

The Man of God

Introduction:

The usual titles for a minister of God in **Eph.4:11** are for identification of specific ministries. God named them for identifying the man's work God wants to do through the man. Some may not be a prophet or apostle but God wants them to teach & pastor. Some God wants to evangelize. The body of Christ has many teachers (**1 Cor.4:15**), many pastors (**at least one per congregation**), not so many evangelists (very difficult ministry), and very few bishops, prophets and apostles. Among these are a special group God calls '**the man of God**'. Any person who would dare call himself one proves that he is not one – only God can call a man this & His people will know by evidence & results. Don't ask someone if they consider themselves a man of God. Once God shows you – you should feel greater trust that God will talk to you & do things for you through faith in God by way of the man's ministry. **Acts 5:15** it is not wrong to trust people. We can trust the 'man of God' when we know he is one. Protect ourselves from pride at all times.

Not all men holding one of these other titles were put there by God. Many men interfere with God's plan. **Deut.18:20-22** God shows that He cares about His people knowing who is a minister & who isn't. He expected some to be false. **Matt.7:15; 24:11; 2Pet.2:1; 1Jn.4:1**. God is not worried. He is still in charge by controlling all power **Rom.13:1** & these false ministers cannot do any harm to God's plan **2 Cor.13:8** **For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth**. So don't ever fear or be confused or frustrated. God is in charge. As long as there are sincere people about holiness & obedience God will make a way. Through the process of Christian growth don't get bitter or upset, allowing past memories to control you. Mind your own business. Remember to trust God & His people. Trust does not mean to give anyone control over you; you are responsible for your self. Trust is a wonderful secure feeling of being able to count on others for spiritual support, love, friendship, truth, etc. Never give away your freewill to anyone but Jesus. The devil has preachers who will rob you of your free will in error to attack your trust in people to get to your trust in God. **Prov.29:15** Pray for God to increase your trust in Him even through others. **Psa.91:11** do we trust the angels God gave us? We trust that God knows what He is doing in the matter.

God Calls & Prepares Every Minister the Same Way:

Many different events & conditions may exist but God still follows the same stages of preparation for us.

1Kings 13:1-26 the young 'man of God' disobeys by yielding to a lying, older prophet. A weakness was found when He trusted the elder & changed his trust in God's word to return the right way – it got him killed.

There is a process God follows with men. The 1st thing to remember is that God is searching for people who will be faithful, sacrificial, & obedient to let God work through them. All

ministries must be 'by God's Spirit'. **Zech.4:6.** This is the way God gets all the glory for everything done by His chosen minister. **Deut.33:1** Moses, the Man of God, prepared in the desert, where God knocked everything out of him. **Acts 7:22 - Ex.4:10;**

God calls a person to be a Christian 1st. The minister may not receive the call until right before He starts or he may know he is called at an early stage of life long before it happens (ie. Samuel, David). Here is the process or stages that make someone a man of God. No previous skill, education, or talent is necessary. The only prerequisite is being full of the Holy Ghost, totally consecrated to God, with a burden for others. He will equip His chosen:

Step #1 As a Christian God begins to reveal & point out certain events or experiences a person has specific to the ministry – we begin to notice things others don't, about spiritual authority over devils, revelations about scripture, lots of good things & some not so good. God wants to trust us with secrets & we are tested. Don't blab everything you see or hear. You may have no idea what it means yet. God cannot trust us with secrets if we have to share them all the time – control the tongue. We are tested on secrets.

Step#2 As the interest grows in the ministry, the devil & flesh see the carnal benefits being a preacher; recognition, leadership over others, money, sitting in high places. God tests us to see if all we care about are carnal benefits. **Mt.23:5-10; Mk.12:38-39.**

Step#3 Your pastor will start asking you to help with some things. God wants a willing heart & loves those who volunteer to help. As you help with church learn about serving, doing & contributing for others to enjoy church. Don't let leadership go to your head.

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. This is the right attitude to show God your love for church. (a peaceful, caring, giving spirit). **1 Tim.5:21** prefer others before your self. We are tested in a leadership role – God watches our pride.

Step#4 God will begin to show you things about ministers – hear one testify about the hardships of their past etc. You will now become acquainted with the difficult, hard things. Loneliness, persecution, lies against a minister, unpleasant things (special extra prayer & fasts to deal with the work). Things your flesh won't like & it is purposefully designed to scare you or disgust you to 'not want the ministry'. God will do everything to knock it out of you. His goal is to lead you to 'the death of any idea about being a preacher'. You will say, "I don't want it." **2Cor.6:3-10; 11:23-30** (we must die daily **1Cor.15:31**).

Step#5 After a person dies to the call into the ministry, then God wants to rebuild all our wrong ideas & start teaching & preparing us for the real thing. The lessons begin with what

we already know about our own ministers we have heard preach & teach to us, our pastor, & of course the scripture teaches us many things about the men God tried to trust – good & bad & ugly. Your best place may be helping another minister but God will still have to see you die & remake you over again. We must die to ‘all things’ – carnal pleasure, comfort, money (have faith in God), & we will be tested on all things. The further you go & deeper you reach in God, the less you will care about this life & the things in it. True love of God & His word is displayed in your life as you learn.

Step#6 Ministry responsibilities (with your pastor) will be given to you & you will be watched closely by God & tested on many things but the 1st most important test is – when God uses you – **did you give Him all the praise & glory?** This is seen in 2 places:

- **Publicly before others** – after God uses you, you openly or publicly state that God did it, to God be the glory, so everyone who sees you & esp. those who compliment you, know that you give all glory to God.
- **Privately in your heart.** Where no one else but God can see, have you transferred all glory & praise to God? Do it quickly, & thoroughly. Do not repeat or talk about ways He uses you to boast – your gift will make room for itself - sometimes in teaching & preaching we use past experiences as a testimony or reference, but give God glory as you do this too. Remember the goal for God is to use us & we want Him to use us over & over again.

Step#7 Ministry responsibilities with no one else over you but God. God wants you prepared to handle all things necessary for the work you will be asked to do. Planning, preparing, organizing, and doing a lot of work is just the natural stuff. You will have to fight devils, feelings, stand all alone with no one agreeing with you, (can you take it?), hearing things said about you, people misjudging you for envy & jealousy, (want God to use you? You have to accept the consequences of being used). Spiritual attacks will include physical attacks to your health & you have to possess a high pain threshold to continue working while suffering. In all this you will have to learn about people & love even the most unlovable ones. The ministry is the dirtiest, hardest job that no one else would ever want if they knew. Yet, the glory & honour ‘He’ gives you, the joy & love you experience, are all far above what ever you could experience anywhere else. There is fun & war & you always win. 😊

Now, anybody you meet who calls themselves some ministerial title, you should be able to understand them better. If they exhibit a behaviour or conversation that seems like they have never died & let God make them, it will show very easily too. The carnal man will be revealed. The true ‘Man of God’ is made, trained & prepared by God Himself after a complete death.

2Kings 1:9-17 Elijah, the prophet of fire, the man of God. **18:22** alone against 450 – yet God came for Elijah **19:1-3** he showed his humanity when he feared Jezebel's threats (he didn't have the Holy Ghost).

Conclusion:

We desire fellowship with men of God. People we trust in hearing from the throne, accurately preaching/teaching what we need today to face our trials. Characteristics expected in them: **Dan.10:11,19; Mark 9:7; John 19:26** beloved. **Acts 5:15; 8:13; 19:11** demonstration of the power of His Spirit; **1 Cor.12:1** revelations from the Lord; **Matt.11:11** Jesus testifies that John B. is the greatest in OT prophets. John did no miracles of healing or demonstration of the power of God in any way. Yet God said he is greater than Moses, Elijah & Elias. Is God being carnal comparing them? Of course not but if a man compared them we would call it carnal. It is not wrong to observe that one is more reliable or more entertaining, or a better teacher or preacher than another – just don't let it make you carnal. It is not wrong to put our trust in a person. Not everyone will let you down. Do we make mistakes? Of course we do. But don't lose your trust. You'll find peace & love trusting others. That is the reason God said for the elders to use oil & laying on of hands to pray for others. God wants us to trust our brother.

Let God show you who is a man of God, loved & given special spiritual attention for our benefit. This study will also help us identify if anyone is false. It should be our desire to become a man or woman of God – to have a special love relationship with Jesus that He chooses to use us. Hmm ... I forgot to mention Bible Colleges for preparing the Man of God ... no, I didn't forget. If God chooses for a person to go – only if God tells them to take the time – then they are useful.