

## Leadership According to the Bible

To understand what true Biblical leadership is we must go to no other source than the Bible to get God's input on this extremely valuable topic. We dare not go to the world or man's opinion and experiences for their input.

Acts 5:29:

Peter and the *other* apostles answering said: "It is necessary to obey God rather than men."

Acts 17:11:

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether those *things* were so.

We want to be noble don't we? We care about what the Bible says on pertinent subjects. After all, the Bible does give us proper doctrine on every godly matter.

II Peter 1:3 and 4:

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The world brings lust. God through His Word gives us answers? Which do you want? The Bible's view may not always be popular but it is always accurate.

I Timothy 3:14 and 15:

I write these things to you (hoping to come to you soon,

but if I delay) that you may know how *leaders* ought to conduct themselves in the house of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

We are human beings who are born again of God's Spirit who need personal instruction for our individual relationships with God. We need instruction on how to behave in the house of God. The things of God need structure, a structure based on love not legalism.

The books of Timothy and Titus are Pastoral Epistles addressed specifically to people that are more than just curious about what is necessary to be a good minister of Christ Jesus. They are written to those who desire to become professionals in spiritual matters, professionals in the things of God. It is one ordained man of God writing to another ordained man of God regarding the conduct of the things pertaining to the Church of God.

I Timothy 3:1:

The Word is faithful. If anyone aspires to a position of overseer, he desires a good work. This is a good thing. However, there is much more to being an overseer than just desiring the

position. With the position comes great responsibility. The Bible teaches characteristics, examples, and principles that illustrate to an individual how to operate as a good minister of Christ Jesus, as a leader of a fellowship of believers.

I Timothy 4:6:

By laying these *things* before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished by the words of the [*right way of*] believing and of the good teaching [*what was taught*], which you have closely followed.

We need to understand what a good minister of Christ Jesus is for those who desire to pay the price. We need to understand what a good minister of Christ Jesus is, for those who follow leaders, that they might be able to recognize godly leadership so as to follow it, and ungodly leadership so as not to follow it.

God made it available for anyone who wants to operate as a good minister to know the principles needed to be one. These godly principles are for those who operate as coordinators or leaders of a fellowship of believers. Coordinating a fellowship of believers is a particularly dignified activity. It is much simpler to be a professional in any other area of life, or profession, or career, than to be a professional in spiritual matters. Being a professional in the things of God is a lot more demanding than all the demands of all other known professions. It is not a hobby. Overseeing a fellowship is not a part-time activity. Being a professional in the things of God is a lifestyle.

A good minister of Christ Jesus puts those in the household of God in remembrance of the great truths recorded in the Bible. He sets forth the greatness of God's Word for consideration, reminding them that God's Word has the answer for every situation in life. He shows the difference between the genuine and the counterfeit. He doesn't decide for others. He only sets forth for their consideration God's Word and they are responsible for their own choices. It's easier to get people to do what you want them to do than it is to get people to want to do God's Will by their own free will.

I Timothy 4:6:

By laying these *things* before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished by the words of the [*right way of*] believing and of the good teaching [*what was taught*], which you have closely followed.

A good minister of Christ Jesus puts the brethren into remembrance by continually teaching what God's Word has to say. He holds forth the integrity and accuracy of God's Word at all costs and is a leader in getting others to make the decision for Christ, for God's Word, and to being faithful.

Verse 7:

Avoid profane and old-woman myths, and exercise yourself unto godliness,

Avoid those who want to waste your time by making up mythical stories to rob you of your time and energy and efforts that are needed for you to exercise yourself unto godliness. Training is needed to develop godliness, that true, vital, spiritual, relationship with God. If we are going to be professionals for God, and professionals in spiritual matters, we must develop a true, vital, spiritual, relationship with God. Do your spiritual exercises. They will be more profitable in the long run.

Verse 8:

for bodily exercise profits for a little, but godliness is profitable for all *things*, having the promise [*what was promised*] of present life and of that which is to come.

If you are called, you have to be trained. Bodily exercise profits for a short time, during a person's useful active life. A true, vital, spiritual, relationship with God is profitable now and has a long term profit also. Be the first one up, praying to God, reading His Word, speaking in tongues.

The word promise is a legal term for a summons, a commitment to give or do something. God is legally summoned by His own Word to fulfill it when we believe.

Verse 9:

The Word is faithful and worthy of all acceptance.

God's Word is faithful, trustworthy, but not everyone will accept it. Many pick and chose what they want to believe in God's Word. However, it is faithful and deserves to be accepted in its entirety. God does not violate man's free will to reject it.

Verse 10:

In fact, we labor hard and contend [are insulted] for this, because we have set our hope in the living God, Who is the Savior of all people, especially of the faithful [*the believing ones*].

Those that believe and love will suffer reproach, mental pressure. With physical exercise comes some pain; you discover "new muscles" that you didn't know you had. There's no exercise or training without some quota of pain. There's no service as a coordinator without a quota of mental pressure. The Word of God does not guarantee us a life free of mental pressure.

II Timothy 3:12:

All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

I Peter 4:14:

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye ...

Once it's over and you have withstood it, you'll have the joy of having stood fast knowing eternal rewards were gained. Therefore, a minister of Christ Jesus, or one who functions as a coordinator, must withstand mental pressure, anguish, and affliction because he trusts in the living God.

I Timothy 4:11:

Charge and teach these *things*.

This is an exhortation from God, teach God's Word and charge people to do it. Why?

Ezekiel 33:1-5:

Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

The watchman, the faithful servant of God, the good minister of Christ Jesus will warn the people of incoming dangers, especially wrong doctrine or practical error. If he warns the people, because of free will, he is clean, not guilty of their disregarding the error.

Verses 6-9:

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

When I say unto the wicked, O wicked *man*, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

If the watchman recognizes the error coming and does nothing, he is guilty, held responsible for his inactions. Those who have ears to hear, better hearken to what God says in His Word. That is why some of us take our responsibilities before God extremely seriously.

Matthew 18:1-6:

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the

kingdom of heaven.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Anyone in a leadership role within the Church had better take it seriously. The Apostle Paul did.

Acts 20:26-35:

Wherefore I testify to you this day that I am clean from the blood of all,

For I did not hold back from reporting all the deliberation of God to you.

Give close attention to yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Church of God, which he acquired with the blood of his own.

I know that after my departure, oppressive wolves will enter in among you not sparing the flock,

and from among you yourselves, men will rise up speaking distorted *things* to draw the disciples away *to follow* after themselves.

Wherefore, watch, remembering that night and day for three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

So now I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to edify and to give you the inheritance with all those who are sanctified.

I sought after no man's silver, or gold, or clothing.

You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my needs, and to *the needs of* those who were with me.

In all *things*, I showed you that it is necessary by laboring in this manner to help those who are weak. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus that he himself said, "It is more blessed [*happy*] to give than to receive."

To be a good minister of Christ Jesus requires understanding and acting on giving and receiving. How can a person be a good minister if there is no giving? That is the very heart of service! Being called of God is to service the call, no matter how long, how inconvenient, or what you have to do. Pray with them, minister to them, bleed out your hearts, just help them if they let you.

Paul kept back nothing that was profitable to them. He declared to them all of the counsel of God. He taught them sound doctrine, the right way of believing, the truths concerning the hope

of Christ's return, and how to operate manifestations properly. These are all characteristics of a good minister, a faithful leader.

II Timothy 3:16:

All scripture *is* God-breathed, and **profitable** for teaching [*what was taught*], for reproof, for correction, for the instruction that is in justness.

I Corinthians 12:7:

However, the manifestation of the spirit is given to each person for **profit**.

A good minister knows that God's Word is profitable. He knows that the nine manifestations of holy spirit were given by God for profit. He knows how to utilize both for godly profit. He is not to be only one sided, he understands the balance of God's written Word and the power of God. The watchfulness of a good minister is to be constantly aware of the doctrine that is being taught so as to correct any error that might creep in. The Word of God comes first to a good minister of Christ Jesus, not the people or the business. Here are some examples of what to watch for.

II Corinthians 11:3:

However, I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your thinking processes might be corrupted from the integrity and the purity that *is* in Christ.

Galatians 6:1:

Brothers, even if a person is overtaken by some trespass, *then* you *who are* spiritual, restore such *a person* in a spirit of meekness, keeping a watchful eye on yourself so that you also are not tempted.

Galatians 5:9:

A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.

Leaven is an ingredient used in making bread to rise and which gives it flavor and a light texture. The implied comparison here is between the manner in which leaven permeates the dough and the manner in which the persuasion from the wrong source permeates among the believers.

Galatians 4:16:

Have I therefore become your enemy by speaking the truth to you?

Everyone is needed and everyone is special in the Body of Christ. We all have a specific function or ministry in the family of God. When each member of the Body functions with the greatest of their God-given ability, each person's spiritual life will be totally full. Then the Church will operate with complete perfection.

I Corinthians 12:27 and 28:

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members

and *those* whom God has set some in the church: first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers; then miracles, then gifts of healings, assistance, guidance, kinds of tongues.

Every person in the Body of Christ has the same rewards available whether they serve as an apostle, prophet, teacher or in assistance and guidance [helps or governments]. We all have a specific function in the Body and we are to perform it with all our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Whatever your assignment in the Body is, do it. The Body of Christ is perfected as each individual carries out their part.

Romans 12:4 and 5:

Even as we have many members in one *physical* body and *as* all members do not have the same function,

so we, the many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another,

For a deeper understanding of verses 6-8, what follows is an amplified version.

You, then, in the Church, having *charismata*, spiritual abilities and functions, differing according to the divine favor or friendly willingness of God that is given you, if it be a ministry of prophecy, keep busy manifesting by prophesying according to the proportion of your believing.

Or if you have another type of ministry, get busy ministering; or if your ministry is teaching, get busy teaching; or if you have an exhortation ministry, get busy exhorting.

He that giveth forth in any ministry in the Church let him do it with simplicity; he that has a ruling ministry, let him do it with diligence; and he that has a ministry making him very adept in mercy, let him do it with cheerfulness.

From this context, which gives the believer specific instructions regarding their functions in the Church, let us consider Romans 13.

Romans 13:1:

Let every soul be in subjection to the excelling authorities. In fact, there is no *real* authority except from God, and those that exist have been appointed by God.

The higher powers or excelling authorities are those who are operating *charismata*, the spiritual abilities and assignments, which God has set in the Church to help the Body function properly.

Verse 2 and 3:

Therefore, those who oppose that authority, resist the disposition [*the arrangement*] of God, and those who resist *it* will receive judgment against themselves.

Moreover, these leaders are not a *source of* fear to the good work but to the evil work. Do you want to not be afraid of the authority? *Then* do that *which is* good, and you will have praise from the same.

The rulers in the Church are instituted to encourage good works and to avoid evil. The believers should reverence those exercising this authority. Believers should do those things which are good and thus receive praise from the rulers. They should work with God's appointed ministers, not

against them, trying to do their own thing in direct opposition to how God set the Church up.

Verse 4:

Certainly a minister of God is for your good. However, if you do that *which is evil*, then be afraid, for he does not wear the sword without reason. Certainly a minister of God is an avenger for wrath to him who practices that *which is evil*.

What sword does a man of God carry? The Word of God rightly divided. He executes God's justice by reading the evildoer the Word and teaching it to him.

Verses 5-7:

Wherefore *it is* necessary to be subjected not only because of the wrath but also because of the conscience.

For this reason, pay tribute also, for they are servants of God giving persistent attention to this same *thing*.

Render to all what is owed *to them*: the tribute to whom the tribute *is owed*; the custom to whom the custom *is owed*; the fear [*reverence*] to whom the fear [*reverence*] *is owed*; the honor to whom the honor *is owed*.

I Corinthians 9:13 and 14:

Do you not know that they who work *in the things* of the Temple eat *of the things* of the Temple, *and* they who attend to the altar share together *of the things* of the altar?

Even so the Lord has prescribed that they who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

For more information and a clearer understanding read the whole chapter of I Corinthians 9.

Romans 13:8:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

From the context make sure you are doing what it says here, paying the respect due those who labor in the Gospel so that you do not owe them anything but to continue to walk in love toward them and everyone. Believers should have no debt to their leaders in the Body of Christ, for they are the excellent authorities, the higher powers, being ordained of God to keep order in the Church for the benefit of the entire Body, not for their personal gain or ego. Titus lists the qualities of a spiritual leader.

Titus 1:5:

I left you in Crete for this reason, that you should set in order the *things* that were deficient and *that* you should appoint elders in every city, as I prescribed to you:

Acts 14:23:

*As they passed through these cities*, they selected elders for them in each church and

prayed with fasting, *and then* they commended them to the lord in whom they had believed.

The word elder describes someone who is older in experience, with more exposure to the truth of God's Word. Being appointed an elder has little to do with age, but rather much to do with one's qualities as a believer. The term elder emphasizes the dignity of the position while bishop emphasizes the function of the office.

These are the attributes Titus is supposed to see before he decides on who should be an overseer.

Verses 6 and 7:

if someone is unimpeachable, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not under an accusation of debauchery or rebellion.

Moreover, an overseer must be unimpeachable as an administrator of God, not presumptuous, not quick-tempered, not a drunkard, not a pugnacious bully, not avaricious,

An overseer is not self-willed, determined to do it his way. He cannot have a buildup of emotion which is allowed to fester to the point of seeking revenge. As a steward of the things of God he is not to be greedy for dishonorable gain.

Verse 8:

but hospitable, one who loves goodness, sober minded, just, devout, exercising self-control,

He is to be sane, discreet, knowing how to curb his desires and impulses, self-controlled. He is to be fair, equitable, a lover of what is good.

Verse 9:

holding on firmly to the faithful Word in accordance with the doctrine [*what was taught*] so that he may be able to exhort with healthy teaching and to reprove those who contradict *it*.

Most of all he is to hold firm on God's Word and let no one talk him out of it. God's faithful Word must be held fast and then presented with boldness and clarity in order to reprove, convict, refute, those who are contradicting it. A leader can both encourage people and invalidate contradictors with sound doctrine.

Verses 10 and 11

As a matter of fact, there are many rebellious *people who* discuss nonsense and *who are* deceivers, especially those from the circumcision [*the legalist*].

They ought to be muzzled. They overthrow whole houses, teaching things they ought not for shameful gain.

These rebellious and unruly deceivers cause problems for whole households, they destroy families with error. They do it for dishonorable gain, for their own ego. An overseer must be able to muzzle such subverters.

Paul had left Titus on the island of Crete to set things in order and to appoint elders as overseers. Some people there were teaching things that were contrary to the Word of God that Paul had taught, and there were standards for those who were to be appointed as overseers. They were, for example, to hold on firmly to the faithful Word in order to exhort others with healthy teaching and to reprove those who spoke against it.

I Timothy 3:1:

The Word is faithful. If anyone aspires to a position of overseer, he desires a good work.

The office here of an overseer, or a bishop [episkopē] has a Biblical concept of visitation and oversight by one in a position to oversee others.

Verses 2 and 3:

It is necessary, then, for the overseer to be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober minded, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching,

not a drunkard, not a pugnacious bully but forbearing, disinclined to quarreling, not avaricious,

The word patient, translated as temperate means gentle, forbearing, yielding, being actively considerate, waiving just and legal redress, and tempering strict justice with gentle equity, not insisting on just rights.

Verses 4-8:

one who manages his own house well having his children in subjection with all dignity

(but if someone does not know how to manage his own house, then how will he take care of the church of God?),

not a novice lest being puffed up with pride he would fall into the same judgment *as* the slandering devil.

He must also have a good witness from those outside lest he fall into the insult and the trap of the slandering devil.

Likewise, *it is necessary for* ministers *to be* dignified (not using double talk, not indulging in much wine, not avaricious),

Ministers, deacon, servant, attendant, *diakonos* is one who serves in some capacity; although the specifics of their service is not brought out in this record.

Verse 9 and 10:

holding the mystery of the [*right way of*] believing in a clean conscience.

Let these *ministers* also be proved first, *and* then, when they are unimpeachable, let them minister.

They have to have served in some capacity first proving that they can be trusted before they get more responsibility.

Verses 11-13:

Likewise, *it is necessary for their wives to be dignified*, not slandering devils, but temperate, faithful in all *things*.

Let the ministers be husbands of one wife, managing *their* children and their own houses well.

Moreover, those who minister well do acquire for themselves a good standing and great boldness in believing, which is in Christ Jesus.

Gift ministries are not given to a person for their own benefit, but rather, they are gifts to the Church. God desires that the greatest number of people can receive gift ministries, not only for their own benefit but for the Church's benefit. As men and women grow, they operate these principles.

Ephesians 4:8, 11-13:

Wherefore he says: Psalm 68:18: **“When he ascended on high, he took captive those who captivate, he gave gifts to people,”**

and he gave the apostles and the prophets and the gospel messengers [evangelists] and the shepherds [pastors] and teachers.

*He gave them* for the complete equipping of the holy [*sanctified*] *ones*, for the work of the ministry [*service*], for the edifying of the body of Christ

until we all reach the unity of the [*right way of*] believing, and of the [*right*] knowledge of the Son of God, *that is*, a mature man, the measure of the full-grown Christ.

A good minister of Christ Jesus, a successful leader needs to be a professional in believing, and he needs to be a professional in manifesting the love of God with the additional requirement of having an attitude of thankfulness. Anyone who gets to do anything for God must believe, must love, and must be thankful. And the recipients should be thankful for their leaders.

We must have an attitude of gratitude to God to be able to serve in any capacity or function. With the rudimentary elements, believing, love, and thankfulness, we can counteract fatigue because without an attitude of gratitude, there is literally no life. To live, we must be thankful. Being thankful is not optional equipment for any leader. It's a requirement. Other things in life may be optional, but a coordinator must have an attitude of gratitude. This takes mental effort on their part.

Colossians 3:15:

and let the peace of God preside in your hearts, unto which you were also called in one body, and be thankful.

Anyone who wants to lead God's people must train to love God, must train to believe God, must train to serve God, must train to study His Word and must train to serve others. You can't become a good minister of Christ Jesus or a successful leader if you are fatigued. Believing and love are two things that eliminate fatigue along with the hope of the return of Christ. Just like athletes in any sport train to increase their tolerance to fatigue, the Christian believer must likewise train his believing and his love to increase his performance.

When fatigue starts and is not remedied in a timely manner, the leader starts to suffer unbelief, to leave the Word of God for later when they're more rested or have more time. One cannot "take two weeks off and think about it and come back stronger" or utilize some other excuse. Excuses do not eradicate fatigue. The hope of the return of Christ eliminates fatigue; believing God's Word; studying God's Word. These eliminate fatigue. You will be rewarded for all eternity for your godly efforts. That eternal paycheck is just that, for all of eternity. So just do it, keep going.

II Corinthians 5:10:

Moreover, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each *one* may receive in return for the *things* that he did while in the body, whether good or bad.

With fatigue the five senses start to take precedence, to prevail over the written revelation of God's Word. Then we have problems, because if we are going to be spiritual professionals in the things of God, there is no room for the five senses when they contradict the integrity of God's Word.

Romans 10:17:

So the [*the right way of*] believing *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

The way to increase believing therefore, is hearing more of the Word of God. If you hear other things instead of God's Word, believing doesn't increase; and when there is no vigorous strong believing, resistance to fatigue goes down. And when there's fatigue, there's itching ears, people telling stories, gossiping, making unwarranted accusations.

Galatians 5:6:

for in Jesus Christ, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any force, but believing energized by love.

Active believing is energized by love. So increasing love increases believing. These two work tools, believing, the genetics of Christianity, and love, the badge of Christianity, are vital for godliness. We increase believing by increasing the Word of God that we hear and by increasing the love we love with. Then we can increase our resistance to fatigue. Believing and love are foundational.

I Timothy 4:1-3:

Now the Spirit says explicitly that in latter times some will withdraw from the [*the right way of*] believing, giving heed to deceiving spirits and teachings of devils,

with the hypocrisy of liars being branded in their own consciences,

forbidding *people* to marry, *and commanding people* to abstain from foods that God created for partaking with thanksgiving by those *who are* faithful [*believing*] and who know [*acknowledge*] the truth.

Some shall depart from the right way of believing because they are in a serious state of neglect. They get tired and depart. Fatigue overcomes them. Sometimes, you are so fatigued from things that happen in life that you just want to quit. Many men of God that preceded us felt the same.

Jonah. Gideon. Samson. Elijah. He was sitting under a juniper tree waiting to die. Elijah was fatigued, but God very tenderly and lovingly dealt with him. God told him he was not alone, that there were 7000 more still standing that loved God.

Many times a leader gets fatigued and thinks everyone else is gone and he's the only one left standing. Not true. There are many others that love God. Once Elijah was comforted, and his level of believing and love increased, he immediately went out and carried out what God wanted him to do. He ordained Elisha, who did twice the miracles that Elijah did. It just took God comforting him.

When we lead a fellowship of believers, we can't allow ourselves to get run down. We must first have our own private session with God so that we're energized. You never know when another Elijah, Paul, Timothy, will show up at your fellowship. We sure need them. We can't afford to get so fatigued that we depart from the right way of believing the Word of God. We must stay energized. We need to increase our believing and love. We have to train to believe. These are important spiritual tools.

Let us make our years together fruitful. We not only have the joy of believing and serving together now, but the joyful anticipation of enjoying the rewards throughout all eternity together.

Our work tools are believing and love, always keeping the return of our Lord Jesus Christ in plain sight. Those who believe and love will be able to withstand fatigue. We must withstand reproach. It's not easy. It requires effort and diligence. We must train to withstand fatigue knowing that every time we believe God's Word, God is summoned to fulfill His Word; summoned by our believing.

II Timothy 2:1-7:

Therefore, my dear child, be strong in the grace that *is* in Christ Jesus,

and that which you have heard from me among many witnesses deposit the same with faithful people who will be competent to teach others also.

Share with *me* in suffering hardships as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

No one serving as a soldier entangles himself in the affairs of life so that he may please him who enlisted *him* as a soldier.

Likewise, if anyone contends in athletic games, he is not crowned unless he contends

lawfully in the athletic games.

The farmer who labors hard ought *to be* the first to partake of the fruits *of harvest*.

Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all *things*.

God will fulfill His Word. We must learn to develop an attitude of gratitude for every minute we can spend in dynamic fellowship with the Father. That's the calling we have been called to. Take the time necessary to train to become a professional in the things of God. It will be worth it for all eternity.

Romans 10:11:

Hence, the Scripture says, Isaiah 28:16: **“Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame [by disappointed expectations].”**

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