



Faithful and fearing God above many

Contrary to what the world does, the church ought to do things a little differently. The world qualifies people in most cases these days based on their skin color, race, sex and so forth. It's all based on the outside appearance, not on the character and Integrity of their hearts.

Nehemiah choosing His Brother Hanani

Nehemiah 7:2 That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

He says he gave Hanani his brother charge over Jerusalem but went on and said for *"he was a faithful man and feared God above many."*

- a) Many people would have qualified him not based on merit but rather based on all these physical things. Hanani was a faithful man and feared God above many and this separated him from the crowds.
- b) This is what qualified him—not his blood relationship. If he wasn't a faithful man and fearing God above many, he could not have been trusted with such a responsibility.
 - i) Nehemiah's brother separated himself from the crowds and average people by being faithful and fearing God above many.
 - ii) We need to separate ourselves from the crowds, fearing God above many and being faithful. We need to rise above our peers not only in the physical, but more so in the spiritual.

- c) God doesn't look at people and say, "you a woman, you are black, you are skinny, therefore you qualify."
- d) Qualification is not based on our flesh or physical appearance, but the spiritual appearance.

Paul's instruction to Timothy

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

- a) As Paul writes, he was very careful to whom he commanded Timothy to commit certain things. He said they had to be:
 - i) Able to teach.
 - ii) Faithfulness (spiritual), came before the physical ability to teach. All these are tied to merit— faithfulness and the ability to teach.

Jehoshaphat choosing Jehoram....

2 Chronicles 21:1-6 *1 Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead. 2 And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. 3 And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the firstborn. 4 Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and divers also of the princes of Israel. 5 Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. 6 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD.*

- a) Notice these passages reveal that Jehoram became king because he was the **first born**. Somethings is wrong with this picture.

- i) For instance, David did not become king because He was the first born.
 - ii) Following traditions has led many to not follow the Word of God and has led to blunders unspeakable.
- b) For King Jehoram, in other words, there was no other reason or merit. He was so bad a person that his only qualification was because he was the first born. He was no good nor king material.
- i) Verses 3 to 6 further prove that. As soon as he had been made king, he killed all his brethren and then walked in the way of the kings of Israel (remember he is king over Judah having taken over after King Jehoshaphat). The way of the kings of Israel was that they were ungodly and did things that were evil in the eyes of the Lord. A good example for this is king Ahab.

You cannot just make the first-born king just because he is the first born. That is a weak reason for doing so. Putting someone in leadership should not be because of carnal or physical reasons rather spiritual reasons. If one is ungodly as were in the case of Jehoram, he should not have been made king. This is one of the biggest mistakes that Jehoshaphat made. He chose the wrong successor, again for the wrong reason. His **succession plan** was a disaster because he chose based on the wrong reasons and his son was a disaster and shame.

Putting people into leaderships should NEVER be for carnal and fleshly reasons. He is handsome, cute, eloquent, sharply dressed, very qualified and educated, older, younger, has connections, and so forth.

Choosing David.....

1 Samuel 16:6-7 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. 7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

- a) Samuel almost made huge mistake in looking on the physical to choose. He looked on Eliab and thought this was the one, yet he was not. In the past, he had anointed king Saul king over Israel, however in that case he had some physical accolades to his name, but I still believe those were not the reasons God had chosen them.

- i) 1 Samuel 9:2 *And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.*
- ii) Carnal reasons are the wrong reasons to choose a person or make decisions. God chooses differently from the way man chooses. He does not choose based on looks, Physical appearance.

Rulers helping Moses in judging the people

Exodus 18:21-22 *Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: 22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.*

- a) Jethro, Moses' father -in-law advised him to choose a certain kind that had certain things to be leaders and rulers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.
 - i) Able men
 - ii) Fear God
 - iii) Men of truth
 - iv) Hating Covetousness

Seven Deacons chosen

Acts 6:1-6 *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and*

Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- a) When choosing seven to help with the daily ministration, so that the twelve could concentrate on the Word of God rather than serve tables (This is not saying they could not but rather it was too much and they wanted to prioritize.
- b) Leaders must learn to prioritize. Everything as much as it is needed should not be taking your time. Identify people that can help you. You cannot do it all. You are not every man's cup of tea. Not everyone will like or love you even if you are doing the right thing. They hated and disliked Jesus who was much better than you with no comparison and sinless to the point of killing Him.
- c) Notice who and how the twelve disciples chose: They looked for men who were full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. This was the main reason they were chosen. Of course, there could have been other reasons, but the main reasons were not carnal, but spiritual.
 - i) Stephen (Crowned), Phillip (fond of horses) i.e. Hard worker, Prochorus (Before the dance—Strings Concordance; Leader of the Chorus—Thayer's Definition), Nicanor (Victorious/Conqueror), Timon (Valuable), Parmenas (Constant or Abiding), Nicholas (Victorious or Victor over the people).
 - ii) Full of faith

People that were trusting and depending upon the Lord. To be full of faith, you must be full of the Word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). If you are lacking in faith, you are lacking in the Word. Full of faith = full of the Word.
 - iii) Full of the Holy Ghost

Some people are filled with the Holy Ghost but are not full of Him. They are full of something else. These were people who were being led by the Holy Ghost because they were full of Him and they were influenced by Him.

Not many...

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 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.

- a) God does not choose the way man chooses. This is a crucial point. Although He is not against people being wise and having all these things, He does not choose based on how noble, mighty, or wise one is. Not many that have these accolades are called. God chooses differently. This is not saying God does not choose any of these people, but just a few.
- b) God has chosen the foolish, weak, despised things which no one would choose, and He has confounded the wise and mighty.