

IVORY COAST PASTORS CONFERENCE

OVERCOMING THE WOES OF A PASTOR

Jeremiah 17:16 *As for me, I have not hastened from being a pastor to follow Thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; Thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was right before Thee.*

IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE A PASTOR UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE LORD.

***It is like a man driving a car by himself. He is alone in the car. He takes risks and passes cars. He thinks if the worst happens and he gets into a wreck, he alone will be hurt. But, if he has a car filled with his wife and children, he is responsible for more than himself. He will not take risks and be disobedient to the driving laws. Why? He has others he is responsible for. As pastors, we have more than our own lives to think about when we sit in the leadership and steering seat of the church. We must obey God's laws, because we are responsible for more than ourselves.

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

WOE #1---FRUSTRATION WITH THE CONGREGATION.

THE FEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT THE MESSAGE OF GOD. JONAH.

THEY DON'T PAY ATTENTION. HAVE EARS BUT DO NOT HEAR. LAST DAYS. 2

Timothy 4:3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

THEY REFUSE TO BELIEVE ALL YOU SAY. **Jeremiah 7:27** *Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.*

THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT ME ENOUGH TO PROVIDE A GOOD INCOME. THEY HAVE TO BE TAUGHT WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF THEM. BUT DON'T DWELL ON IT. 1

Corinthians 9:9 *For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?*

1 Timothy 5:18 *For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*

THEY WON'T GO OUT TO WIN SOULS.

THEY ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING WHAT I WANT TO DO.

WOE #2--WRONG EXPECTATIONS. DISAPPOINTMENT WITH YOUR MINISTRY.

***Many start out with the expectations that they will be the nation's next great preacher or evangelist.

THE DANGER OF MEASURING YOUR CHURCH WITH ANOTHER ONE. THE DESIRE

TO HAVE A BIGGER AND WEALTHIER CHURCH CAN BE DEVASTATING TO YOUR MINISTRY. **Ezekiel 34:8** *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;*

--IT DISTRACTS YOU FROM THE WORK. YOUR MIND IS ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS. THAT IS COVETING. THE MAN WITH ONE TALENT LOOKED AT THE OTHERS AND WAS JEALOUS. SO, HE HID HIS OWN TALENT IN THE GROUND.

OPPOSING OTHERS WHO SAY THAT YOU NEED TO BECOME LIKE THEM.

MAKING UP VISIONS AND DREAMS WHEN THE VISION OF GOD IS ETERNAL AND BETTER.

WOE #3--DEALING WITH SICKNESS AND INJURY.

MAKE SURE THAT WHAT HAS COME UPON YOU IS NOT A JUDGMENT FROM GOD.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU HANDLE IT IN A GODLY MANNER, JUST AS JOB DID.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE SUBMITTING TO GOD, AND SEE THE PROBLEM AS A TEACHING LESSON FROM THE LORD. AS THE APOSTLE PAUL DID. **2 Corinthians 12:7** *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

WOE #4--THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

THE ADDITIONAL BURDEN UPON YOUR FAMILY.

THE DISCOURAGEMENT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO MINISTER. OVERCOME IT THROUGH PRAYER AND CALLING OTHERS TO HELP.

THE TESTIMONY OF PERSISTENCE. GET THROUGH THE ORDEAL AND LET PEOPLE SEE THAT YOU DO IT WITH OVERCOMING POWER AND FOCUS.

WOE #5--CRITICISM AND CONDEMNATION FROM OTHERS.

ALWAYS EXPECT THE DEVIL TO OPPOSE THE THINGS OF GOD. **2 Timothy 3:12** *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

DON'T BE LIKE SOME PREACHERS WHO ARE LIKE THE SEED THAT PRODUCES NO ETERNAL FRUIT. MAYBE THEY PRODUCE MONEY, BUT THEY DON'T BRING GENUINE SALVATION TO THE PEOPLE. **Mark 4:17** *And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

WOE #6--THE LOSS OF VISION, ZEAL, AND POWER.

1 Kings 19:4 *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

5 *And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.*

6 *And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.*

7 *And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.*

WE HAVE A CHOICE. WE CAN GIVE UP, OR REFUSE TO FAINT WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S PLAN. **Galatians 6:9** *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

THE LACK OF FAITH IS A SIN. **Romans 14:23** *And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

WOE#7--THE LACK OF GOOD HELP

MANY PASTORS HAVE WONDERFUL SPIRIT-FILLED WOMEN WHO HELP THEM IN THEIR GOD-CALLED WORK. HAVING A GODLY WIFE IS A TREMENDOUS ASSET.

WOMEN--UNDERSTAND THE BURDEN OF A TRUE MAN OF GOD-- IF YOUR HUSBAND IS SUCH, LEARN FROM HIM.

IF HE DOESN'T PRAY ENOUGH....PRAY FOR HIM AND WITH HIM.

IF HE NEEDS TO BE CHEERED, HELP HIM. YOUR CALLING IS TO HELP YOUR HUSBAND TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S ASSIGNMENT FOR HIM.

WIVES, YOU ARE CALLED BY GOD TO BE HELPERS FOR YOUR HUSBANDS. SOME PASTORS WIVES THINK THEY HAVE OTHER PURPOSES. BUT, THAT IS NOT WHY GOD CREATED WOMEN. THEY WERE CREATED TO HELP THEIR HUSBANDS ACCOMPLISH THE WORK WHICH GOD HAS ASSIGNED TO THEM. THIS IS BIBLICAL !

Genesis 2:18 *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

Genesis 2:20 *And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

YOU ARE NOT TO BE THE PASTOR OF THE CHURCH. GOD HAS A PROGRAM, AND WE ENDED TO FOLLOW IT.

BEWARE OF CHURCHES AND SO-CALLED APOSTLES WHO TEACH CONTARY TO THE BIBLE. THEY WILL HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES. BUT, IF YOU FOLLOW THEIR TEACHINGS, YOU WILL ALSO HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR NOT FOLLOWING THEM INSTEAD OF GOD'S WORD.

IF YOU ARE NOT LIVING A GOOD EXAMPLE, AND SHOWING LOVE FOR GOD AND A ZEAL FOR SOULS, HOW CAN YOUR HUSBAND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU ? YOU

MUST ESTABLISH YOURSELF AS SOMEONE WHO TRULY CAN HELP.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR SEVERAL YEARS, YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO CALM AND COMFORT YOUR HUSBAND. WHEN YOU SEE HIM UNDER STRESS, THEN IS THE TIME TO TAKE YOUR WONDERFUL SKILLS AND TRY TO RELAX HIM.

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO GIVE YOUR HUSBAND A SERMON. WHEN HE FEELS LIKE QUITTING. REMIND HIM OF HIS CALLING. REMIND HIM THAT JESUS DID SO MUCH FOR US THAT WE COULD NEVER REPAY HIM, BUT WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO BRING GLORY TO THE LORD.

IF YOUR HUSBAND CONFIDES THINGS TO YOU ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH SO YOU CAN HELP HIM PRAY--BUT YOU TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT IT, HOW CAN YOU HELP HIM ANY MORE ? HE WON'T TRUST YOU. HE CAN'T. YOU MUST BE SILENT ABOUT MATTERS OF THE CHURCH. YOU CAN TALK ABOUT JESUS AND THINGS THAT WILL EXALT HIM, BUT PRIVATE ISSUES YOU SHOULD NEVER SHARE. THAT ISN'T HELPING, THAT IS HURTING.

GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO HELPING YOUR HUSBAND. AS IN ALL THINGS, GOD MUST COME FIRST. AND THEN YOUR HUSBAND. AND AFTER THAT COME YOUR CHILDREN. MANY WIVES OF PASTORS HAVE Poured OUT THEIR ATTENTION MORE UPON THE CHILDREN THAN THEIR HUSBAND. REMEMBER THAT YOU MADE A COMMITMENT TO HIM BEFORE THE CHILDREN WERE BORN. YOUR COMMITMENT TO HIS SUCCESS IS IMPORTANT TO THE LORD.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR HUSBAND, TRAIN UP YOUR CHILDREN TO BE SOUL-WINNERS. THEY CAN BRING THEIR FRIENDS TO CHURCH MORE OFTEN THAN YOU CAN. TEACH THEM TO CARE ABOUT OTHERS, AND BRING PEOPLE TO THE LORD AND TO THE CHURCH.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN MANNERS. YOUR CHILDREN ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LORD, BUT ALSO OF YOUR HUSBAND AND YOU. THEY SHOULD BE THE BEST MANNERED, POLITE, AND RESPECTFUL CHILDREN IN THE WHOLE TOWN.

BE A PERSON WHO PUTS HER ALL INTO BEING THE IMPORTANT HELP GOD CHOSE YOU TO BE. **Colossians 3:23** *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

THE BIGGEST DISCOURAGEMENT IN A PASTORS LIFE CAN BE HIS WIFE. IF SHE IS ALWAYS COMPLAINING OR IS ALWAYS SAD AND DEPRESSED, SHE WILL USUALLY RUIN A PASTOR'S MINISTRY.

BUT, IF SHE IS FAITHFUL AND JOYFUL IN ALL SHE DOES, SHE CAN BE THE GREATEST ASSET THAT A PASTOR HAS AFTER THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WHICH ONE WILL YOU BE ?