

A Leader available and Present among the People

Acts 5:12-13 *And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. 13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.*

- a) Miracles, signs, and wonders were done by the hands of the apostles. As we stretch forth our hands to heal, the Lord is stretching forth His hand through us to do those miracles.
- b) In the early days of the church, the apostles were almost the only ones doing miracles, but later we saw the none apostles such as **Phillip and Stephen do miracles**. These were deacons, not apostles.
 - i) This showed and proved that miracles were not limited to just apostles but all saints as John 14:12 teaches.
- c) When the people saw that the apostles were being used mightily in miracles, signs, and wonders, none of the rest durst (dared) to join themselves to the apostles in performing signs and wonders.
 - i) **Why?** They magnified or exalted them highly and greater than themselves. They saw them as better, holier, closer to God, bigger, and more useable for God. In other words, the church and the common people disqualified themselves.
 - ii) Reason? Because they were doing signs and wonders among the people and the Lord has given these to be done by all believers. They thought the apostles were higher than them and these signs, wonders, and miracles were restricted to only them which was not true.
- d) The “common believers” did not have the boldness to step up and step out to do the miracles, signs, and wonders. No one had stopped them.

- i) They lacked the spine to step up and do the miracles and in so doing, the people created a division or separation between the clergy super dupers and the common man. This ought not to be so because God sees every believer as a minister who the fivefold— apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-12) need to **equip** to do the work of the ministry including signs and wonders.
- e) The equipping or fivefold offices should never have been lifted to a place as the only ministers in the body where the common people come to serve, support and receive from their ministry. It was never meant for the clergy alone to be used mightily while the other people just come to clean, do basic works, and receive from the clergy. Being called in the equipping offices (fivefold) is not superior to the rest of the body. These offices have a role of equipping the saints rather than “man of God” worship.

Fivefold ministers

1. Ministers should not allow themselves to get magnified higher than the people lest they see themselves above and higher than the people. This is a temptation that every minister must resist as it makes one feel superior to others and before you know it, pride has crept in and next is a fall or destruction (Proverbs 16:18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.
 - a) As a result of this, the man or woman of God that received this esteem higher than the people will:
 - i) Limit their availability to the people.
 - ii) Separate themselves
 - iii) Become and see themselves as untouchable.
 - b) One of the reasons for the need of this separation by ministers is that some are afraid they will be discovered.
 - i) They will be seen for who they really are. Their weaknesses and imperfections will be revealed.

“Never meet your hero!” —Rick McFarland.

2. There is nothing wrong with serving and honoring a man or woman of God (1 Thess. 5:12-13, 1 Peter 5:3), but this should never be demanded.

3. Ministers need to reject and resist the temptation to be untouchable. We should not seclude ourselves from the “common” people. This is a common practice in some cultures more than others. Nonetheless, it ought not to be so. Jesus our best example was not like that. He was available and among the common people, yet He was used greater than any man. His availability among the people did not affect His anointing. People touched Him without being stopped by His bodyguards the disciples.
 - a) He certainly did not eat alone in a “green room” in the name of protecting His anointing but ate with the common people, the sinners, and the publicans.
4. Ministers need also to understand that honor must go down and be showed toward the people not just up to them. Ministers are not there to be honored, but rather to serve the people. We need to be servant-leaders.
5. Ministers should reject being magnified (esteemed highly) by the people because they are used in visible ministries such as a pulpit ministry.
 - a) John 6:14-15 *Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.*
6. Ministers need to help all believers understand that they are ministers and can be used by God mightily without being behind the pulpit or holding a microphone.
 - a) People have a tendency to think that those on the pulpit are better, more righteous, much holier and more used of God than they are or can be. This is a lie. We all have the same standing before God that is based on faith in Jesus.
7. Ministers need to learn not to think ourselves above what is written in the Word of God concerning them (1 Corinthians 4:6). We should not be puffed up above others.