WORLD HARVEST INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP (RAISING GODLY LEADERS) Presents Equip Leadership Ketreat Theme: MINISTERS REV. & REV. (MRS.) AKINLOLU RÀPHAÉL Convener A Leadership Development Initiative of World Harvest Network International +234-803-503-1473, +234-807-359-6034 email: worldharvestnet@yahoo.com www.worldharvestnet.org





Aministry committed to: Leadership Development, Missions & Church Planting

"Equipping the saints for the end-time Harvest"

OUR STRATEGIES

 Leadership Development: Equipping and Raising Godly Leaders through leadership programmes, conducting leadership retreats and school of leadership around the world.

World Missions:

Reaching the unreached through preaching, teaching and conducting training programmes, making disciples of all nations and helping the poor, the under privileged and the neglected through our outreach programme <u>DORCAS FOUNDATION</u>.

3. Church Planting:

The Church arm, Grace Covenant Assembly carries out church planting outreaches and equipping of the saints through monthly Faith Seminars and Radio Programme titled Living by faith and also our Faithville publication.



CONTENTS

Introduction

Part one

Able Ministers

Part two

Attributes Of Able Ministers



Introduction

inisters of God are very critical to His assignments on earth. This is because everything God wants to do on earth, He does through a man. The competence of Ministers of the Gospel is therefore of great importance to God.

It's in this regard that we're looking at the topic of ABLE MINISTERS at this retreat. How competent are you as a Servant of God? What's the purpose of your competence? What kind of competence is God looking for?

The issue of able or competent Ministers is not new. It's always been the issue even in Bible days. The issue however seems to have become very critical in these last days because of increased demonic activities as the coming of Christ draws closer.

The good news is that even in these last days, there shall arise a crop of competent Ministers who are being prepared to take the battle to the enemy's camp. The finest hours of the Church is just beckoning in these last days. The best is always reserved for the last.

Jn 2:10

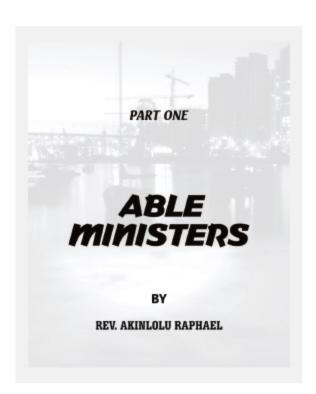
And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

I pray you'll have a personal living encounter with the Spirit of Grace as we retreat under God.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

Akinlolu Raphael







Able Ministers

2 Cor. 3:1-6

- 1 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?
 - 2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:
- 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.
 - 4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:
- 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;
 - 6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

GREATEST DANGER TO THE GOSPEL

What has been the greatest danger to the gospel?

The greatest danger against the cause of Christ has always been incompetent, incapable ministers.

Apostle Paul addressed this issue severely in the Bible.

Act 20:17-30

And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.: 20. And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, 21. Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 26. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.



Phil 3:2-9 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

Watch out for those dogs, those wicked men and their evil deeds, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. NLT

THE PROOF OF COMPETENT MINISTRY

2 Cor. 3:1-4 (MSG.)

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

Apostle Paul, here, underscores the critical role of the proclaimers of the gospel.

When you're a capable competent Minister, the proof are the lives produced.

Ministry is not about money. Ministry is not about cars or physical edifices.

Ministry is about lives. Transformed lives.

2Cor 3:1-3 (NLT)

Are we beginning again to tell you how good we are? Some people need to bring letters of recommendation with them or ask you to write letters of recommendation for them.

- 3:2 But the only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves! Your lives are a letter written in our hearts, and everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you.
- 3:3 Clearly, you are a letter from Christ prepared by us. It is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on stone, but on human hearts.



Therefore the greatest danger against the cause of Christ on earth has never been the devil. Satan and his demonic forces were totally defeated by Christ on the cross.

Col 2:15

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Mt 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Christ has all the power. Therefore Satan has never and will never be a threat to Christ cause on earth)

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

YOU CAN'T MAKE YOURSELF ABLE

Now, you'll also see from this passage that you can't make yourself able.

1Cor 3:5 -6

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

You've no ability of your own. You've no wisdom of your own. You've no strength of your own to do what God has called you to do.

1Tim 1:12.

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

You must stop looking to yourself in the natural, in the flesh, but to Christ and His finished work on the cross.



Jn 6:28-29.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Look to Christ and His finished work on the Cross. That's where your ability and competence is

1Cor 3:10.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth there upon

Paul was not a wise master builder by any ability he had but by the grace of God working in him.

STOP STRUGGLING

Too many Ministers are struggling in Ministry. Too many Ministers are struggling to serve God. Struggling to make things happen in Ministry rather than relax and let God make things happen through them.

There's a story I read a few years back. A helium balloon that was being held down by some men. Suddenly the balloon lifted the men off the ground but all of them except one quickly let go of the rope while the balloon rose up rapidly with that one man to a height he couldn't let go without plummeting to his death. They all watched in horror as the balloon went up higher and higher. They were all afraid the man will soon get tired holding on to the rope and would have to fall to his death but several hours later the man was still holding on. Eventually they got the balloon down with the man. They asked how he was able to hold on that long. He said when he saw that he was too high up he wrapped the rope around himself and started enjoying the scenery. He said he didn't hold on to the rope but that the rope held him up.



Someone said, while men are looking for better methods, God is looking for better men because men are God's method.

I pray that as you walk out of this retreat ground today, you'll be that capable and competent Minister of the gospel of Christ, in Jesus Christ name.

2Cor 3:1-6

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Who God made you is an Able Minister of the Gospel.

From the passage you see that it takes capable, competent, qualified Ministers to preach the authentic gospel of Christ.

2Cor 3:6

6. Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament.

Gal 1:8-9

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Who God has made you in Christ is an able Minister. Some translation say Able, some say competent, some say enabled, some say sufficient, some say qualified, some say adequate, same say worthy, some say capable, some say fit.

However, not every Minister of the gospel function as an able Minister.



1Cor 3:10

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

There's an ability, there's a fitness, there's a qualification that determines the kind of work you're doing in the Kingdom.

As an Able Minister you are made by God. Not by man, not by theological seminaries or Bible schools.

Thank God for theological Schools & Bible Schools. These can only build on what God has already made you

Heb 5:4,

And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

God said concerning Abraham - I have made you. God said concerning Jereremiah - I called you and ordained you.

When God calls you into Ministry, He qualifies you. He enables you.

If you have an authentic call into Ministry, then you're already qualified and enabled in Christ.

Therefore, you're not meant to be an incompetent, incapable Minister of Christ.

You're a capable competent Minister of the New Testament. That's who God has made you.



PART TWO ATTRIBUTES OF ABLE MINISTERS BY REV. AKINLOLU RAPHAEL



Attributes Of Able Ministers

So, now, what are the attributes of Able Ministers?

How do you know a capable, competent Minister of the gospel? How do you know if you're a capable, competent Minister of the gospel?

I. Able Ministers are in Christ.

You must be in Christ. You must have had a genuine Encounter With Christ. You must be a new creature. You must be born again.

2Cor 5:17-18

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

You can't be an able, competent Minister if you're not genuinely born again.

You can't reconcile anyone to the Christ you're not yourself reconciled to.

This is a very serious matter because there're Ministers who're not born again.

Acts 8:9-11

But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10. To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

Everyone's calling predated his or her birth.

Jer 1:4 - 5.

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

The fulfillment of that calling is predicated on your being born again otherwise satan will hijack that calling.

II. Able Ministers are Ministers of the New Testament.



2Cor 3:6

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

He is the one who has enabled us to represent his new covenant. This is a covenant, not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old way ends in death; in the new way, the Holy Spirit gives life. NLT

Now, what constitutes a Minister of the New Covenant? How do you know a Minister of the New Testament?

 a) They're Ministers Of the cross. They Minister Christ and His finished work on the cross.

1Cor 2:1-2

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified

1Cor 3:10-11

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

b) They're Ministers Of grace. They do not Minister the law or mixtures of the law and Grace.

Gal 1:6-9

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Gal 3:1

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?



Most of the messages we hear from the pulpit today are corrupt communications.

They're mixtures of Grace and law.

c) They're Ministers Of God's Glory.

Their Ministry produce God's Glory in peoples lives. Produce transformed lives spiritually, physically, maritally, financially etc.

2Cor 3:7-10

7. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: 8. How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? 9. For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. 10. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

 d. They're Ministers of the Revelation knowledge of God. They're not Philosophers.

Col 2:6-10

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Gal 1:11,

But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

e. They're Ministers of God's Wisdom.

1Cor 2:6-8

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.



1Cor 2:1

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

f. They're Ministers of God's power.

1Cor 2:4-5

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

g. They're Ministers of faith. Not fear.

They communicate faith not fear.

Mt 5:36

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Eph 6:10-13

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

h. They're Ministers of love.

You don't minister hatred. You don't curse or kill your enemies. You love and pray for your enemies.

Mt 5:43-48

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your



brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Lk 9:54-56

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

i. They're eternity focused.

2Tim 4:7-8

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

They live and minister from the perspective of eternity.

They're not just living and ministering for earthly results but for eternal rewards.

III. Able Ministers are not sufficient in themselves. They're sufficiency is in God's Grace.

2Cor3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God

Able ministers don't rely on their knowledge or any physical or natural abilities they possess, but on the grace of God.

Eph 4:7-8.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.



Grace is God's ability at work in you according to the measure of His calling - gift (that's who you're in Christ - a spiritual gift) in your life.

1Tim 1:12.

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled (this is God's grace -God's divine ability) me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

1 Timothy 1:12 (Amp)

I give thanks to Him Who has granted me [the needed] strength and made me able [for this], Christ Jesus our Lord, because He has judged and counted me faithful and trustworthy, appointing me to [this stewardship of] the ministry.

1 Cor 15:10.

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

IV. As an Able Minister you're careful of the company you keep.

Able ministers don't just relate. They're careful about their relationships - about who they allow into their close circle of relationship.

Until Abraham separated from Lot... Lot represent ungodly influence in Abraham's life. God had to separate them. You need to identify every ungodly influence in your life and separate yourself.

Rom 16:17-18

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

V) Able Ministers Judge Themselves

1Cor 11:31-32

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.



Conclusion

You should check your Ministry and ministrations against these attributes to see whether you're functioning as an able Minister.



RETREAT SONGS

A Time Like This

A time like this, Ged looks for men,
 Worthy vessels that He can use,
 To Accomplish his great purpose,
 And make His kingdom widely known.

Lord here am I, myself I give, My talent, time silver and gold, Father use me to build your church, To show your praise among all men

- A time like this, Lord help me hear, Your thundering voice and to abey.
 Where some have failed, others abscoad, Lord help me stand, whatever the cost.
- A time like this, Lord help hear,
 When champions rise and fall in tears,
 Satun fights his finel hattles,
 Making the race so tough to run.
- A time like this, Lord fix my eyes, On these alone, lest I should fall, Living for thee, father of love, Until I end my journey home.

In Christ Alone

- In Christ alone my bope is found
 He is my light, my strength, my song
 This Cornerstone, this solid ground
 Firm through the fercest drought and sterm
 What height gifts of love, what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
 My Comforter, my All in All
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.
- In Christ alone, who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless Bube
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the one He came to save
 Til on that cross as Jesus died
 The wruth of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the doubt of Christ I live.
- 3. There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ
- 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny No power of hell, no schime of mon Could ever pluck me from His hand Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I stand.



RETREAT SONGS

9 Pleage Allegiance To The Lamb I pleage allegiance to the Lamb

With all my strength, with all I am I will seek to honor His commands I pledge allegiance to the Lamb I have heard how Christians long ago Were brought before a tyrant's throne They were told that he would spare their lives If they would renounce the name of Christ But one by one they chose to die The Son of God they would not deny Like a great angelic choir sings I can almost hear their voices ring I pledge allegiance to the Lamb With all my strength, with all I am I will seek to honor His commands I pledge allegiance to the Lamb Now the years have come, and the years have gone But the cause of Jesus still goes on Now our time has come to count the cost To reject this world, to embrace the cross And one by one let us live our lives For the one who died to give us life Till the trumpet sounds on the final day Let us proudly stand and boldly say I pledge allegiance to the Lamb With all my strength, with all I am I will seek to honor His commands I pledge allegiance to the Lamb To the Lamb of God who bore my pain Who took my place, who wore my shame I will seek to honor His commands I pledge allegiance to the Lumb I pledge allegiance to the Lamb With all my strength, with all I am I will seek to honor His commands I pledge allegiance to the Lamb

Olori Djo Torun

- Olari ije t'orun L'ayo l'a wole fun O. Ki O te de, ijo t'aye; Yo ma korin bi t'orun; A gbe akom wa s'oke, Ni 'reti t'o ni 'bukun; Awa kigbe, awa fiyin P'Olorun igbala wa.
- 2. 'Ghaf' awa ninu ponju
 T'a nkoja ninu ina
 Orin ife l'awa o ko
 Ti o nmu wa sun me 0;
 Awa sope, a si yo
 Ninu ojurere Re
 Ife t'o so wa di Tire
 Y'o se wa ni Tire lai
- 3. Iwo mu awon enia Re
 Koja isan idanwo
 A ki o beru wahala
 "Tori O wo nitosi
 Aiye, ese, at'esu
 Kojuja si wa lasan
 L'agbara Re, a o segun
 A o si ko orin Mose
- Awa figbagbo r'ogo
 Ti o tun nfe fi wa si
 Awa kegan aiye 'tori
 Ere nla iwaju wa
 Bi o ha si ka wa ye
 Awa pelu Stefen t'o sun
 Yo ri O bi o ti duro
 Lati pe wa lo s'orun.

WORLD HARVEST INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

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