the word in many of the cities of the diaspora. Logically, they became the first set of ministers available. At various times, certain truths were fully understood and integrated into practice of the early Church. We need to recollect that the Church had to even convene a conference for the purpose of settling the cultural issue of circumcision. At issue was whether gentiles needed to be circumcised (a practice God required of Abraham and his off springs as seal of His covenant with them) before they can be accepted as Christians. James, the half brother of Jesus who moderated that First Jerusalem Council was to deliver a wise judgement which saved the day when he ruled that circumcision was not necessary for gentiles as a precondition for conversion. He went on to counsel that gentiles who come into faith in Christ must abstain from idolatrous contamination, from sexual immorality and from eating strangled animals as well as blood. Acts 15: 1-29.
5. The point here is that the Church was addressing issues as they came up. Furthermore, the entire counsel of God for the present dispensation of the Kingdom had not yet been collated as they were still being downloaded from God to His people through various vessels. Even Peter found it exciting to note the depth of some of the great revelations God committed to Paul 2 Peter 3: 15,16. It must be

noted, for instance, that almost all the first set of disciples of Jesus had died by the time John the beloved received the massive prophetic master piece, the Book of Revelation!

6. To successfully discuss the issue of Women in Ministry therefore, we need to firstly go through the whole gamut of the Word to see what is said in various sections. Secondly, we will need to compare scripture with scripture in order to ascertain the mind of God. Thirdly, we need the fresh insight of the Holy Spirit to reveal the mind of God. These, we will do, by the grace of God as we examine this critical issue.

As we proceed with this exhaustive exposition, representing the full counsel of the Scriptures on the issue of Women and The Call to serve God in Ministry! These are germane questions:

- Are redeemed females supposed to just marry, work a job, bear and raise children and ‘go to church’ to be told how to cook well, take care of husband and children and allow men to do the work of ministry?
- Are females redeemed by the Blood of Jesus supposed to carry the stigma of Eve and on that basis live with inherited guilt all the days of their lives?
- Are some functions, callings and ministries ‘no go’ areas for women on account of assumed defects that have to do with their gender?
- Is it abomination, as some say, for a woman to head a ministry where men are?

We trust God to bring forth an exhaustive treatise which examines all sides of the issue of Women in Ministry!

When Satan fights the agenda of God for saints, one clever way approach of his is to take the words of scripture, quote them out of context and uses them as a bait to trap the unwary! This was on full display when he tempted Jesus Himself, very God and very man as Matthew 4:1-11 shows. Just as Jesus used the right interpretation of scripture to silence Satan, so are we called to do in these Last Days!

The Old Serpent knows that women are the secret weapons of God for conceiving and birthing paradigm changing ministers and ministries as he discovered too late in the matter of the Incarnation of Jesus in the womb of Mary Luke 1:35. Knowing that like Mary, Abba will do great things through womanhood that are outside his fiendish loop and influence, Satan wants to tar brush femininity as a liability and make many to reject off-hand the great deposits of grace in them for the Last Days.

### **Lesson #3**

Critical Issues concerning Women in Ministry: Their relationship with Paul & Jesus

The Issue of asking husbands questions at home.

Another instruction of Paul who was settling questions arising from disorderly conduct in public meetings of one of the most undisciplined group of Christians – the saints in Corinth is what explaining. It is the instruction many have used to insist women should never speak or preach in a public setting:

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

King James Version (KJV)

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

We could not have put the explanation of these instructions than one of our sisters here on face book; Texas based Renate Pattis-Mcwright. Hear her:

“If I may interject also that in Hebrew Synagogues where most teachings took place there was a divider between men and women called a Mechitzah. Sometimes the women would call over this divider to their husbands and ask them "what did he say?" seeking an explanation on things they had not fully heard or did not quite understand. Paul exhorted the women to be silent and ask their own husbands at home for an exposition of the scriptures discussed that day so as not to disrupt the Torah service.”

This is why the bible exhorts us to study (not just read) to show ourselves approved so that we can function effectively as workmen who cannot be ashamed. To take scripture out of the over all context it was given will easily lead many astray. To prove that Paul was not the chauvinistic champion of male-dominated clergy he has been wrongly cast as, we need to examine his own relationship with women in the gospel of the Kingdom and also the doctrines God used him to release to the Church concerning the New Creation and New Covenant.

Did Paul recognize, receive and promote the ministry of women?

Some people have wrongly branded Paul a woman hater or one who looked down on women. This assertion is simply not true. Paul made a consecration to remain celibate not because he did not like women but because it was a necessary sacrifice for fulfilment of his awesome assignment within the limited years God assigned to him on earth. By the grace of God, he successfully fulfilled his ministry while still in his 60's and embraced death with joy! 1 Corinthians 7: 1, 7, 8, 25,26, 29-33;2 Timothy 4: 6 – 8.

Paul recognized, received and promoted actively, the ministry of women. Paul was properly taken care of in various cities by holy women of God who recognised and supported his ministry. These include but are not limited to:

1. Priscilla. This woman and her husband Aquila were tent makers. In Corinth, they met with Paul and became part of a holy company of ministry partners Acts 18: 1-3. The next thing we hear of this remarkable couple is that they became instruments of making a true disciple out of Apollos, who was to become a notable Apostle! Acts 18: 24 – 26. In effect, Priscilla “taught a man” and was commended for doing so by Paul.

In Romans 16:3, 4, Paul describes the couple as “my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus”. Paul took note of their remarkable ministry with him also in 1 Corinthians 16:19 and 2 Timothy 4:19. The couple were among those who built up the house church system and were the earliest practitioners of active couples in ministry Romans 16:5.

2. Phoebe. This remarkable woman was a Deacon in the Church at Cenchrea. She served so well and in total consecration that Paul sent an outstanding recommendation concerning her to the Church in Rome.

3. Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis were part of the company of women who secured niches for being active co-laborers with Paul. Romans 16: 6, 12.

4. Junia, a woman, was recognized as an apostle and senior in the faith to Paul. Romans 16: 7.

5. Euodia and Synthyche were commended by Paul for labouring with him in the gospel. Philippians 4: 2, 3.

### Women and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Before Paul, Jesus Christ received active ministry from women.

Mary, who God chose to be the Woman to bear the prophesied Seed of Genesis 3 :15. She had the privilege of receiving a divine implant in her womb by the Holy Spirit Luke 1:26-35. The intricacy and sheer sensitivity of this spiritual operation signalled the end of the age old reproach which women hood bore for the original sin of Eve! By making the Messiah a Seed of the Woman and not a product of the seed (sperm) of a man, heaven was announcing that the sin gene was actually transmitted through Adam and the men after him! This conforms to the law of responsibility as was eloquently

penned by Paul in Romans 5: 12 – 21. It is significant that God would complete dealing with Mary and later informed Joseph only when the pregnancy showed Matthew 1: 18 -25! God, please grant us wisdom to understand what you are saying in the now!

Throughout His ministry, Jesus broke all the barriers which the religious system set as barricades against women. Anna, the Old Prophetess was one of the first three outside Mary and Joseph to recognize who Jesus was Luke 2: 36 – 38. Before her, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist had recognized that the baby in the womb of Mary was not ordinary! Luke 1: 39 – 45. As Jesus grew up, He made clear to Mary and others that acceptance to God was not based on family pedigree but rather on acceptance of the Word He declared Mark 3: 31 -35.

Jesus allowed women to come the same way men came to Him. The woman with the issue of blood even touched the hem of His garments and was made whole. Mary and her sister Martha and Lazarus ministered to Him regularly, the way deaconess do. He ate freely in their house. Jesus related with women in a way no rabbi could. Even the woman of Samaria was shocked that she could have access to a Great Rabbi like Jesus! John 4: 1-26. Mary anointed His feet with costly oil of spikenard after washing them with her tears and drying with her hair, an act of strong devotion which scandalized the religious leaders who watched John 12: 1- 8. As a matter of fact, women were faithful to Christ till the very end, even when all but one of the men (John) fled. They were at the Cross when He paid the price of redemption John 19:25 – 27. On the day He rose from the dead, it was Mary Magdalene who had the privilege of seeing the One who had completed the redemption mission! John 20: 1- 18. In effect, when it came to the Great High Priest of the New Covenant, Jesus, it can be safely said that women had the first knowledge of His incarnation and were there at the Cross and were the first to see the risen Christ. It was no co-incidence! God was announcing a new order in which access to the Throne and services to the King were no longer based on religious structures, gender or family inheritance but on the state of the heart! John 4: 21 – 24.

It is important to remember that the Old Tabernacle had compartments which were strictly conformed to. At the outermost was the court of gentiles followed by the Court of women. Thereafter was the Court of Israel which was accessible only to men. Thereafter, there was the Holy Place where only priests and Levites of the old Levitical priesthood could minister. A thick veil separated this place from the Most Holy or Holiest of Holies in which only the High Priest could enter, once a year to make atonement for the whole nation. It was in this last compartment that the Ark and Mercy Seat were located. It is significant that at His death, the very first thing that happened was the renting of the veil which signified exclusion! Matthew 27: 50, 51. As if that were not enough, in AD 70, the invading army of General Titus completely destroyed the Temple as prophesied by Jesus on the Olivet discourse Matthew 24:1, 2.

Before the eyes of Israel, Jesus had just fulfilled all the Law and the Prophets! The Old Levitical Priesthood which was based on the principle of exclusion for which ONLY ABLE BODIED MEN (hunchbacks and others with any visible deformity on their legs or bodies were excluded) of the Tribe of Levi and the family lineage of Aaron were deemed qualified! In that Order, women could not be priests. Occasionally, God would throw up a Judge like Deborah or Prophetess who would declare His counsel.

Even unto today, very few people realize how mind boggling the assignment of Jesus was. He completely fulfilled everything that the Old Covenant required of mankind and then proceeded to institute the New Covenant based on better promises. The New Covenant was also based on a better and more inclusive priest hood – the Priest hood of all saints! In this new priest hood, your family background, gender, former life and all potential limitations do not count. What counts is summed up in John 1:12 – “As many as received Him, to them He gives Power to become the Sons of God” and John 3: 16 “you must be born again”. To be born again is a spiritual exercise requiring a change in the nature and primary loyalty of the human spirit. Ephesians 2:1-10.

Jesus came therefore not to foster a religious system or priestly construct but to announce the arrival of the long awaited Kingdom of God! In the Kingdom, God is Father and King of all those who accept the basis of the Kingdom which is the Blood that was shed by Jesus at the Cross. Such people become four things to Him: His Sons and His Citizens John 1:12; Galatians 3:26 – 29; Ephesians 1: 3-

7, Ephesians 2: 11-19; His Priests and His Ambassadors 1 Peter 2: 9; Acts 1:8. The first two deal with their personal and legal relationships with Him while the last two deal with their strategic roles to those who are outside the Commonwealth of Israel, the Kingdom: sinners who have made themselves the new gentiles!

Essential reading. Please diligently read Hebrews chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

#### Lesson 4

What is the biblical basis of women to function in ministry?

Having laid this foundation, we now need to come into the core of the subject matter. This, we shall do straightaway, trusting God for His will to be expressly stated. A systematic exposition of the Word will reveal the following:

1. There is no biblical basis for the age old concept that women are inherently inferior to men. The notion that the woman was an afterthought of God flies in the face of a true understanding of the intent and purpose of God. It is necessary to go back to Genesis chapter 1: 26 – 29 which defines why God created mankind. We see there that:
  - Genesis 1:27 indicates that God clearly had the male and female gender in view when He decided to create mankind.
  - The dominion mandate of man was over all the creation such as animals, plants, fishes and the environment was equally given to male and female.
  - Mankind was to be fruitful, reproduce and fill the earth. Since the male cannot reproduce alone neither are the created beings allowed to cross breed, God had to create the woman out of the man. Genesis 2 18 – 21.
  - The process of creating the woman showed additional skill and care on the part of God to bring forth additional refinement in the woman that emerged. Rather than create the woman out of raw earth, she was made as a refinement from the rough hewn Adam. This accounts for why women tend to have greater sensitivity to things of the spirit and thus flow easier in the prophetic realm. Genesis 2: 21, 22.
  - In effect, the woman is the man with the womb or the womb man! The capacity to receive, incubate and bring forth seed at maturity is an inherent gift of God in the woman to play a crucial role in advancing the divine cause on planet earth.
  - The deception of Eve by Satan was because of realization that the best way to truncate the plan of God for mankind to increase and multiply was to trip over the one with the womb! While Paul acknowledged that Eve was the one who fell first in 1 Timothy 2:14, he also acknowledged the fundamentally flawed gross irresponsibility of Adam Romans 5:12 – 21.
  - As we shared in a previous lesson, a careful reading of Genesis 3: 1 – 6 shows that Adam was present when Satan tempted Eve. In the law of responsibility as a covering, Adam failed to resist Satan and protect Eve.
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2. The incarnation of Christ through the womb of a woman, Mary, was God's own way of wiping off the age old blame on womanhood and their demonization by religious folks for the fall of man at the Garden of Eden. It must be borne in mind that God laid the foundation of this vindication when He told Satan that the SEED of the Woman (who he tricked) would crush his head! The Lord went on to make it clear that the Messiah would indeed come through a process that would exclude the seed of man. In effect, man was the carrier of the sin gene through semen. The womb of the woman could be sanctified and made holy as a vessel through which the purpose of God will be fulfilled. Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7: 14, Isaiah 9: 6, 7; Luke 1:26 – 35.

3. Jesus brought forth a revolutionary message of the Kingdom of God. That Kingdom is to be populated by a new race, a breed of humans who will not be known by such objective classifications as gender, age, racial and ethnic background. This radical gospel was one which would give everyone a chance to make a choice which God respects: the choice to receive Him and His Kingdom unto acceptance or reject same unto condemnation. Matthew 4:17; John 1:12, 17; John 3:16

4. Jesus came to fulfil all the rites of passage which religion represented. His ministry and death put to an end the following:

- A priesthood that was essentially ethnic and gender based. That Levitical priesthood was exclusive to the sons of Aaron who were men and had no physical deformity! The death of Christ effectively put an end to that order and instituted a new one. Hebrews chapter 5: 1 – 14; Chapter 6:13 – 20; Chapter 7: 1-28; Chapter 8: 1-13; chapter 9: 28. At His death, the veil which represented the ultimate limitation to the Presence of God of God was rent into two indicating that a new way of access had been consecrated through His broken body! Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:19 – 22.

5. Demonization of women. In the Old Covenant, women had limited access to religious leaders. That is why the Pharisees were scandalized when they saw Mary Magdalene anoint Jesus! Jesus however extolled her actions John 12: 1-8. This is also why it was a radical faith thing for the woman with the issue of Blood to press through the crowd and touch the hem of His garments. Women actively ministered to Jesus throughout his earthly life and stuck to him at the Cross and even in death!

6. The New Priesthood that Christ came to institute was to be based entirely on release of spiritual gifts and other graces which saints receive from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes into the spirit man of saints and operates from that realm. As a matter of fact, the correct definition of ministry is “EXPRESSION of what we are IMPRESSED with by the Holy Spirit. The spirit man of saints is neither male nor female. Both the office Gifts of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:11,12); The Gifts released by God (Romans 12: 3-8) and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Romans 12: 1- 14 are all received in the spirit realm! Ephesians 4:7 and 1 Peter 4: 10, 11 when taken together reveal that every saint has received one or more spiritual gifts from God! The ministry paradigm of the Kingdom of God for ministry at the present time is this: whoever has the gift needed should release it to meet the needs of saints!

#### Concerning Women as Apostles

*This section is culled from the teaching note of GSoM Course 112 The Ascension Office Gifts (Five Fold). The broad principles enunciated here are valid in considering women for any office or function in the present dispensation of the Kingdom manifested as the Church of Jesus Christ.*

Some people are willing to accept women as Prophetess and even Evangelist where the soul winning capacity and charismatic flow is very evident. Concerning the calling as Apostles, Pastors and Teachers (not Sunday school but Fivefold), many recoil and seem uncomfortable!

As to the question of whether women can be called as apostles, the answer is unequivocal: yes indeed! It is not a gender exclusive mandate. It is a spiritual assignment and function, bestowed on people who are willing to die to the demands and pull of gender.

Living with Jesus Christ as compass means that a true apostle will emulate Jesus by loving righteousness and hating iniquity Hebrews 1:9. Drawing on the grace released through the aforementioned means that one called to be an Apostle must find it necessary to press into the fullness of Christ giving no place in the heart for the things of Satan. This by no means implies the apostle will be sinless. It simply means that the one so called understands that light and darkness cannot dwell together in the same heart and a conscious decision is made for the way of Light.

The totality of life is thus entrusted into the hand of Jesus Christ who supplies grace for His servant to do the work of the Kingdom above reproach. Because of the great esteem with which the commission is apprehended, the question an apostle will ask when faced with temptations and life threatening persecutions is akin to what Paul asked in Romans 8: 31-39.

Nothing of course including money, power, fame, sex or persecution, evil speaking, conspiracies or martyrdom should ever have the power to cause an apostle to miss the mark. When life is lived this way, the authority of Christ over His Church is thus delegated to a worthy vessel who has not received the grace of God in vain. God has always valued discipline, contrary to what many false preachers advance. In the New Testament, saints are enjoined to work out their salvation with fear and trembling Philippians 2:12 even though it is God who by the Holy Spirit does the actual work of holiness as Philippians 1:6 and Philippians 2:13 reveal. We have a role to prove our love of God by our obedience and those called to this high office of apostle must lead the way. John 14: 15; John 15:14; Philippians 2: 12 – 16. The Kingdom of God is built on obedience of the Word of God, out of love and holy reverence!

Deriving from this complete submission of self to Jesus and enthroning Him first above life and all else, according to Matthew 16:24 – 26, emerges a man or woman who is dead to the old nature, life, ambitions and inhibitions. One that is crucified with Christ has nothing to boast of in the flesh and of the flesh. Galatians 2:20; Galatians 6:14. Out of this broken being whose sacrifice as laid on the altar has been accepted by God, emerges a Son of God who is neither male nor female any more John 6:33; Romans 12: 1,2; Galatians 3: 26 - 29. Such a one functions primarily in the spirit and knows no one after the flesh because of the renewed mind.

1. It is in the realm of the spirit man that the spiritual gifts and callings of God are received. It is in the realm of the spirit man that the apostolic commission is received. The flesh profits nothing because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom and God does not want any flesh to glory in His presence; hence He uses the weak things of this world more of the time to bring to pass His purposes! John 6:33; 1 Corinthians 1: 26 – 31. In the early church, Junia, a woman, was recognized as an apostle and senior in the faith to Paul. Romans 16: 7.

When we understand this dynamic, the religious mindset which questions whether women can be apostles will naturally fizzle away. The issue is the election and calling of God. It is not of him that wills or he that runs but of God who shows mercy. And this God says He calls who He wishes and fortunately, no one is qualified to ask Him any questions or to counsel Him! Romans 9: 14 – 16. Instead of engaging in dry religious arguments of whether a woman can be an apostle, the main issue is to understand who is an Apostle, the functions and mandate. When you see an individual manifest what the word says of that Office and Calling, please give him or her right of way, lest you strive against God!

## 6 Imperatives for Female Apostles

She who would accept and operate in this Office:

1. Cannot live in the flesh and its entrapments. It is impossible to seek to fulfil an apostolic commission and still be beholden to Hollywood and the catwalks. While you should take good care of your body, it is not expedient to make yourself a sex object by the way you dress and your demeanour. You cannot remain in some of those entrapments to the spirit of the world and seek to please He who called you. 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 18; 1 John 2:15 – 17.
2. Must not buy the lie that a woman must need a man in order to be optimized! You cannot eat your cake and still have it. If you believe that lie and rush into marriage at all costs, you must realize that marriage has its own specific laws including primacy of the husband in the home. 1 Corinthians chapter 7 should be read in full for an understanding of this construct.
3. Ideally, woman who is called to the Apostolic office should be happily married to Jesus Christ so that He can pass through her to fulfil His will.
4. Where she is married, she must lovingly submit to her own husbands in the home and take good care of their children so that the name of Christ is not reproached. If she cannot submit to him, she has already failed! The husband must recognize, love and honour her lest the heavens over the family be closed and all end up suffering lack and oppression. 1 Peter 3: 7
5. She who will be an apostle cannot be seen swaggering to lord it over men or have a spirit of feminine triumphalism. Doing so will negate the authority of Christ that she ought to be carrying. She should not seek vain glory over her husband or treat the Church as her personal estate to do what she likes with it.

6. She who is called to the apostolic office will ultimately prove it by her ability to do the work Jesus sent her to do, in spite of reproaches, rejection, abuses and indeed all kinds of suffering for Christ sake. She should commit everything to Him who judges righteously, just like Christ. 1 Peter 2: 21 – 25.

## Lesson #5

For the hard of hearing: The Order of Melchizedeck replaced The Levitical Order!

For the hard of hearing, a recap of what we have downloaded so far will not hurt. The sum of the thesis so far is this: the Old Levitical priesthood which was essentially an exclusive caste limited to the sons of Aaron was valid only as far as the Old Covenant went. The Old Covenant was a shadow of better things to come. When Christ Jesus, the reality of all the types, symbols and shadows of the old order came to earth, He was anointed to fulfil them in every respect! As He fulfilled the righteous demand of the Law concerning sin, it was meet that He be the Lamb of God on who the sins of the whole world from Adam to the very last generation was cast upon.

In Him is the only valid life acceptable to God. As He instituted the Communion and decreed its regular performance, He announced the New Covenant in His own blood. That New Covenant was not just based on better promises; it was to be mediated by a new priesthood. The writer of the Book of Hebrews took time in an extensive stretch of the Holy Writ to show that Jesus was not qualified under the Old Covenant to be a priest since He was born of the tribe of Judah. So Jesus became a priest, not after the Levitical order but after the Order of Melchizedeck. See Hebrews chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

The Order of Melchizedeck was a priesthood made in heaven. It was a priesthood based entirely on divine election, publicly confirmed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit that came upon Him at the baptism of John in River Jordan. This new priesthood was passed on to, not just to the 12 (save Judas Iscariot) but also to all of the 120 who gathered in obedience for the same anointing of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room at Jerusalem. With those original 120 saints and all those who received Him and yielded themselves to Him to use them since then, the Kingdom of God is being preached by those who, like Jesus Christ, have become priests after the Order of Melchizedeck. We are all part of the Royal Priesthood inherited who are sons of the King, neither male nor female! Hebrews chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

1 Peter 2:9

King James Version (KJV)

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;  
In the Kingdom of God to which we are called, everyone has been ordained before the foundation of the world to function as priests. In this present life, we are engaged in a dress rehearsal for what we will be doing when Jesus returns.

Revelation 1:5-6

King James Version (KJV)

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,  
6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:9-10

King James Version (KJV)

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;  
10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

The problem with those who question whether women, uneducated and uncultured people can become ministers of the gospel is essentially that of trying to put new wine in old wine skins. Jesus Himself considered this an abnormality.

Luke 5:36-39

King James Version (KJV)

36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

Brethren who question if a woman should be a minister or better still serve in any of the five fold offices are trying to live the New Covenant life with Old Covenant mentality and mindset. Just as Jesus received unlearned fishermen, tax collectors and all manner of men and mentored them to be world changers, so is the New Testament Priesthood open to all who will respond to the new life in Christ and relationship with the Father by the indwelling Holy Spirit – irrespective of their gender or status!

John 1:11-12

King James Version (KJV)

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Galatians 3:26-29

King James Version (KJV)

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The more weak and unqualified in the eyes of religious leaders such people are, the more the Lord will even use them to confound the mighty! 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31.

1 Corinthians 1:26-35

King James Version (KJV)

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

What Rome adopted and which makes it a unique religion, powerful and rich beyond measure is the Old Levitical exclusive priesthood with its pomp, pageantry and exclusive priestly caste! The architects of the religious giant declared with imperial decrees fashioned by its brilliant early theologians and scholars, that Jews were excluded from the favour of God because they killed the Messiah and therefore all the promises of God for Israel were now appropriated by the Roman Church. This is the heart of what is called the replacement theology. As Rome had replaced Jewry, in their estimation, it was meet for it to take over continuity of the Levitical priesthood. So the Pope had to take the place of the High Priest wearing the rich and colourful robes of that office. In the same

manner, the Roman priest hood had to be exclusively reserved for those who passed the rigorous universal system of training and liturgy management.

The so called Protestant Movement and its off springs the Anglican, Pentecostal, Prosperity gospel movement have betrayed their profession of faith by adopting this Levitical concept of a tiny professional clergy which does all the ministry to a largely passive laity whose main assignment is to bring tithes, offerings and possibly play committee politics! Purported “Kingdom preachers” who love the colourful robes of Rome and relish in religious titles not found in scriptures betray their calling and re-enforce the wrong perception that Rome is indeed “Mother of the Church”. The Lord is still saying to His true saints, “come ye out of Babylon and its seductive religious system”

Women of God, come out of Babylon! Come out of the popish robes and attires that some are so attracted to with their pretensions to power and piety! Come out of love of the microphone, klieg lights, strobe lights and Hollywood type stages and yearning to face so called Christian paparazzi! Come out of the fake nails, fake busts, fake hair, ungodly exposure of sensitive body parts in pulpit pornography and indeed all kinds of plasticity! Come out of the world and its attractions which are turning women in ministry into imitators of Hollywood and the Catwalk! Come out of seductiveness and become carriers of the Water of Life in pure vessels!

1 John 2:15-17

King James Version (KJV)

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Women in ministry must be real and holy! They must be who God has made them to be and not seek to be any other! It is to such women that God has committed the ultimate birthing of His end time will. That war declared upon the Seed of the Woman and Satan did not end with Jesus Christ! Every woman who is on the Lord’s side must realize that the battle that was joined at Eden will be consummated by Holy, anointed and fearless women of God who will look Satan and his human cohorts eyeball to eyeball and re-enact the slaying of the mighty warrior Sisera by an insignificant Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite!!! Will all the Jaels stand up to be counted? Judges 5: 19 – 31.

## **Lesson #6**

Constraints to women in ministry

There are many constraints to women ministry which are worthy of consideration. The key ones can be broadly summed up as follows:

### **1. Opposition by Satan, the arch foe of womanhood**

It is evident from the account of the fall of man in Genesis 3 that Satan deliberately targeted Eve because he must have seen a tendency for her to yearn for colourful and exotic things and also act independent of her husband, given by God as a covering. Unfortunately, this weakness has subsisted till today, even among women who are redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb and filled with the Holy Spirit. As it was with Eve, so shall it be with any woman in ministry whose soul yearns for things that are “forbidden”. The Lord makes it clear from a careful comparison of these scriptures that Satan has a central strategy of making saints to miss God by offering them what they can see, smell, desire and be special: Genesis 3:1-6 (Temptation of Adam & Eve); Matthew 4: 1- 11(Temptation of Jesus) and 1 John 2: 15-17(the core tools Satan uses to tempt saints). That is why the charge to be separate from the world and its attractions/dainties must be taken seriously by any woman or man who wants to serve God and His saints acceptably. 2 Corinthians 6: 14 – 18; Revelation 18:4.

It is the role of every woman in ministry to guard her heart lest Satan tugs it away from a God centred pose. What to eat, what to wear and look special, what perfume to spray on, what will make heads turn and cause men to grovel has always been a chief strategy of Satan to unhook the hearts of women in ministry away from Christ. When a woman of God begins to look to Hollywood for her dress sense; when a woman of God begins to be overly concerned with impression she will make on television audiences and those who will watch the video, her heart inclination can focus more on what to wear and how to make up so much so that waiting on the Lord to receive a fresh word for the people becomes a secondary consideration. Because the anointing of God is without repentance and the name of Jesus has power in itself to deliver miracles, such a backslider in heart can still manifest the Charismatic gifts, even though her heart is far away! Prating over the stage, showing off her figure and becoming, so to say, a “superstar” may cause such a minister to turn aside into vain jangling.

Because she is now projected by Christian Television and media as a successful minister, such a person may be flaunted as a role model. She begins to sell doctrines of demons and humanistic reasoning as the gospel truth, leading many astray. Such people essentially begin to use the pulpit to model bad behaviour, infuse a spirit of error into the congregations where they are received and generally become Satan’s chief tool to destabilize families and the household of faith. Spearheading a satanic “women liberation movement”, such ministers begin to teach women not to submit to their own husbands and at the same time take their every word as gospel truth! The same preachers, who will cause women to despise their pastors, exercise a real control over every aspect of the lives of women who are beholden to them! Satan is a patient foe who can target his quarry for many years. What we have described here often does not come suddenly but rather creeps in subtly just like the tiny foxes of Songs of Solomon 2:15.

## 2. Opposition by the Religious Spirit

The religious spirit is manifested by a demon which causes saints to take the word of God out of context. The truth that Jesus meant to set free becomes a tool of bondage and self flagellation! John 8:32, 36; 2 Corinthians 3:17. Religion is essentially the things that people do, trying to please God. It is about looking for God by things that are done by rote or habit, even when the heart is far away. In some places, the religious spirit has caused people to believe the lie that women are meant for marriage and home related issues only. The religious spirit hates woman hood because its master Satan has been at war with this specie of humans from the Garden of Eden. The religious spirit is on a very strategic assignment to keep between 50 – 70 percent of the potential army of the Lord on pews and in the home front. It is interesting that in many places across the world, women make up 50 – 70 percent of the population of local congregations.

The religious spirit does not stop here. It has another equally dangerous assignment: to make the Church adopt the Roman model of Levitical priesthood. This leads to a situation where the work of ministry is done by a tiny professional clergy of between 1-5 percent of the population. They spend quality years in seminaries and Bible Colleges learning how to be part of an exclusive all-male priestly caste, complete with special robes, special chairs and restricted access to the altar. From the lofty bully pulpit, they minister to the vast majority who are referred to as “Laity”. These laid back people are to “come” to a particular building once or twice a week called “the Church” to ‘experience the presence of God’, hear from the preacher, sing some songs and be prayed for. In so doing, the religious spirit is on assignment to make the saints set aside clear provisions of scripture which paint a different picture!

Scripture teaches that the Church is not the building but the people of God who have been called out of the world system! The Scriptures teach that these people who are individually called out are joined together by the Holy Spirit to become the Body of Christ. Just as a human body is made up of many parts, the Body of Christ is made up of individuals who function as cells and body parts, based on their gifts and callings. This organic presentation of the Church as a living, loving and holy organism is opposite to the model the religious spirit offers of the Church as an organization! 1 Peter 2: 9-12; Romans 12: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4: 7; Ephesians 2: 11 – 22.

The job of leadership in this organic mode is to teach, train, equip, activate and release each saint under their charge into the fullness of Christ. The leadership which will deliver this outcome is not a

Pastor who is the founder/owner of a “church” but the fivefold offices of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers acting in concert to deliver the fullness of the Presence and Power of Jesus Christ! Such a congregation becomes mature, able to discern between truth and error!  
Ephesians 4:11, 12 – 16

The latest postulation of the religious spirit is that women can indeed serve in other offices except that of Apostle and Pastor! This spirit is tenacious and must be seen for what it is: on assignment to ensure that women are not able to function fully as God intends in the Church. The religious spirit is also on assignment to foster the dichotomy which Christ broke down at the Cross: the age old issue of classification of humans on the basis of gender. It must be noted that the remnant of God are called to embrace the wholesome truth that in Christ Jesus, such classifications are obsolete for our life in the Body of Christ, even the Kingdom life. Galatians 3: 26-29. Woman hood is however valid in the marriage institution and there, the rules vary from relationship of spirit filled saints who are collectively “The Church”!

### 3. Perception Problems arising from Cultural Mindsets

Culture permeates into lives of people from the womb! The life of parents is transmitted through the umbilical cord into the human foetus. The DNA of the parents that a baby receives also carries the cultural baggage of the parents. When a baby grows up, it is within an environment and value system. As the child grows, those values and environmental influence shapes the world view. In some cultures, women are essentially cannon fodder for economic expansion of the husband. In some cultures, women are essentially to be seen and not heard. Those cultural mindsets can affect a saint, though born again. They can immobilize women from answering the call of God or given the call the best shot possible.

Those mindsets, where found in men, can cause them to reject ministry from women. Some other men who are more refined may accept ministry from women but on limited basis with less trust. There are some men who have allowed their cultural mindsets to cause pride to get the better part of them. They disrespect Pastors and other fivefold leaders God sets over them on the basis of culture which says women should not lead men! The solution is for saints to be given a systematic training in the culture of the Kingdom of God as found in the New Testament.

### 4. Inadequate understanding of the nature and principles of the Kingdom of God even by self professed Kingdom preachers and teachers.

The sad truth is that many so called Kingdom preachers, teachers, speakers and writers are afflicted by ignorance of the Kingdom and its constitution, on the one hand and confused about the glorious truth it entails. If we will systematically explore and practice the true Kingdom message, neither the spirit of religion nor cultural mindsets would have the potent hold they have on saints till today. The message of the Kingdom of God is truly revolutionary and liberating! It says, unequivocally, that God has made a way back to Himself for fallen humanity in Christ Jesus. Embracing the person and sacrifice of Christ at Calvary leads to a transition from Satan’s to God’s Kingdom.

This translation which was instantaneous, is reinforced and experienced when saints are soundly taught that the Kingdom of God is in their hearts(Luke 17:21). Therefore, they are to stop the old self based life and begin to live for God and His Kingdom. This happens when they willingly submit to the total rule of Christ in every area of life and ministry (Matthew 16:24-26; Romans 12:1). Though physically here on earth, such people are not of this world system. They are actually dual citizens: of the world to come when Christ will return to set up His reign as well as citizens of the land where they live or were born. So they put their whole strength into pursuit of the purpose, agenda and priorities of their true King, Jesus (Matthew 6:33; Romans 14:17, 18). As they do so, people may consider them foolish but they are actually wise. They trust God to deliver on His promises to be their sole source here on earth and are strongly motivated by the eternal rewards. Matthew 6: 25 – 35; Matthew 19:27-30. In this present phase of the Kingdom of God which is spiritual, they are given gifts and callings by God according to His Sovereign will. Our obligation is to receive people not according to fleshly considerations such as gender, age or socio-economic status but according to what the King has committed to them! Luke 19:11-27

Those who live by these Kingdom principles mature to the state of son ship where there is neither male nor female. Such people are no longer to be known by gender, socio-economic background or

financial weight but by their standing in the realm of the Spirit! Their authority is not derived from genealogy or the desires of humans but from the Lord God who called and commissioned them. Romans 8:12 – 17; Galatians 3: 26 - 29; Galatians 4: 1-7. However, the same Lord requires that in His Kingdom, every authority must be subject to another authority! Romans 13: 1 - 7.

Please add some other constraints you have experienced or which the Holy Spirit has revealed to you....

## Lesson 7

. What are peculiar challenges and weaknesses which women in ministry must recognize and deal with at the cross to ensure the fullness of spiritual liberty?

### 1. The challenge to understand and remain spiritual beings 24/7

This challenge is real and yet achievable. At the centre of the Kingdom message is that we are translated from the Kingdom of darkness and Satan and conveyed into the Kingdom of Christ. Colossians 1:13. The power of Satan and sin over the lives of saints was broken at Calvary. For those who will accept the sacrifice of Jesus as All sufficient and by faith walk in the reality of their liberty, with their minds renewed by constant study, meditation and practice of the Word, such people can live victorious Christian lives that are spiritual – anywhere and everywhere. John 1:12; John 8:32, 26. A female minister can remain spiritual on and off the pulpit because she is righteous and not a sinner any more by the new nature. She cannot afford to put on holiness on the pulpit and switch off when she is performing her duties as a wife, mother, civil/public servant or market place minister. That will lead to hypocrisy. Any weakness should be acknowledged, confessed and rejected. Proverbs 28:13.

### 2. The challenge of submitting to husbands in the home and exercising the authority of the office Christ has called them to in ministry

Marriage is a solemn choice. Women can certainly fulfil their ministries without marriage! If they choose to marry, they must know that they open themselves up to another law which is sure and certain: the law of relationships with their own husbands. Clearly articulated without equivocation, the law has these to say:

- A married woman's first covering is her husband. This precedes the covering of her pastor, overseer or indeed anyone else. As a matter of fact, even Christ Himself recognizes this shift in a woman's priority when she marries! 1 Corinthians 11: 1 - 16
- A wife therefore has as a chief duty, engaging in every lawful activity to please her own husband. This very strange truth is articulated in 1 Corinthians 7: 3-6, 10,11, 33,34,39; Genesis 3: 16.
- A wife is charged to submit to her own husband, as to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3: 1-6. Submission is not weakness but rather a wilful surrender of one's own wisdom, strength and ability in respect of God and the husband. Even if the man is an idiot, unbeliever, in addictive behaviour, the woman who willingly went into marriage is required not to despise but to receive and honour him! Ephesians 5: 22-24; 1 Peter 3: 1-6. By so doing, a woman can reflect Christ so much so that the unbelieving husband can be converted.

These provisions do not confer on men, by any means, the license to mistreat their wives. As a matter of fact, men are also enjoined to submit to their wives Ephesians 5:21 and to love them just as Christ loved the unworthy Church! Ephesians 5: 25-33. Failing in this duty can attract closed heavens and poverty! 1 Peter 3:7. It must be emphasized, however, that if a man abuses his authority and begins to deliberately mistreat the person God gave him to love and keep; he has depreciated the moral authority of being her head. If a man makes demands on his wife that put her in direct conflict with God's ordinance, his authority is thereby nullified using the rule in Acts 4:19, 20. In such cases, the woman is bound to submit to the higher power which is God.

As Paul exhorts in 1 Corinthians 7:1, 7, 8, 17, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29-32, 34, 35, 37-39 the best estate for successful and productive ministry is the state of single hood. Singlehood enables a minister to be focussed on the Lord and the assignment with a singleness of eye and passion which delivers measurable results. It is erroneous for Pastors to literally harass single ladies to marry. It is equally

reprehensible to stampede spinsters who have the call of God on their lives to marry before they can be used by the Lord in ministry. The bogus religious reason is “so that they will have a covering over them”! Celibacy in holiness is an extraordinary force for good in ministry. As many as were made so by God or who have consecrated their sexuality to Him should be encouraged to remain so and not confused with ill advised theories which exalt marriage beyond what God says for this generation. Matthew 19: 11 – 12.

The rash of ill prepared marriages contracted out of soulish whims which proceed assuredly to crash and the sad sceptre of saints living in adulterous relationships occasioned by marriages not recognized by God is a very sad reflection of how far the hearts of saints are from Him who they claim He is their Lord. The truth is how many saints can pass the test of Matthew 19: 1-12? How many ever care to ponder whether it may stand against them on the day of judgement? How terrible that saints are living like in the days of old described in Judges 21:25. The truth is that God expects those whose marriages fail to CONSECRATE their sexuality and lives wholly to Him so that He can use them. As saints go into marriage counselling, Pastors should be bold to tell them that the only opt out is singlehood. The sceptre of saints jumping from one marriage to the other in record time is not supported ANYWHERE in the word!

### 3. Low self esteem by some women

Many women in the Kingdom are grappling with low self esteem issues. Haven been nurtured with the twin error of the religious spirit and cultural mindsets, they become self depreciating to the point of irrelevance. Some who are called to be prophets are unable to summon the courage needful to fulfil the office. Some who have the grace to plant and or pastor local congregations are too fearful and reticent to do so. By refusing to engage with all that God has blessed them with in terms of gifts and callings, they make themselves unfit for the Master’s use.

There are other women God is calling to the Market Place. These are saints God has purposed to use to bring in, manage and distribute great wealth. Unfortunately, they allow issues about their yesterday and failures there in to intimidate them to remain on the shallow waters of business whereas Christ is calling them to the deeper waters! In the last lap of the human dispensation, God will use women in extraordinary ways to bring in and distribute Kingdom wealth! He has wired in them a great capacity to have His type of compassion and grace to look out for the welfare of as many people as possible at the same time. There are women who bear ten children and provide adequate motherhood to all whereas their husbands are able to connect with just one or two of those same children. The man with the womb (womb-man) is an extraordinary manager of human and material resources!

### 4. The spirit of feminism which fosters the women liberation movement

The opposite of low self esteem is the dangerous spirit of feminism. Feminism is as bad as male chauvinism. Feminism is an ideology of female superiority which veers off the central tenet of scripture. Ultimately, feminism advocates a triumphalism over manhood which is dangerous. It rejects authority of husbands and advocates a secular humanistic concept which runs counter to the principles of the Kingdom of God.

### 5. Abandonment of core feminine virtues wired in them by God.

God specifically wired in women some virtues. These include meekness, godly shyness and ability to be pleasant even when under pressure. The tendency for women in ministry to seek ‘masculinity’ as proof of being powerful is a step in the wrong direction. In the same way, the tendency for some to shout, be argumentative in public fora and incline towards ‘masculine’ dressing negates the very virtues God has wired in woman hood! There needs to be a fresh study of scriptures like 1 Peter 3:1-

### 6. Over reaction to lazy men and wrong interpretation of the phrase ‘weaker vessel’

God has blessed women with strength and versatility. The Proverbs 31 depiction of virtuous womanhood is universally known. Unfortunately, some women in ministry have husbands who are not so enterprising and able to bear the rigors of managing home and ministry while the women concentrate on receiving from God and ministering to the saints. To allow offence to build up because of such husbands is to miss the point. That kind of husband may well be like the Barak of old who will only rise up when Deborah engages with his weaknesses. If you are that Deborah, please bear the yoke and engage with your strength trusting God to awake him one day!

The truth is that it will be difficult for any man, no matter how strong to carry a full length pregnancy! Even if any tried to and had to do a Caesarean section, it is doubtful if such persons would ever agree to go through the trauma a second time! Yet these are experiences women go through with smiles and even ready to bear additional burdens! Women are not as weak as depicted in popular literature! There is great strength in their God given meekness!

For the reader: Please share some other challenges and weaknesses you know about women in ministry.

## **Lesson #8**

Balancing demands of home, ministry and business + 7 Peculiar Pitfalls to avoid

Truly, singlehood is of great advantage for those called to ministry. However, with the grace of God, those called to be married can still succeed holistically provided they minister according to spiritual rules God Himself set in place.

One of those rules is that no spouse should be allowed, for any reason under the sun, to take the place of God in terms of inclination of the heart! God is jealous for His undivided place in the hearts of the redeemed Matthew 16:24-26; Matthew 10:34-39. Jesus enjoins citizens of His Kingdom to always make the main thing the main thing: Know God intimately, loving Him above all else, seek first His Kingdom and posture to do His will in all situations. Matthew 6:19-34. Those who live by this rule learn the great virtue in dying to self so that God is enthroned securely as the fulcrum of life.

When spouse, children, ministry, business and other commitments emerge, they all take their bearing in the heart of the woman of God on the basis of her relationship with Jesus Christ. The outcome is a God kind of life displaying the three benchmarks of the Kingdom: righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Those three benchmarks sum up the teaching in the Sermon on the Mount articulated clearly in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. As long as women in ministry observe this simple rule, all other relationships will fall in place except where the Lord allows a Cross to emerge. When this is so, He will supply sufficient grace to carry same. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

The gifts and callings of God are without repentance as stated in Romans 11:29. It is easy to miss God and still be “flowing” in the charismatic gifts! Satan can use this flow to confuse a woman whose life is falling apart at the seams on the home front or engrossed with the cares of this life in business which tears her heart away from God. Further conceit can arise when financial and social successes seem to be in the bag. Romans 14:17-19 clearly say that the Kingdom of God is not food and drink! The presence of finances, fully booked speaking engagements and flow of charismatic gifts can confuse one who is carnal to believe that she is successful.

If a woman of God is married, the need to give her husband adequate attention, second only to God, cannot be over emphasized. This matter is so serious that Paul the apostle was used of the Holy Spirit to state clearly that the need to fast or pray cannot take precedence over fulfillment of conjugal obligations, except there is prior mutual consent! 1 Corinthians 7:3-5.

As children begin to come, a woman of God must avoid the temptation to have them take pride of place over husband. Neither should they be loved more than Jesus Himself otherwise children become idols! Matthew 10: 34-39. The same way God tried Abraham by demanding Isaac, the apple of his eyes will He require us to surrender that child the woman in ministry loves so much!

Women of God who are called to the Market Place will discover great grace to flow therein without sacrificing their personal relationship with God or responsibilities to family. The grand secret is ensconced in application of a few concepts.

>Number one is to tap into the grace of God at the place of prayer so that she can cease from her own works which drain the anointing of God.

>The second is to trust God completely by walking in Faith, not sight in all things. This is possibly as she dwells in the word which renews the mind and refreshes the spirit-man.

>Thirdly, women of God need to apply balance in all things.

>Fourthly, the woman of God who seeks to please God and succeed in all realms of life like the virtuous Proverbs 31 woman will find it necessary to shut down all potential avenues for the enemy to get at her. This includes abstaining from all appearance of evil including ungodly chatter on face book, separating from the spirit of this age and its purveyors, even if they are old friends! This may sound radical but nevertheless entirely necessary! The key is to seek holistic or wholesome success and be willing to pay the price!

Peculiar pitfalls to avoid by women in ministry

Whether men or women, we all have particular pitfalls that need to be avoided if we hope to escape snares of the enemy. By addressing these issues, God wants us to be forewarned so that we can overcome and serve Him acceptably. Let us never forget that God is a consuming fire! For Women in Ministry, these pitfalls are of peculiar import:

1. 1. Carnality

The word carnal denotes a saint who is still ruled by the five carnal senses. Such a person makes decisions and is swayed by what she sees, hears, smells, touches and feels rather than what the Holy Spirit is saying. In other words, carnality requires jettisoning of faith, which is our bridge to the Throne of God in favour of the unsteady and ultimately unreliable motions of the human soul and physical body. Carnality will drive a female minister to seek the things and fancies which war against the soul. Romans 8:5-8 says that such people are in a state of war against God and can never please Him!

1. 2. Love of the world and its fashions and lifestyle

Carnality breeds worldliness. The world is ruled and motivated by what can be seen, heard, smelt, touched and felt as 1 John 2: 15 – 16 implies. If worldliness takes root in the heart of a saint, what remains is religion. The command is to “come ye out from among them and be ye separate”! 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18

1. 3. Love of eminence and pre-eminence

Worldliness often leads to love of eminence. This quest for prominence often morphs into undue craving for pre-eminence. This can drive a female minister to competition with real or imagined peers or contemporaries for who wears the best clothes and fashion accessories; who steals the show and preaches more powerfully at conferences where there are many speakers; whose television programme draws the most crowds; who has the best cathedral and who rides the best cars. For some it can stretch to such ludicrous levels as who is married to the smartest dude in town!!! John the beloved warned the saints to beware of Diotrephes who loved the pre-eminence 3 John 9-11.

1. 4. Love of authority and tendency to be overbearing

The Lord would like women in ministry to fulfil their ministries without allowing any one to despise the authority He vested on them. This principle applies to all who are called by God. 1 Timothy 4:12. However, the Lord expects the woman who will exercise her authority in and from Christ to observe the following rules:

- She must be under real authority herself. Romans 13: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 11: 1 – 16. The first authority she must be seen to be truly under is that of her own husband. She should be a good wife and mother. She cannot seek to exercise authority in the Church of Jesus Christ if she is evidently not under authority of her husband. A woman God has called into the high offices of the five fold cannot live under the illusion that because her husband is not also called to that office, he has somehow become her subordinate. The sight of a so called woman of God crossing the line from bully pulpit to bully MAMA over her own lawful husband at home is absolutely repelling to God and man! To sit down on a throne at home and order around a husband is a sure ticket to hell!!!

- If the husband of a woman of God has not attained to her spiritual level in Christ she will do well to get under godly authority of someone in the five fold who the Lord will show her. It is important to have a female mentor who successfully models women in ministry. However, it is also important that she get connected to a male or female authority for purpose of insight and discipline. It must be clarified here that what people do in the name of having spiritual fathers and mothers and coverings has two bad sides. On one side, it is erroneous to have a covering who literally dictates what you do in ministry. Coverings are not to dictate but for the purpose of holding you accountable for how you live and do ministry in accordance to the Word.

On the other hand, it is dangerous to have covering whose mouth is shut because of tithes and offerings given regularly or the sweet nonsense both of you exchange in the name of conversations. Many who purport to have mentors and or coverings have simply heaped unto themselves religious equivalent of boyfriends or sugar daddies! The man who cannot rebuke, correct, chasten or discipline you including asking you to step down for a period if you fall into sin is not a covering. The one who is blind to your faults and does not address them is giving you a false sense of security! True love of a protégé must flow in line with the love of Christ which is holy, pure and tough when necessary. Hebrews 12:5 – 13; Revelations 3:19.

#### 5. Easy to take offence when their views are not accepted

Women in ministry must grow up to the point where they do not take any contrary view as evidence of opposition or rebellion. A distinction may arise over their function in pulpit ministry and when they are leading the people into such projects as buildings, media and other activities where expert opinion may vary from hers. She must avoid the tendency to project a “super woman “image: one who knows all things.

#### 1. 6. Gossip and loose use of the tongue.

Women generally like to know everything about everyone around them. This seemingly harmless failing is potentially fatal in ministry. The reason is that the tendency often arises to use information you know of people to gossip, even inadvertently in the name of sharing burdens with other people. The worst aspect in ministry is using people to preach and teach, including what people shared at the counselling room. Breaking the confidence of congregants creates an atmosphere of insecurity. There are many hardworking women of God who simply destroy all that the Lord builds through them by the wrong use of the tongue!

#### 1. 7. Controlling behaviour/Jezebel spirit.

Very few women are able to recognize that using their emotions to manipulate those they relate with is unacceptable to the Lord. Shutting down because you are not happy; looking glum because things did not go your way and trying to make those around you to do what you want, at all costs are all variants of controlling behaviour! It is worse when a woman in ministry seeks to control her spouse, leadership and congregants. The worst form of control is that which makes woman in ministry to go beyond their remit and seek to control their husbands who are Overseers or Senior Pastors of ministries from the background. This spirit will not want a woman to step out and lead up front but prefers to use her to lead while a man is a mere powerless front for her to manipulate. These are various manifestations of the spirit of Jezebel! To overcome this Achilles heel, women in ministry must visit the cross, willingly and allow the old man to be crucified with Christ so that the new man can live the true life of liberty in the spirit. Galatians 2:20.

Since the soul of humans can never lie fallow at any time, God invites all women to look to two women called Mary as models. The first Mary was the simple woman God chose to use as vessel to bring forth the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This extraordinary woman was distinguished for her yeildedness to the voice and demands of God; humility and simplicity. She was willing to suffer rejection and abuse in order to fulfil the very assignment for which she was brought into the world – to receive the divine seed, nurture the baby Jesus and be there for Him till the very end. Luke 1:29-38. Mary Magdalene had multiple demons cast out of her. In gratitude, she sold out entirely to serve Jesus with everything and was commended for so doing John 12: 1-8; Mary Magdalene made sure that Jesus received attention and care whenever he visited Bethany their home.

>>>Women in ministry: please list some other pitfalls you have experienced personally or you are aware of that affect female preachers.

## Lesson #9

The Royal Priesthood + Pitfalls to avoid in women ministry.

The Lord has called all saints – male and female alike - into the Royal Priesthood! 1 Peter 2:9. This is a non-negotiable reality sealed with the Blood of Jesus and declared with conclusive finality in the Word! Those who hide under the instructions Paul the Apostle gave to Timothy concerning setting in order some wrong things in the Church at Ephesus and the instruction to the Corinthians to insist that women should not preach or lead are in error. Their error derives from a lack of understanding of The New Covenant and The New Creation. Unfortunately, their error is stratified by certain pitfalls which have tripped over many women of God across the world. Let us quickly examine nine of such pitfalls before proceeding to re-iterate the truth that the New Covenant has a concept of ministry that is exact opposite of the Old Covenant.

Peculiar pitfalls to avoid in women ministry

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### 1. 2. Love of the world and its fashions and lifestyle

The world is ruled and motivated by what can be seen, heard, smelt, touched and felt as 1 John 2: 15 – 16 implies. This is what is called carnality. Carnality breeds worldliness. Spiritual women invest substantially in the growth of their spirit-man and increase in their confidence in God by the intimate relationship they develop with Him in the place of prayer. Their confidence and ‘poise’ are not derived from external accessories with which their physical bodies are decorated. That is not to say that spiritual women should ignore their physical beings and outlook! It is a matter of getting their priorities right. If love of the world displaces the primal love of God and takes root in the heart of a woman in ministry, what remains is the dead works of religion. Such people may have a name that signifies ‘success’ and popularity but are truly dead in worldly pleasure! The command is to “come ye out from among them and be ye separate”! 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18

### 1. 3. Love of eminence and pre-eminence

Worldliness often leads to love of prominence. This quest for prominence often morphs into undue craving for pre-eminence. This can drive a female minister to competition with real or imagined peers or contemporaries for who wears the best clothes and fashion accessories; who steals the show and preaches more powerfully at conferences where there are many speakers; whose television programme draws the most crowds; who has the best cathedral and who rides the best cars. For some it can stretch to such ludicrous levels as who is married to the smartest dude in town!!! John the beloved warned the saints to beware of Diotrephes who loved the pre-eminence 3 John 9-11.

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Women in ministry must grow up to the point where they do not take any contrary view as evidence of opposition or rebellion. A distinction may arise over their function in pulpit ministry and when they are leading the people into such projects as buildings, media and other activities where expert opinion may vary from hers. She must avoid the tendency to project a “super woman “image: one who knows all things. Listening to the professionals in the house when ministry projects are being planned or executed will save everybody much trouble!

1. 6. Gossip and loose use of the tongue.

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prefers to use her to lead while a man is a mere powerless front for her to manipulate. These are various manifestations of the spirit of Jezebel! To overcome this Achilles heel, women in ministry must visit the cross, willingly and allow the old man to be crucified with Christ so that the new man can live the true life of liberty in the spirit. Galatians 2:20.

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#### 1. 8. Jealousy and Insecurity

Some women in ministry have fallen at a simple stumbling stone: the sight of more anointed or beautiful women who show up in ministries they are leading or where they are ‘First Ladies’. Some women never rest until such people are harassed out. Those who are ‘First Ladies’, a strange concept borrowed from Babylon, not the Kingdom of God have been known to regard almost all beautiful women in church as ‘witches’ and ‘Jezebels’ on assignment to take over the heart of their husbands. This is so sad and certainly grieves the Holy Spirit. If a woman cannot stand other women booking appointments to be counselled by Pastors, they should stop praying to be married by men of God! It is also sad to note that many women of God simply refuse to empower fellow women with proper mentoring, affirmation and provision of ministry opportunities. The fear that such mentees may outshine them causes them to withhold. There seems to be undue desire to be worshipped, glorified and praised by the women around them. Thanks to Pastor Bridget Trent of Texas and Pastor Vita Redding of Ohio for highlighting this pitfall in their contributions to the discussion.

#### 1. 9. The new craze for ‘armour bearers’ rather than intercessors.

Men in ministry have messed up a primary concept of the Kingdom: equality of all saints by introduction of several Babylonian concepts such as love of retinue of courtiers led by ‘armour bearers’. The simplicity of the gospel is thus lost at the altar of ego stroking. If this is bad enough, the sight of women in ministry going all out to advance this anomaly is simply a betrayal of the King of Kings who called and exalted them! Men and women in ministry need intercessors and prayer warriors, not armour bearers! Our security is in the hands of God who dispatches His holy angels to watch over His servants. Those who have speaking engagements commit rank iniquity when they insist on spare hotel rooms for such ‘armour bearers’. If you must travel with a companion, please do so at your own cost and spare poor congregations the extra burden.

Women in ministry: please list some other pitfalls you have experienced personally or you are aware of that affect female preachers.

### **Lesson #10**

#### The ultimate redemptive Mission of Women in Ministry

Let us remember that the Womb-Man was created to be the instrument through which the reproductive capacity of mankind would be essentially fulfilled in heterosexual relationships (let he/she who reads ask for understanding of why Satan is hell bent on attacking this God ordained way of reproduction):

Genesis 1:26-28

King James Version (KJV)

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The spirit of religion has caused mankind to dwell on the fact that Eve ate the forbidden fruit and thus opened the door to Satan to take over the dominion mandate of mankind. A careful reading of Genesis 3:1-6 reveals that Adam was present when Eve was conversing with Satan, failed to exercise his oversight responsibility as her covering and did not protest or resist eating of the fruit. In effect, from a God perspective, both of them were culpable. As a matter of fact, the attempt by Adam to deny responsibility was roundly rebuffed by God as Genesis 3: 8-19 shows.

Right in the first Book of the Holy Scriptures – Genesis – God made a declaration that has been obscured by religion. In pronouncing judgement on the three personalities involved in the Fall, here is what Jehovah Elohim said concerning Eve and Satan:

Genesis 3:15

King James Version (KJV)

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This was no ordinary statement. It was a declaration of war. Many know about the war between Jesus as the SEED of the Woman and Satan whose incarnation would crush the head of Satan who in turn will inspire men to kill Him at Calvary Cross. Beyond that specific prophecy of the incarnation, lies a wider message. That veiled message has been unfolding since the dawn of history but will be playing out in the final chapter of the human age. We have a release from God to share a snapshot at the glorious end time plan of redemption!

The truth which is devoid of controversy is that mankind – both Jew and Gentile has since the days of Eden lived an essentially male driven world. Men have run the course of human history and as the 7 Up commercial would say ‘the difference is clear’. Humanity has been run based on savagery disguised as courage which has spawned uncountable wars that have claimed billions of lives and polluted the earth with innocent blood. Men have built empires based on deceit, raw ambition and covetousness for resources in foreign lands.

In the gospel program, men have used the grace of God and His irrevocable gifts to snare women into immoral relationships to satisfy their libidinal excesses. Rather than protect and nurture in Christ like love, men have misused their powers to control their wives and batter them physically and psychologically! Men have built ego driven ministries with their names and personalities looming larger in the heart of their followers than Jesus who died for them. Rather than make disciples of Jesus Christ, so called men of God have gathered crowds of ignorant un-empowered folks who believe in them and receive them as their access to the Throne Room, an idolatrous proposition of epic proportions! Men have been driven by the enemy to create cults and denominations which run on the principle of dividing the Body that Jesus died for into parties and camps called denominations.

Check out all the great moves of God and how men messed them up. The gospel which came from Jerusalem to Rome was hijacked by a segment of men and married to the establishment to create the greatest religious power in the world till today. Check out the Protestant reformation and how it was messed up first with the embrace of the obnoxious replacement theology and later the spirit of division over doctrine and dogma which led to emergence of denominations. Till today, the war between Calvin and Arminius – though long dead - essentially drives deep divisions in the House of God.

Even Asuza Street - that great out pouring of a little over a century ago - has been so bastardized that heaven has been put to shame by the children of Pentecost who are long on the ‘anointing’ but short of character! As men exalt tongues over obedience, order and character, the chicken has come home

to roost with myriads of Pentecostal congregations in a permanent state of hostility – the moral equivalent of unending civil wars!

What shall we say of the Gospel of the Kingdom? Men have turned the Holy Scriptures upside down and have created a Kingdom message which is not just off base but a highway to perdition! Many today have believed the false gospel which has been packaged by hell by voraciously consuming the opinions of men who have gone into apostasy while leaving their bibles to gather dust! The true gospel of the Kingdom which Jesus taught has been negated and the opinion of ‘experts’, men of fertile imagination is now standard fare and by so doing, many are marching blindly to hell and damnation straight from the House of God!

But as in every dispensation, God will choose and anoint the weak, neglected and forsaken as His appointed arrow heads of reformation as 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 reveal so that no flesh will glory in His presence. Satan has been laughing his head off for the way he has corrupted the gospel to become a matter of relativity and personal perspective where soulish manifestations are embraced as prophecy and deliverance and where Babylon sits enthroned as accepted lifestyle in many congregations! Satan has commissioned the chief proponents of the New Age movement to entrap great ministers with a poisoned chalice of free media exposure and no one is able to spot the absurdity of God haters doing Public Relations for ‘men of God’

Unfortunately for him, God will be using that same situation to set the stage for emergence of the redemptive assignment of a special breed of women. These are women He will use to reform the broken system! Women He will use to awake the sleeping giants who are fearful like Barak of old. These women are not going to spawn feminism. Their spiritual womb is carrying godly seed in terms of both visions and special kind of ministerial assignment!

They will birth spiritual sons – neither male nor female! Sons who are beyond the neat boxes of gender classification! Sons who will have the true gene of God and manifest His DNA in all aspect of their lives. These sons will speak with the enemy at the gate and crush the head of Satan in the Church with holy indignation, not minding how many years they are appointed to live on earth or how they will exit this world – by natural death or martyrdom! Of these, the power of Satan and death will be broken as they are liberated by the knowledge of the truth and are lost in Christ!

These are those who will constitute the fourth race of God on earth: the Remnant. They will come from the three principal races of Shem, Ham and Japheth but will be delivered from their cultural and religious baggage! They are the One New Man of God eloquently spoken of in the Book of Ephesians!

The truth is that all have sinned – men and women alike – and come short of the glory of God! If the truth must be told, the Body of Christ is in a sad mess! The time to take responsibility has come and the remnant must heed the words of Joel 2 and weep between the porch and the altar in several places across the world. Let holy prayerful women of God begin to sound the Trumpet, calling saints to solemn assemblies where repentance will be brought to God on behalf of His Church.

Joel 2:12-18

12 Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

18 Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

Women of God, it is time to pray like never before. It is time to war against the enemy like never before! It is time for the Deborah kind of women to arise! Who will pray? Who will intercede???

Please share freely because the Word of the King cannot be bound by Babylonian copyright restrictions! Keep us in earnest prayers as we posture to receive, faithfully write down and distribute the counsel of the Lord for Women in Ministry to saints worldwide. GSoM Course 122: Women in Ministry will end with Lesson #11 tomorrow. Beyond study for self edification, The King of Kings wants to raise an army of fit-for-purpose co-laborers who will connect, be mobilized and march in formation to train and equip saints for the Great Commission before He returns Matthew 24:14.

## **Lesson 11**

Epilogue: The Way Forward for Women in Ministry

A truth needs to be repeated as we wind down on this critical subject. Considering the totality of the revelation God granted Paul which emphasized the reality of The Church as the Body of Christ where all humanity – Jews, Gentiles, Free, Bound, Male, Female – find a commonality and community (Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 1, 2,3, 4; Colossians 1,2,3) there is no way this distinguished vessel was asking all females to keep quiet and only be passive learners in the House of God perpetually. The Holy Spirit has illuminated for us, the peculiar circumstances of the Church at Ephesus and Corinth to which Paul gave specific instructions for maintaining order and decorum in 1 Timothy 2:9-14 and 1 Corinthians 14:34,35.

If he wanted all women to be quiet at home, never functioning in public settings, Paul would not have so glowingly commended the ministry of Phoebe and Priscilla and Aquila among others. The Holy Spirit has not have moved Luke who was Paul's biographer to record the deeds of Priscilla and Aquila or even put the woman's name first a number of times!

Paul had a revelation from God that for the Church to be healthy and strong, Christian families must be united in love, practising the dual principle of supreme love for wives by men and willing submission by wives to their own husbands(Ephesians 5: 21 – 33).

The entire 1 Corinthians 14 was given therefore to make a case for order and unity of the Body and not to lay the basis of excluding women from active ministry in the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the ages.

When God pronounced that the SEED of the woman would crush the head of Satan, he had no idea when and how this would exactly occur. After Mary bore the promised SEED, it finally sunk into the mind of Satan that God had set aside women as His secret warriors and arrow head to birth and nurture deep ordinances of the Kingdom! The sheer brilliance of the divine plan of salvation was so profound that angels and prophets of old alike had no idea how it would pan out, though vessels like Isaiah were used by Jehovah to provide a sneak peek. That Divinity would demonstrate the power of humility to become humanity took Satan by surprise. That God would allow women to minister to Christ till the very end when all but one man fled; that women would also visit to minister to the dead body and be granted the privilege of being the first to see the resurrected Messiah was no accident! God had indicated at the Incarnation and Resurrection that women would play a vital role in His Kingdom.

Women in Ministry, hear this:

To all women in ministry – both in the public space or in the closet please hear this: Jesus has already affirmed, accepted and deployed you as co-labourers in His Kingdom Vineyard through His Call and Spiritual Gifts manifesting in your life!

Those who refuse to accept you because their minds are trapped in The Levitical Priesthood of the Old Covenant are exercising their universal human rights to associate with or accept who they wish to. Leave them to face God who called you and do not try to fight for Him!

The tragedy will be when you hang around them, seeking their endorsement. It will be tragic indeed for you to allow any human being, out of prejudice or misunderstanding of the whole counsel of God to exercise control over your destiny or continually injure your soul to the point where you function at sub-optimal levels!

Refuse to let the new Pharaohs on the block put a fresh yoke of bondage over your spiritual necks! Refuse to fellowship where you are regarded as fit only for marriage, children bearing and keeping the home! Refuse to fellowship where your God given call, gifts are rejected, downgraded and where your soul is constantly grieved.

For eternity sake, separate yourself from environments which Satan can use to inject a root of bitterness which will make you fail of the grace of God! Hebrews 12:14-15. You have no basis to remain part of a congregation or denomination which specifically excludes your ability to exercise your priestly function on the basis of your gender. Come out of that religious system and be separated unto He who redeemed you! Within your city, there will be at least a remnant who know the truth and have space for you. On cyberspace –Facebook and other social media there are ample provisions for your edification and growth in grace.

Ultimately, your rejection by the religious community may be the very stepping stone the King has ordained to nudge you into action: to step forward, learn all you can about Kingdom ministry and then be the instrument Abba will use to put them into practice. You may be the very vessel God will use to bring the fivefold together who will be used by The King to perfect the saints and equip them for service according to Ephesians 4:11-16. Get rid of your fear and step up the plate as a reformer, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide you step by step. We are available to support you to succeed. It is only through the collective ministry of the Five fold that saints perfected to demonstrate the Kingdom life in a dynamic ‘other world’ way which releases the Presence and Power of The King! If you are called to the Market Place, this is the time to step forward boldly and occupy, till The King Comes to consummate all things!

The Word of God makes it clear that as the New Creation, you are called to be part of a Kingdom of Priests 1 Peter 2:9. The Priests after the Order of Melchizedek to which you are called by God Himself in Christ Jesus means that no one should judge you after the flesh! Exercise your priesthood rightly by serving rather than seeking to be served! Exercise your priesthood rightly by preaching in and out of season, out of the klieg lights so that sinners are saved; Exercise your priesthood by teaching them to observe all things so that they become disciples of Jesus, not your followers or fans; Exercise your priesthood in an empowering manner by making sure that all disciples committed to your trust are trained, equipped, activated in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and releasing many into ministry as fit for purpose co-labourers with the King.

Ultimately, The King will return on the day and time known to only the Father! That time is sooner than later. He is coming back to set up the full phase of the Kingdom and will reward all those who faithfully discharged their priestly functions as described here with dominion over territories and nations. Some of the most powerful Proverbs of Jesus clearly showed that judgement will be required for the spiritual gifts, callings and life assignments committed to our trust Luke 19:11-27; Matthew 25:14-30. The truth is that spiritual gifts and callings are deposited by the Holy Spirit in the spirit-man which is neither male nor female. That is the part of humans which will live forever before God or perish forever in Hell fire with Satan!

Hear you the word of the King:

John 8:32; 36

King James Version (KJV)

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

The Final Word: An Apostolic Proclamation!

Standing in the office where it pleased the Lord God of heaven to place us as Apostles and Teachers in the Church of Jesus Christ in our generation and as those to whom He committed understanding of the mysteries of the Kingdom which He has given us charge to teach systematically to all who will learn and proclaim same with all fidelity, we declare, without equivocation, that Women have the same rights and privileges to engage in ministry as their male counterparts at all levels.

The operative parameter is the specific and clear call of God, not fleshly ambition; evidenced by the gifts of the Holy Spirit which He freely bestows on all who He wills, not natural talent or ability to speak eloquently.

Where any woman therefore manifests the spiritual gifts, attributes and callings evident for any of the five fold offices of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor or Teacher, no one should hinder her from exercise of that which God, in His sovereignty conferred!

We declare, according to the whole counsel of God that every saint who happens to be female in this present life will one day stand at the Judgement Seat of Christ to account for what she did with the spiritual gifts and callings of God received while in the Body as the core instrument to occupy until He returns. Those who can show proof that they pursued and fulfilled their ministries will be exalted and rewarded by the Lord. Those who allowed men, culture and religious traditions to hinder them will be ashamed and miss the eternal blessings of the hereafter, even though they will be saved if they remain in the faith till the end. The choice therefore is clear and no woman of God should ever allow herself to be side tracked or confused! 2 Corinthians 5:1-11; Luke 19:11-27.

Those who oppose ministry by women because of culture, traditions of men, carnality arising from minds un-renewed by The Word or out of religious zeal with inadequate knowledge of the New Covenant and New Creation will do well to remember that they may well be opposing God who gifted and called His saints who happen to be women! Spiritual gifts and callings are received in the spirit man who is neither male nor female and not in the physical body which is marked by gender, age and other carnal considerations!

We call on all women who are called by God into ministry to give themselves over to serious, diligent study of the Word; get immersed in the Holy Spirit, live in holiness and sobriety and function with wisdom and deep compassion for the flock committed to their trust.

We charge all women of God to reject the world and its ways including seductive fashion and behaviour and any tendencies to be over bearing and controlling. For those who are married, we charge them in clear language: submit to your own husband, as unto the Lord Jesus for this is the ordinance of God! For the single in ministry, we charge you to be married to Jesus Christ and be lost in Him to the degree that those who will find you will first be lost in that same Christ where you are! Until the one sent by God comes, let the Lord be your joy and satisfaction!

Let no one trouble or hinder any woman called to ministry by the Lord Jesus Christ!