

Preparation Is the Key Principle to Kingdom Living: by Angela Loggin

“Yes, Lord, here I am. Send me...” You’ve answered the call, but are you ready for ministry? Can I share with you what the Holy Spirit has taught me?

First Peter 3:15 says, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asked you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (NKJV).

When God calls He provides; however, a call to ministry is also a call to preparation. Many are called, but only a few who are able to pass the test are chosen. The word "prepare" means “to make ready beforehand for a specific purpose.” Preparations must be made to fulfill the call of God. The first thing leaders must do is yield their vessels to God and cooperate with the Holy Spirit, who will guide them into truth.

In Jeremiah 18:1-4, we read, “The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord saying, Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce my words to you. Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make” (NKJV).

The test begins: Before God can use you effectively, you must separate yourself from the world, which means every work of the flesh. Trials and tribulations will begin to come into every area of your life as you are tempted by the devil. He will tempt you through your health, marriage, finance, sex life, loved ones, and family members. When God told Abraham he was going to be a father of many nations, it was a promise from Him; however, Abraham was not prepared for the test. He fell into the temptation of helping God out by creating an Ishmael. God never stopped testing Abraham; in fact, He continued to test him---even with Isaac, his only son. Now, many leaders every day are repeating this pattern, just like Abraham. They never realize that before they can start a ministry or build a church, they must prepare themselves. If they are prepared, when the storms of life begin to beat upon them, they can speak God’s promises. This is the Word of God.

Second Timothy 2:21 says, “Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work” (NKJV).

In God's house, many are there to honor God and some bring dishonor, but if anyone begins to get prepared by cleansing himself from every form of wickedness, he can be a vessel God can use to bring Him glory.

In Luke 4:1, we read, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry” (NKJV).

As the Leader, Jesus demonstrated how we should address the devil when he comes to tempt us: We

must speak the word of God. Jesus gives a good example of a prepared leader who stands with authority, reminding the devil about who he is in God. If a leader is not prepared, however, he cannot stand or defeat the devil when he comes.

Luke 4:1 stated that Jesus was also led by the Holy Spirit.

Preparation enables leaders to have a listening ear that is connected to God. In the Old Testament, the prophet Elijah was told by God to go to Zarephath after his provision had dried up. If Elijah wasn't prepared, he would never have heard the voice of God when He spoke regarding his next provision.

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