

Apostle Joshua Selman



EARTHEN VESSELS

Receiving The Ministry Of Men

Transcribed and Published by Livingsermons.com

Earthen Vessels (Receiving The Ministry of Men)

Preacher: Apostle Joshua Selman

Publisher Livingsermons.com

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Foreword

Most believers know that they need Jesus, and most know that they need the Holy Spirit and the Word. Far fewer have been taught how to receive from the one channel God has chosen to use more than any other: other people. In this message, Apostle Joshua Selman turns to a subject that touches every pastor, every church member, every spouse, every employee and every friend: how do we receive from men and women who are called by God and yet are still, unmistakably, human?

Delivered at a Koinonia Global gathering, the message opens with prayer, a word on consistency, and an unscheduled crash course on leadership, before moving into its main text, 2 Corinthians 4:7: “We have this treasure in earthen vessels.” What follows is a candid, sometimes humorous and often searching look at human nature, disappointment, honor, loyalty and wisdom. It asks us to hold leaders to a high standard without demanding that they be gods, and to receive the treasure without worshipping the vessel.

This edition has been prepared from a live transcript. Timestamps, sound cues and the stumbles of spontaneous speech have been removed; obvious mishearings of names and scripture references have been corrected; and subheadings have been added to help the reader follow the argument. The preacher’s words, illustrations, humor and fire have been left as spoken. The message was long and unhurried, and it rewards a slow reading with a Bible and a pen close at hand.

— ***Wisdom Epsi***

Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube, **at** [*Koinonia's Official YouTube Channel*](#)

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A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here



Opening Prayer

Father, we thank You for yet another opportunity to experience Your life, Your wisdom, Your power, to experience hope, transformation and empowerment. We are gathered tonight across every tribe, every tongue and every nation, bound by one vision: to grow, to love You, to become, to evolve. We pray in the name of Jesus that Your grace will be lavish upon us tonight. Let the entrance of Your word give light; let it give understanding to our hearts. As we hear Your word, may we be healed by it, delivered by it, transformed by it, empowered by it. May we become champions by the word.

And as always, we submit ourselves to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Spirit of the living God, we pray that You have and find unrestrained access to our spirits and our minds. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that we will understand Your word and be built by it, and that You will be glorified through our lives. In Jesus' marvelous name we pray. Give Jesus a big hand clap. Good evening. You may be gloriously seated.



Consistency and Refining

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.” Let me start up front by encouraging you that consistency in the Spirit produces champions, not just intention. You can intend to grow, but it takes consistency. Scripture says, “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” It also says, “If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

So it is important for us to be consistent, week in, week out, day in, day out. The Holy Ghost is doing something through our lives, and it is important that we allow Him to complete what He is doing.

As always, I give you an assurance by the integrity of Scripture: if you keep submitting yourself, your mind and your spirit, it won't take long before a true champion evolves out of you. It doesn't matter how you start. The most important thing is that you submit yourself to the refining process.

Gold in Its Crude Form

When you see gold in its crude form, it doesn't always look like gold. When you see oil in its crude form, it doesn't always look like oil. When you see raw materials in their crude form, they don't always look like what they will become. But when you allow them to pass through the refining process, sometimes there will be a change of state, a change of color, a reduction in size, because certain debris and impurities will be taken out. At the end of it, one thing is sure: it will become more valuable, and the price will increase by far. This is what God is making out of your life. Hallelujah.

Koinonia is not just an assembling of God's people. It is a school of the Spirit, where you are taught the ways of the kingdom, line upon line, methodically.

Growth Dimensions and Welcomes

Like I have always told you, let me remind you upfront that there are three dimensions to building believers holistically.

- **Number one**, you teach them the way of the altar, the way of intimacy: the dynamics of prayer, intimacy with the Holy Spirit, and the matters that deal with consecration and their work with God.
- **Number two**, you teach them the way of victory and the way of dominion. Being a people who are passionate about God is wonderful, but that is not all there is. You have to teach them how to use the word of God and the resources of the kingdom to produce dominion and victory in experience.
- **Number three**, you teach them the way of purpose, the way of kingdom relevance. It does not stop at attaining personal victory. They must understand how to be relevant in God's program.

That is how you build believers into people of stature and relevance. I told you in one of our earlier discussions that the real profit of the believer to the kingdom is not just in being saved; it is in your transformation and your becoming a witness.

Your salvation benefits you alone, but your becoming a witness profits the program of God. If you are saved and you remain a babe in the Spirit, you can actually become a burden to God's program, because the assignment that has been allocated to you, the bishopric, has to be given to someone else so that there will be no gap. So if you truly love Jesus and want to be useful to the kingdom, you must contend for growth. As little babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profit may appear to all."

So as you submit yourselves to learning under this grace, remember that you are first being taught the way of intimacy with the Holy Spirit. That is the starting point. But when you learn the dynamics of intimacy with the Holy Spirit, you must be taught how to walk in victory. There is an intelligence to walking in victory; it takes more than desire. You must know how to take advantage of the resources of the kingdom, the ministries available within the kingdom, to manifest victory. And then you must be relevant to the kingdom and to your world. That is the way of purpose. May you experience this and more tonight in the name of Jesus.



A Word of Appreciation

As always, I appreciate our family connected online and the body of Christ. The Lord will do you good tonight in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ. Let me appreciate all our guests, particularly our international guests. Some of you travel from as far as Australia; that is really the end of the earth.

Thank you for that sacrifice to be with us. We are honored to have with us a very senior man of God from Zaria, whom we have known for years and who has been part of the growth process of many believers: Reverend Dr. Joshua Tender, president of the Father's Delight International Ministry. God bless you, sir. We love you. Thank you for your visit tonight.



Leadership Principles

While I was preparing what I am about to share tonight, the Holy Spirit reminded me, off script, to quicken something in us. Among the many things we need to train ourselves in is leadership.

There is a gross leadership deficiency across the body of Christ. There are many preachers, but very few leaders. Men will listen to you if you are a preacher, but they will only follow you if you are a leader. Sometimes we assume that because we are sincere and doctrinally sound, we will command followership. People don't follow preachers; people follow leaders. And leadership is a skill. It is not something you assume.

There are many dimensions to leadership, but as an assignment, press in to learn these four areas. They will make your influence sustainable and make you stable. This is a crash two-minute leadership course, and then I go into my teaching for tonight.

One: Self or Image Management

If you intend to grow and become a person of kingdom influence, you must learn self or image management. Managing yourself is the greatest expression of leadership: knowing what to say and how to say it, that self-discipline. The Bible says, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man." And the worst way to manage your image

is to try to defend falsehood. The greatest way to market yourself is to be truthful. If you pad things around so that you look good and presentable, unfortunately you will not last.

Two: Vision Management

It is one thing to receive a vision from God; it is another to manage that vision so that it is actualized. Hearing God accurately does not mean the vision will automatically be actualized. There are many visionary people who do not understand the principles of vision management.

Three: People Management

This is one of the most important components of your leadership. You must understand the psychological needs of people. You must understand team building and the principle of inclusiveness in your leadership. You must know how to grow people. There are very visionary people who are always left alone, because the men and women ordained by God to walk with them do not know how to carry people along. One of the side effects of vision is that it creates blindness.

If I am looking at you, it also means I cannot see what is behind me. Being visionary and believing that because you are looking ahead you will go ahead is dangerous, because sometimes what will stop you from going ahead is behind you or beside you. You will need someone with capacity to stand beside you, which talks of contemporaries, or behind you, which talks of those who are learning from you. Don't think only of giving to them; they are also resources and an advantage to you. But you must know how to feed them, culture them and nurture those relationships.

Four: Resource Management

Most people cannot manage resources. How do you know you are a good manager of resources? When you learn how to turn five loaves and two fish into food for five thousand people, with abundance left over. If you are still complaining that your bread and your fish are small, most times it is a leadership issue. Resource management requires financial intelligence and knowing how to prioritize. And when I talk of resources I don't mean only money. Time management is resource management. Managing giftings and the intellectual resources at your disposal is resource management: making winners out of the minds you have, and knowing how to allocate people so that they produce the best effect. All of this is leadership. A free leadership course: zero naira, just your passion.



Back to Capacity

I just felt it was important to say that. Back to my teaching on capacity: it is not enough to say, “God, use me.” Availability is the starting point, but you must have capacity. “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability.” Not according to his love for them.

I told you when I was teaching on capacity that a crown is a symbol of royalty, and a scepter is a symbol of royalty. If you place a crown on the head of a baby and force that baby to lift a scepter, it will be too heavy, not because the scepter is fake, but because the one holding it is a baby. But when that baby grows enough, it fits the head and fits the hand. Putting a sword, armor and a shield on a baby would be wickedness. Are we together?

The greatest need of believers is to grow. Many of the things we pray for were designed to be answered in our growth; the answer was already programmed in our growth. So as we grow, you find that your prayer points reduce and your prayer life increases. A time will come when you are only left with worship, ministering to the Lord, because you will have so grown, spiritually, intellectually, financially and in wisdom, to attend to the matters of your life that there will be nothing left but gratitude and worship. May that be your experience in Jesus’ marvelous name.

The Ministry of Men

All right, let us go straight to the business of tonight. I hope you are blessed already. The house of God is a place of wisdom. By the time you are sharing the grace, you should leave wiser. The wisdom that flows in the house of God is evidence of the presence of God and of the Spirit of God.

Tonight, still in keeping with our journey toward growth and maturity, I will be teaching you how to receive the ministry of men. This teaching will really bless you. I want to show you a dimension of receiving from God that not many believers have been trained to understand. It is a message that goes beyond the scope of the Koinonia Global family; I think it is most important for the body of Christ at times like this. The topic is Earthen Vessels.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7: “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” Let me read it one more time. We have this treasure. In as much as we are valuable, the treasure is not really us. The treasure is what He has deposited in us. That is what really makes us valuable.

Ananias and Saul

Now turn to Acts chapter 9, from verse 10. “And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.” Remember, this is blind Saul. “Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.”

Keep your eyes on the discussion between God and Ananias. The subject of that discussion was Saul, who would later become Paul. A chosen vessel. When was he chosen? Was it at the point of the encounter, on his way to Damascus? Let us go on. “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul.” What did he call him? When did it suddenly change, that the word brother was added to Saul?

Ananias had refused to call him brother. And in those days, brother meant: I receive you. Look at that name very carefully. “Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” Immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales, and he received sight forthwith, and arose and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. “Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.”

Cornelius Sends for Peter

One final reading: Acts chapter 10, verses 5 and 6. Read it as loud as if God is sending for you. “And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: he lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.”

Follow this. God is speaking to a man and saying, “Go to Joppa and call for one Simon.” There are many Simons, but there is one Simon whose surname is Peter. God is saying, no matter what price you have to pay, insist that he come. And when he comes, he will tell you what you ought to do. Not I will tell you. I am sending you; I am the one who inspired him; but he will tell you what to do.

That means even though you can hear Me, if you cannot get Simon to your house, you will not hear what to do. It will not be a hearing problem. It will be that you do not understand the way I teach men what to do.

I find that Scripture remarkable. How does God Almighty speak to a man with prophetic precision, giving even the surname of the man to meet, and then say, “I am speaking to

you, and here is all I have to tell you: go to Joppa, find the man Simon, make sure he comes within your domain, and he will teach you what to do”? Did you hear God? Yes. Did He speak to you? Yes. Did you move forward? No. Why? God was on your side, but Peter was far from you. Because of that, even in the presence of such profound prophetic hearing, you did not know what to do. Is someone listening now? So let us begin our discussion.

Four Essential Encounters

There are four major encounters, and this is a recap. Encounters are very powerful as far as our becoming mature in the Spirit is concerned. You have been taught in this house that there are four major encounters that the believer must have in order to attain unto maturity.

Encounter One: Jesus, the Son of the Living God

This is the first and the greatest of all encounters. It translates into access to the forgiveness of sin: “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7). It gives access to righteousness, the quality of God’s nature at work in you, the very standing of Jesus before the Father.

The Bible calls us the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus; it is not just what we have, it is who we are by reason of our oneness with Christ. And it gives access to the life of God, zoe, that quality of life that upgrades the believer to the God class. “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life.”

Encounter Two: The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit

There is, according to Scripture, a unique and distinct encounter with the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit. This has brought a lot of confusion in the body of Christ: if you have encountered Jesus, is there such a thing as a distinct encounter with the Holy Spirit? The Bible gives an unmistakable answer. Many times in Scripture we are told of people who had become believers, who had met Jesus, but whose lives were clearly stunted because they had not encountered the Holy Spirit.

In Acts chapter 8, Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ to them. The people gave heed with one accord, hearing and seeing the miracles; unclean spirits came out; the people were healed, and there was great joy in the city. He got the people saved. But the Bible says he sent for Peter and John, and when they came they prayed that the people might receive the Holy Ghost, “for as yet he was fallen upon none of them.” They had received Jesus, but the Holy Ghost had not fallen on them. When Peter and John came, they got them filled with the Holy Spirit.

The most classic statement of the distinct ministry of the Holy Spirit is Acts 10:38: “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power.” Look at that statement very clearly: God, anointed, Jesus, Holy Ghost. Why should the Word need to be anointed? He needed to be anointed with the Holy Ghost even though He was the Word of God. Then Acts 19:1-4: Paul came and found certain disciples. They were saved. They were being mentored.

He asked them a question every believer must answer: “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” Not before you believed. Since you believed. They were surprised: “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” He asked, “Unto what then were ye baptized?” “Unto John’s baptism.” He explained, completed the conversation, and eventually got them filled with the Holy Ghost. They spoke with tongues and prophesied, and they were about twelve in number.

Among the many benefits of encountering the Holy Spirit: He sustains the power to quicken and revitalize our mortal bodies, brings us to a sense of consciousness of

godliness, and activates our spirit unto righteousness. There is the ministry of guidance: “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth... and he will shew you things to come.” And there is the ministry of empowerment: “Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” “Until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field” (Isaiah 32:15).

Encounter Three: The Word of God

The third encounter every believer needs in order to attain maturity is with the logos of God, not the Word of God as Savior, but the Word of God as a compendium of the wisdom of God. “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

He is speaking to brethren. Now that you are saved, your next assignment is to be handed over to the word of His grace. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom” (Colossians 3:16). And Paul prays that “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:17-19).

That is the business of the word. The word of God exposes you to the modus operandi of the kingdom. It gives you spiritual intelligence, the capacity to understand the ways of God, doctrine and the systems of the kingdom. When you are not exposed to the ministry of the word, it becomes dangerous. When you are yielded to the influence of spirits through prayer and you are not sound in the word, you will get into divination and all kinds of extra-biblical practices, because yieldedness in the place of prayer has a side effect: it opens you up.

You have a malleability of spirit that can connect to any other influence. But your understanding of doctrine and your intelligence of Scripture is what helps you to cultivate and edit the influences of spirits, so that you do not open your heart randomly to just any voice. The Bible says there are many voices in the world, and none of them is

without signification. The word of God creates the boundary for the opening of your spirit, so that you do not say, “Yes, Lord,” to every sound you hear. The word of God is the basis for judging spirits and intentions. Are we together?

Encounter Four: The Ministry of Men

And then the final encounter you need is the encounter with the ministry of men, or, broadly speaking, the body of Christ; for tonight’s purpose, the ministry of men. You can encounter Jesus for your salvation. You can encounter the Holy Ghost for your direction, your empowerment, the quickening of your spirit. You can encounter the word of God for intelligence and stability in understanding. But you need to encounter the ministry of men for your excelling within the cosmos. This is my discussion with us tonight. If you have learned something so far, shout a loud, believing Amen.



Understanding Earthen Vessels

The Bible is clear that men are part of God's system as far as the maturity of other men is concerned, and as far as destiny actualization and the driving of His prophetic program are concerned. But we need to learn how to receive from men profitably. This has been a great concern within the body of Christ. We have not learned how to receive the ministry of men, and this has affected the pace of growth, and broadly speaking, the pace of the advancement of God's program.

With respect to service, contribution and kingdom partnership, the Bible calls men vessels. Everybody say, vessels. I have taught you here that believers are classified twofold: by identity and by function. Based on identity, we are joint heirs with Christ, seated with Christ, the vine and the branches; these attempt to show the extent of our oneness with Him. Based on function, we use words like light and salt, kings and priests, witnesses, ambassadors. And for our discussion tonight, He calls us vessels. Say it again: vessels.

Vessels of Different Qualities

The Bible also teaches that these vessels are of different spiritual qualities, based on many factors: our individual passion for God, our level of consecration, our level of enlightenment and transformation, and our level of the grace and empowerment at work in us. So in as much as we are all vessels, we are not operating at the same level spiritually.

In 2 Timothy 2:20-21: “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” Not by pre-ordination, but by reason of state, some vessels are unto honor and some unto dishonor, and there can be a transition.

But notice one thing: whether gold, silver, wood or clay, they all come from the earth. Vessels of gold still come from the earth. Vessels of silver still come from the earth. The wood is in contact with the earth. So regardless of spiritual quality, we simply call them earthen vessels. The Bible says there is a treasure, but that the treasure is in earthen vessels.

The Conflict Between Humanity and Calling

Now listen to something I wrote: the conflict between the humanity of men as it spills out alongside their divine callings is what leaves people disappointed and unable to receive from them. This is with a particular bias to men of God, but it applies to all men. There is usually a conflict between the humanity of men and the fulfilling of their divine callings in Christ. You find people who are genuinely anointed, genuinely called of God, but as they serve the purposes of God and the people of God, their humanity slips out through their function. Upon observing a mingling of their humanity with the divine part of them, people are left disappointed and unable to receive. So let us do some work together.

Facts About Men in Ministry

I want first to give you what I call facts about men with respect to the execution of God's program. For many of us here it is a recap, but an important one. In 1 Corinthians 3:9 we are told that we are laborers together with God; we are God's husbandry, God's building. In Hebrews 3:1, we are called partakers of the heavenly calling. We are not just beneficiaries of it. So note these facts.

One: Humans Are the Highest of God's Creation

Man as a species represents the zenith of God's creation. We are not the biggest of God's creation in terms of size, nor the widest in terms of spread, but we are the noblest in terms of the spiritual investment that was put in us. God made man in His image and in His likeness. No other entity created within God's kingdom had the honor of being created in His image and likeness. Image means His spiritual quality; likeness means His functionality, to function like Him, in reasoning, in the use of hands, in communication.

Two: Every Activity on Earth Is Man-Dependent

Whether it is life-giving or destructive, every activity that happens upon the earth is man-dependent.

Three: God and Satan Both Require Men

Both God and Satan require the active participation of men for the execution of their programs. I taught earlier this year in Liverpool that the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness are both spiritual kingdoms that depend on physical infrastructures to extend their influence within the cosmos.

The chief infrastructures are men, ideologies or belief systems, and institutions. This is how Satan spreads his influence, and this is how God spreads His spiritual kingdom:

through men, through ideas, and through institutions. And chiefest of the three are men, because it is men who spread ideas and men who build institutions.

Psalm 89:20: “I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.” It is as though He was rejoicing that He found a man. In Isaiah 6:8, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” and Isaiah says, “Here am I; send me.” In Ezekiel 22:30: “I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” Understand: God can do without men. He is that mighty and that glorious. But He has incorporated man as part of His kingdom-come program.

Satan also seeks men. In 2 Thessalonians 3:2, Paul prays “that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.” All men are not in a single category. Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.” And Proverbs 6:16-19 lists the kinds of men: “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” These are kinds of men. May you not meet them, in Jesus’ name; and may you not be one of them.

Four: Every Man Has a Role to Play

Provided you appeared here on earth, there is a role for you. Whether or not you fulfill it is a different thing. “Say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it” (Colossians 4:17). That you have received it does not guarantee that you will fulfill it. “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Five: Availability Is Not Enough

The manifestation of God's program on earth through men does not depend just on availability. It depends on alignment and growth. No matter how available you are, if you are not aligned to God's purposes and you do not build capacity through growth, you will not be useful to the program of God. That does not mean you will be useless; it means you will not be useful to the program.

I think the first and the last of these are the two most important: that we are coworkers, that nothing happens on earth without the participation of men, whether life-giving or destroying; and that it takes beyond availability to drive the program of God to fruition. It takes alignment, and it takes maturity, and that comes through growth.



Human Nature and Expectations

Now let me give you the second part: facts about men with respect to our human nature. If you do not know these things about man, from an anthropological standpoint, it will affect your receiving from men.

The Best of Every Man Is Still a Man

- **Number one:** the best of every man, no matter how transformed and how yielded, is still human, still a man. This is a profound revelation. It gives you emotional immunity against many things. Provided you are still wearing this body and are this side of God's kingdom, you are still a man.

Feelings and Emotions Will Always Live With Men

- **Number two:** the reality and effect of feelings and emotions will always live with men: joy, sadness, anger, happiness. When you find a man who is ever joyful, it is not because he stopped being a man; it is because he has allowed the law of the Spirit of life to superimpose on that humanity. When you find someone who gives thanks in the midst of pain, it is not because his humanity died; it is because he has allowed another law. But as long as you are wearing this mortal body, the reality and effect of feelings and emotions in all their variety will live perpetually with you.

And Jesus wept. Very comforting Scripture. The Son of the living God, the Word incarnate, wept. Another expression: Jesus was hungry. He came to a fig tree; He didn't come to test it, He was really hungry. How about the prophet who ran to the woman in Zarephath? He said, "Quickly, bring me water." As she was bringing it, he said, "Bread too, please." She said, "Sir, we are about to die." He said, "Don't worry, I am anointed, but I am hungry now. Let me eat first, and then I will do something about your situation."

Jesus was on His way to a crusade, and guess what He was doing? He was sleeping. He was not sleeping just because He had faith; He was tired. Do you know the kind of sleep where water is entering the boat and you do not wake up? Read your Bible. It is important to appreciate the humanity of Jesus. It is not to downplay Him; the Bible opens up the vulnerability of Jesus and His humanity to provide great comfort to believers.

The disciples woke Him up and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" He rebuked the wind, said, "O ye of little faith," and went back to sleep. (laughter) And that was not the only time Jesus slept. In Mark 1:35 He rose early in the morning and went to a solitary place to pray. Jesus ate. Jesus went to weddings, and the first miracle happened there; He sat quietly, and when the wine finished they looked for Him. Jesus went to church, stood near as they were giving offerings, and looked at what was going on. The Bible says He was without sin, but it never said He was not human. If you were born into the same family as Jesus, you would be angry at Him one day, even though He is your Savior.

The disciples were with Him every day, yet they left Him. They saw Lazarus come back to life; they shared the bread that multiplied; they still left. One time, others left and He said, "Will ye also go away?" They answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" But did they later leave? So don't feel bad when people leave you. It is not unusual. It is just because they are human and you are human, both of you.

Character Under Growth and Opportunity

- **Number three:** it takes discipline, maturity and the grace of God for men to remain consistent in character in the presence of growth and opportunity. Men are usually subject to change when things start going well. They don't change only when things are bad. When people begin to increase, prayer lives can die, attitudes can change, and convictions can even be altered for the worse. If you doubt me, ask Solomon. If you doubt me, ask David. If you doubt me, ask Peter. In fact, if you doubt me, who do you ask again? Yourself.

“I Am Tired of Men”

Someone comes to you for counseling and says, “Apostle, I am tired of men.” You say, “Really? Is it that you cannot find good men on earth? What exactly is your definition of good, so that I can help you?” Here is what many people mean. “Can you imagine I set up a business and somebody I trusted so much ran away with my money?”

Can you imagine the person talking against me is my own husband? That my very pastor, whom I depended on so much, guess who stole my car in the name of a prophetic action? My own pastor. Someone came to rob this house, and I found out my own son or daughter was part of the engineering of the robbery. What is wrong with men?” And they say, “God, give me good men,” and you answer, “Amen.” But now I want to bring perspective: what is your definition of a good man? What many people mean is a man who will never offend me, never give me a reason to be hurt, and give me joy all the days of my life without any possibility of sadness. My next question as a counselor: are you such a person?

Many people are angry today and cannot define their anger, because they do not understand that human nature has kept them in a place of perpetual anger. They hate God. They hate those He has put around them. They have a delusion that one day they will stumble across a person or group of people so flawless that they reflect their desire for goodness, and they have been on that journey forever and are now disappointed. Pastors are disappointed. Members are disappointed. Spouses, parents, business people, political allies are disappointed. Let me tell you: the moment man is introduced into any

equation, human nature and its vulnerabilities have also been introduced. Unfortunately, part of the equation to victory still has man. If you do not understand the reality of human nature, your heart will be broken into many pieces every day.

Every Terrorist Was Once a Baby

When a woman gives birth to a child, nobody is angry with that baby. We take selfies and call the baby an angel. Look at this beautiful angel! Fast forward fifteen years to that boy's life: the same parents, the same neighbors, have all kinds of names: stupid boy, useless boy. Maybe he would have evolved into an armed robber; maybe that lady would have evolved into some negative trait or vice.

People's destinies diverge so much from what they thought as babies. How many of you know that every terrorist was once a baby? How many of you know that every warmonger was once a baby? That the Savior was also a baby? That Pontius Pilate was once a baby?

If you do not understand human nature, you will drive away good people out of ignorance. There are people whose humanity does not mean they are evil. You throw them away, and you will find the same version in another scenario. You send away the driver who is noisy, and you get the one who is not noisy but gets angry. Then you find the one who is neither noisy nor angry, but doesn't care: the car is dirty and he doesn't care. Which do you prefer?

Or in a relationship, you find a gentleman prayerful, until you go to a restaurant and discover that he is so uncultured he keeps embarrassing you; one hour feels like one day, and he is talking about the resurrection of Jesus. So you leave him for the one who does not talk about Jesus, who treats you well in a restaurant and goes overboard, but is a thief. I am playing with your mind for a reason. Or someone very loving who will not give you one naira. Which do you prefer: the prayer warrior, the nice man who is going nowhere spiritually, or the philosopher who sees everything through the lens of Aristotle and Socrates?

I want to teach you how to receive from men. There are people who have left churches, and when you diagnose everything they say, you don't necessarily find evil there; you simply find the humanity of men. There are people who have left businesses and alliances, unaware that what they are running from is both in them and in others. They keep searching, become frustrated and angry, and eventually say, "I don't believe anybody, I don't believe anything. I called on God and He did not answer.

I called on men and they were too tired." You see people in their forties, fifties and sixties so wounded by the humanity of men that they have reached dangerous psychological conclusions. They look at you, rejoicing over a man of God whose photo is on your wall, and say, "I pity you. In 1971 I organized a crusade for him, and when my wife died, they did not call me." And you become afraid of men. Questions arise: Can men be trusted? Is it a risk to open my heart to receive from men? Should I truly depend on a pastor as the voice of God over my life? This is what this teaching was meant to answer.



Principles of Receiving From Men

So let me show you something most profound: how to receive from men.

- **One: Realize That Vessels at Their Best Are Still Frail and Human**

Men of God and all kinds of men, at their best, still remain earthen, frail and human. I am speaking from an anthropological and psychological standpoint; when you bring in the Holy Ghost and the advantage of the spirit life, you have empowered such a man. But whether you call the man your pastor, your husband, your wife, your parent, your sibling, your CEO, your politician or your business executive, all vessels at their best are still earthen, frail and human.

Now listen: you must demand a high standard of spiritual, moral, intellectual and emotional excellence from men, particularly from leaders, but not godlike flawlessness and perfection. Anybody who does not want to keep to high spiritual, moral, intellectual and emotional standards should get out of any position of leadership. However, while legitimately demanding those standards, you must be careful not to demand godlike flawlessness. When the Bible talks about perfection, it does not talk about blamelessness; it talks about maturity.

So many people become disappointed because our idea of someone worthy of our loyalty, someone who can influence us, is someone with a godlike dimension of flawlessness. I will tell you, this is one of the chief sponsors of falsehood among leaders, because there is pressure from everyone, and so we have mastered how to hide inadequacies and limitations.

The man acts like he never gets hungry, never gets angry. With all due respect, the number of preachers seeking therapy and psychological help right now is alarming, in spite of the presence of the Holy Ghost. Why? Because of decades of lying to themselves and managing falsehood for the sake of those they lead. That does not mean you become a crybaby every time. And frailty is not an excuse; I am not endorsing lack of growth or laxity. I am saying that the highest and greatest of every man is frail and human.

There are many men of God today who cannot take a break for a medical trip, because if they are not seen on Sunday, the rumor that will spread can destroy them. So they can be dying health-wise, and the responsibility to say, “I want to take two weeks off just for the sake of my health,” is not even something they can admit before the people. Someone will have a vision: “I told you I saw him dying in October.” And vain things will tear that ministry down.

So the man of God keeps up an appearance of working while he is dying, and the wife is crying at home. One day you will hear that the man died after service, and people will say, “This man overworked himself.” Who caused it?

Or people say: “How can this man of God lead a great ministry and still live in a rented apartment? It is an embarrassment to redemption.” But what do you want him to do, steal from the church money? Let me tell you what I now understand about the way God trained me when we started this ministry.

I had the resources to buy vehicles and a lot of things, but, strangely, God prohibited me. At least twice I found myself negotiating for a vehicle and literally God restrained me, and I left. The vehicle dealers even insulted me. It was an uncomfortable time. Imagine, in those days in Zaria, the place would fill up everywhere, plus the road outside, and I

would be dropped off by a bike for a miracle service. Imagine people traveling from everywhere, and they see a bike drop me.

The shock on their faces: what is wrong with this man? Even at that time, my suit could have bought the bike that brought me. It was not poverty. Now I understand it was not just for my growth. God was separating me from those things to give me purity of heart to serve without the pressure of trying to look godlike. It is the excellency of the power that, when it comes on you, and they see the contrast between the man and the results, they know: this one is God.

The pressure leaders go through is something you cannot imagine. Some, out of pressure, carry 200 or 300 million to buy a car, money they should have invested for their children and their children's children, and two weeks later it hits something that requires five million to fix, and they park it and leave it forever. You have no idea what leaders keep going through because of this godlike estimation on them.

● **Two: God Will Always Need and Use Human Channels**

In spite of what I just said, realize that God will always need and use human channels to achieve His program on earth, in spite of their limitations. He knows that we are dust. He knows that we are worm Jacob.

Paul puts it well: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God" (2 Corinthians 3:5). This was Paul speaking: a learned colleague, intellectually strong, emotionally strong, spiritually vibrant, a man of character.

A statement like this frustrates our champion-driven, celebrity-driven generation, because the basis for celebrating people has become the unawareness of anything human. We have been so indoctrinated by Superman and Spider-Man that we have lifted the bar to a level God did not ask us to lift it to. Humans, as frail as we are as a species, are still God's most effective tool. Settle it once and for all.

● **Three: Never Exalt Any Man Above Jesus or the Word**

You must never exalt any man above Jesus Christ and above the authority of the word of God. Immediately you do, your receiving is corrupted. This is your immunity against disappointment.

● **Four: Test for Love and for a Pure Heart**

In receiving from men, focus on their love for Jesus alongside the purity and sincerity of their heart, as the ultimate test of authenticity. Any other factor you use, you could eventually be found wanting. Do they love Jesus genuinely and sincerely? Are their hearts sincere and pure toward God, toward you and toward the work?

You can find a man of God, with all due respect, who still has anger problems, who still has pride, who may still be very insensitive. Those things are not endorsed; growth was designed to manage them eventually. But until the man gets there, to use pride and such things to conclude he is not a man of God is an error in judgment.

I have seen men of God who look a bit rascal and unkempt, a bit aggressive in their sense of Pentecostalism, prone to exorcism, and that is personally not me. But upon closer examination, through the lens of Scripture, I find that beyond all that they are deep lovers of Jesus with a sincere and pure heart.

And I have seen people who are very calculated, very intentional and very reputation-conscious, and when I checked their hearts against the word of God, what was there was almost like a dumpsite. They can give up Jesus to maintain their reputation. If you want to receive from men, verify their love for Jesus and verify the purity of their heart.

Five: Align Only Where Your Spirit Resonates

This is with a bias to the church. Only align with and submit to men whose lifestyle, convictions, leadership philosophy and approach to life resonate with your spirit. I am not saying fight, and I am not saying throw curses; I am talking about alignment. There

is no reason to be part of a church whose lifestyle, convictions, leadership philosophy and approach to life you are not comfortable with. You will be a danger to yourself and to that assembly, because you will not truly submit; you will be neither here nor there. Have you seen people like that? They are in the ministry, but they don't believe in the man of God. When they say, "Let's take communion," they say, "I don't believe in communion." "Let's fast." "I don't believe in fasting." "Here is a prophetic word for the year." "I don't believe in prophetic words." If they make you a leader, you will sell your philosophies and destroy that system.

So your proximity to align with and your proximity to submit to should not be just an emotional thing. There must be a vetting of the lifestyle, the convictions, the leadership philosophy and the approach to life. There are wonderful people I love sincerely but cannot become closely knit with, because there is a conflict of lifestyle, of convictions, of leadership philosophy.

I will love them as I love all men, but I cannot draw them close, because proximity means you have made up your mind to be vulnerable to their philosophies too. It is a terrible thing to be a pastor under a man and all you do is gossip about him; to be in the choir and hate all the songs; to serve in an organization and hate its vision, its mission statement, its plans and goals, but want a promotion. There are foods I don't eat. I don't hate them; they are just not for me.

If I don't like rice, I cannot work in a restaurant that cooks rice; I will be frustrated every day, and I will not truly contribute to its growth.

• Six: Receive From Afar Where Maturity Is Found Wanting

Where the leadership style or the maturity level of a person or a system is consistently found wanting, it is best to receive their unique value from afar, without the need for relationship or proximity. If you do not like Joshua Selman as a person, or Koinonia as a ministry, because our philosophies, convictions or approach to ministry do not resonate

with you, my recommendation is to stand from afar and extract the unique spiritual value without the need for relationship. Receive online rather than wanting proximity. Once the disciples went to Jesus and said, “We saw someone who is also casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him.” Jesus never said, “Go and call them to come and join us.” He said, “Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.” He left them from afar. Paul also said, whether Christ is preached in pretense or in truth, he rejoiced that Christ is preached.

There are leadership platforms whose unique investment you can extract from a distance. There are politicians who are exceptionally intelligent, but whose lifestyle, character and philosophy are bad; joining yourself to that chariot will destroy you, but you can learn from them from afar. When you understand what I am teaching you, there is nobody you cannot receive from. Remember: proximity reveals flaws.

Loyalty, Honor, and Detachment

● **Seven: Do Not Blindly Defend**

Do not blindly defend or participate in matters beyond your understanding just to show solidarity or loyalty. Sometimes the best way to encourage any person or system is just to watch and pray. I think this is particularly to the church in Africa. There is a poor definition of fatherhood and mentorship that is destroying the body of Christ in the African space.

There are politicians who enter battles that are not their business simply to show solidarity, and later discover they were fighting something that made no sense. There are young people who enter conversations because those involved are their fathers, their brothers or their church members, and they have no rational thinking. There is a generation of blind loyalty rising, and if we are not careful, we will sabotage our own destinies.

Your father’s enemy may not be your friend, but he does not always have to be your enemy. I have seen wives defend their husbands foolishly. Your husband stole money from a company and they fired him, and you did not understand the context, and you

say, “May God punish the person who fired my husband.” Because you married him does not mean you married folly. You must have the maturity to love, and the rational thinking to assess. Just because Jezebel takes care of Ahab does not mean she is a good woman; she is a good wife, but dangerous to the program of God. If your husband is a terrorist and kills, with respect to family life you have a good man, but with respect to society, you have a terrorist.

Imagine five people: a man of God, a businessman, a politician, a professional and a captain of industry. The politician says to someone, “You are stupid,” and you say it is evil. The businessman says it, and you say it is evil. But your man of God says it, and you say, “He was angry; that is why.” We create double and triple standards because of a blind concept of loyalty.

If Joshua Selman does it, it is right; if any other man of God does it, it is wrong. If I stood on stage as a man of God and shouted, “I hate Jesus,” there are people who would excuse it and say there must be a deeper explanation. No. Pray for me; something is wrong with me. The fact that it is Joshua Selman does not make it right. Wrong is wrong. A wife can say to her husband, “I love you with all my heart, but I think there is a need to look at this,” and that is love. This campaign of flattery and falsehood is what has led to propagating error.

● **Eight: Detach Where Everything Is Found Wanting**

Where spiritual convictions, character, lifestyle, values and leadership are all found wanting, it is best, and even justifiable, to avoid any and all contact completely, not out of hatred, but as a responsibility toward your own growth. God forbid, but if I get up today and start misleading you into witchcraft or idolatry, interrupting the purity of the gospel, and given ample time it is clear that I am not under attack and know what I am doing, it becomes unprofitable to your destiny to remain in contact with me.

You do not have to hate me, but for your own growth you have to cut away. Cutting away is a security measure for your growth. We follow men as they follow Christ. We do not follow men under every condition. And if there is a detour, we do not begin to fight; we

begin to pray and intercede, and say, “Lord, something is happening to my pastor, to my CEO, to my leader.” But where it becomes evident that this is a decision of will, not an attack, you have a right under God, not sponsored by hatred, to step back.

There are people who got into occultic practices, and those around them know it is wrong and know where it ends, but because of a poor definition of loyalty and solidarity, they stay.

Or the company you work for makes its profit from terrorism and killing and stealing, and it is not a rumor, and you are still there. Or as a man of God someone brings you money you know is the proceeds of corruption, and you collect it, and you have participated. If a politician steals money and drops it in your house and says, “Kneel down, let me pray for you,” and you pray, “Father, You saw my need when You sent this man,” you are also a thief. It is as simple as that.



Three Levels of Engagement

So there are conditions that necessitate alignment and submission: the person does not have to be perfect, but his character, lifestyle and leadership philosophy resonate with you, and whatever battles happen there are also your battles. There are conditions that necessitate receiving from afar, without proximity: the person is not demonic or false, but maintains a disposition and philosophy that is poisonous to where you are going; keep a distance while receiving, and honor the person from afar.

And there are conditions that necessitate cutting away: when your spiritual life, your eternal destiny and your character come under attack, even a distance will not protect you, and you detach completely. This is true not just for men of God. There are people with no business being your covenant friends.

They can be your friends because you were classmates, because of the same tribe, or because they work in your company; you meet them every day, and you cannot live in isolation. With those you are in proximity enough to be humane, but not so much as to corrupt yourself.

If you learn these three principles, there is nobody you cannot receive from. There are people and religious systems I may never listen to. It has nothing to do with hatred. I have studied the lifestyle, the philosophies and the spiritual convictions, and found

them wanting, based on my walk with God, so I respect them from afar. There are great people I will listen to from afar, but friendship with them is not an advantage to me or to Koinonia.

And there are people you can lock hands with and say, “These are allies indeed.” You do not say it in a way that is derogatory to others. The Lord gave the word, and great was the company of those that published it. The company, not the individual.

Redefining Honor

The Bible mandates that we honor all men, kings, elders, and those who labor in word and doctrine. Let me redefine honor for you. In addition to celebrating and recognizing people, honor also involves the maturity to disagree respectfully, without hatred and ill-wishing. On the one hand, honor means recognizing, appreciating and celebrating men for their distinctive differences.

But there is a dimension of honor that also involves disagreeing, spiritually, philosophically, sociologically, with a person or a system, respectfully, without hatred or ill-wishing. If I have to hate you because I disagree with you, then I am not an honorable man. Do not equate disagreement with hatred.

I have met preachers, businessmen and politicians at the airport and on the aircraft. I don’t agree with some of them philosophically, but some are old enough to be my parents. I walk up to them and greet them: “Good afternoon, sir. How are you?” And I stop there. I don’t need to fight or hate because I disagree.

You can be in a boardroom and disagree with everybody and yet at the end shake hands. That is a great display of emotional maturity. The campaign we are selling across the body of Christ and the political space is: hate whoever you don’t agree with, and call it spirituality. It is dangerous programming. Hate any Muslim you see, hate any church you are not part of, hate any man of God you are not part of, hate any program you are not part of. It is subliminal programming. And every time believers meet, the first thing

is looking at what wristband you are wearing and what sticker is on your car. Hatred has never been a strategy for transformation. Hatred has never been a strategy for salvation. I believe there are people God can never use at a global level, and it is not an anointing problem; it is a love problem.

There are leaders God will not promote to certain quotas, because they will cause the whole world to burn with the careless speaking of their mouths. I travel across nations, and I will never get into a nation and tear that nation down and tear the government down and the politicians down. I learned this from Billy Graham, from Reinhard Bonnke and from Peter Youngren.

They come into cities and identify with the people. Not with evil, but with the people. Imagine if Jesus came as a giant and said, "Where are all these idiots? I'm not going to give my life to you for nothing." No. He became a man, walked among us, felt what we felt, and even though we were sinners, He died for us.

Politicians, as we begin election season, carry out your campaign with responsibility. Talk about ideas, and differ in that area. Some of us travel as ambassadors to correct the image of the nation. Don't make it worse for us. And my next call is to pastors: we don't have to hate ourselves because we don't agree, particularly the younger ministers coming up. Manage your vendetta, and don't spill it over onto the work. The wife and children of that man of God are innocent. The members are innocent.

Redefining Loyalty and Followership

Our idea of loyalty in Africa, politically, religiously, sociologically, is an almost cult-like allegiance that is largely based on faulty indoctrination. We fight for and over things we have no knowledge of simply because of our sentiments over those involved. Loyalty and followership must be with passion, but not fanaticism or extremism. Be passionate about who or what you follow, but do not become so sentimental that you can kill. When you find there is conflict between churches, politicians or businesses, the approach of the believer is to watch and pray, until God gives you the moral credence and the jurisdictional allowance to contribute.

Authority is jurisdictional. A young pastor who is starting ministry has no right talking to an overseer. These are ethics in ministry. There are letters for fathers, letters for young men and letters for children. Don't open the letters of fathers before the children; it is a risk to them. One day they will become fathers. That does not mean fathers are flawless, but the level of disrespect we are selling is going overboard. We are bringing a curse upon a generation. It has become fashionable to sell the idea of rebellion; this is why the fathers keep blessing and you don't see the evidence. The anointing is honor-dependent, not just hearing-dependent.

Wisdom as a Teacher

Followership must not take away our capacity to reason intelligently and make personal judgments for our own good when the need arises. Disagreeing with a superior does not always have to translate into disloyalty, rebellion and open confrontation. The opposite of disagreeing is not rebellion and confrontation.

Be very careful with people whose loyalties change every time. A clock never stays in one place; there are people like that. In two months they have been in five churches. No matter how good the things they say about you, be careful. They leave a church because they were not given a leadership position, and two days later they are in another: "Pastor, I just sensed to come into this ministry. I have searched around, and you are

the only one I trust.” Sometimes we are foolish enough to believe them. Out of emotion we give them a platform, they use it to sell their ego, and afterwards they tear you down. Their lifespan in a church is five months. They always find something wrong, and then they leave. They are people of no convictions.

Here is how you know you are a man or woman of honor: the consistency of your values and honor even in the midst of pain. If a man causes you pain and it does not affect your honor toward him, you are a noble person. When people come to report their superiors to me, I am not as concerned with what they are saying as with what is motivating it. If a man who loved you and took care of you suddenly becomes a demon because of a disappointed expectation or because you lost favor, you are not a good person and should not be trusted.

Don't give attention to everyone just because they are in pain; the way they betrayed every other person is the way they are coming to you. The problem is not where they are coming from; the problem is who they are. And as leaders, we must learn the maturity to decipher between flattery and truthfulness. I pray that the person who will sell you out will not eat dinner with you, dipping hands with you and leveraging your credibility while planning to give a kiss that is a sign to the enemy. May God deliver you from all evil. Say Amen.

To the Wise, Everything Is a Teacher

To receive from men, you must be mindful, first, of the humanity of men, and second, you must assess your level of engagement with them. There is receiving from a standpoint of intimacy, loyalty and submission, based on their lifestyle, character and leadership philosophy being consistent with your values. There is receiving from a distance, for those whose message is powerful but whose philosophy and approach to life are not consistent with yours. And there is a third group from whom you have no reason to receive anything; yet let your respect remain, even from afar. When you disagree, don't turn your disagreement into hatred or rebellion. It is satanic, and it does not produce victory at any level.

And finally, let me make a statement that only the wise will understand: to the wise, everything is a teacher. Solomon taught us wisdom and said even from the ants you can learn, even from the sluggard. There is nobody the truly wise cannot learn from. Even from a fake man of God, you don't learn doctrine, but you learn how to avoid what destroys men.

When you see a man who is not treating his wife well, the wise learn to be a better man. When you see someone treating his wife well, you adopt the value that makes you greater. If I see a lazy man, I learn the consequences of laziness. Satan runs to and fro, not to learn from him, but a lesson in diligence. Terrorists are men of conviction; not to learn from them, but it shows the power of convictions.

If a thief says he is coming somewhere, people take him seriously, not because they believe in stealing, but because they believe in the conviction of the one who spoke. And so when the Bible says God is not a man that He should lie, I can learn that even among men there are those who mean what they say, how much more the God of heaven. I have converted what was meant to be a disappointment into strength for my faith.

You watch an irresponsible man mistreat his family, and you can criticize and say, "Shame on him." But the wise say, "Father, thank You for granting me the opportunity to see that I can take care of my family. It is not because I am better than that person." "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."



Honey From the Carcass

Remember Samson's riddle: out of the strong came something sweet. Even in the midst of a carcass, honey can be found there. It depends on the one who has the stamina to endure the smell. The man of God may be an angry man, but there is a grace for speed on him. Can you endure the emotional tantrums and receive that grace? The man of God may be arrogant, but there is the spirit of wisdom on him. Can you look away from the arrogance? Edit that part out; it is not for your receiving; but receive the grace upon him. If you have this orientation, there is nobody you cannot learn from.

I am a product of many anointings. Not anointings from perfect men, not from perfect ministries. I have learned how to receive from people. I can get into a church and see a lot of jumping up and down that looks like acting, and I think, "What am I doing here?" But because I know that somewhere in the midst of that display there will be sincerity, sometimes a worship minister comes and I see a level of purity and power I have not experienced.

That becomes worth my stay. In a business meeting you may meet an arrogant but professional businessman who says, "I am not here to talk to poor people like you, but let me pity you and say something." Neglect the insult and listen to the wisdom. He

called you stupid in the course of the discussion, but the question is: are you stupid? Endure it, receive the knowledge, and go back and become a better version of him.

My prayer is that the generation that learns from us will edit our errors and become a better version. We have looked at our fathers with honor, but we have also seen things to be corrected. We did not sow the seed of rebellion, so we do not expect rebellion from our children. A generation will come that will listen to Joshua Selman's message, smile and say, "Wow, what a great man; but this and this I wish he saw better," and they will be right. Yet in the midst of it they will stand to honor us, because the basis was not the accuracy of teaching; it was that they were cultured into a life of honor.

Next time you see any man of God serving the grace of God, greet him and honor him. If you hear a preacher say something you don't agree with, edit that part out nicely and focus on what blesses you. Don't push everything away because of five minutes of error. The ministry was not built by luck. If a businessman uses a vulgar word for ten minutes, edit it out and listen to the wisdom.

You may go to an orthodox church and hear an old reverend teaching, and you are almost laughing because you have higher light, thinking, "Who taught this man?" But can Joshua Selman stay forty years with a stainless track record like that man? That is what you should learn there. Keep your revelation, and learn forty years of character, so that by the time you are forty years in ministry you will be a formidable person.

Receiving Without Offense

Joshua Selman, I have been wanting to see you for one year. I am sorry you were not able to see me, but don't stop listening to what will bless you simply because you could not see me. If because you could not see me you are angry, you may close ten years of your life because of a petty issue. "I went for the crusade and sat outside; I am a prophet, and they did not recognize me." You are not fake; you are real. Just sit outside and receive there, so that even if you fall under the anointing, nobody will know. You receive

your thing, go back and shine in ministry. It is amazing the silly reasons why we do not receive. Swallow it. Settle down to listen and be blessed and to receive.

Say it with me: I receive grace to receive the ministry of men. I receive grace to learn from all men. I receive grace to manage offense. I receive grace to conquer anger.

To those of you who walk under men of God or under superiors, don't follow just because you have to; be convinced. Looking for godlike perfection will frustrate you forever. Look for the genuineness of their love for God, sincerity, and a conviction that God wants you there.

If those boxes are checked, serve with all your heart. I can never call a man of God my friend and then tear him down. I will not do it, and I will not entertain an environment that does. It does not mean you cannot see what needs to be corrected, but you have the maturity to wait until God provides a platform for you to do so, and you correct in love.

Many years ago, when I started ministry, I was a bit more vocal about ministers I thought did not do things correctly. An old woman called me one day and said, "My son, you are going very far. Let me advise you: don't create the habit of talking about people who are ahead of you. It will affect you." I returned home, cried to God and vowed a vow that day: for the rest of my life I will never open my mouth to mention the name of a man of God or a ministry to tear them down. It would probably have affected my ability to serve the program of God at the rate we are doing now, by the mercies of God.

So for someone who is my former self, let me be that old woman speaking to you now: that path may not be a profitable one. Love people. If you don't agree with your superiors, pray for them sincerely, and when they walk consistently in defiance of your values, live in peace. But do not become a tool Satan uses to bring someone down. Even if they go down because of you, your generation has marked you as an instrument of destruction, and you will never become great that way, and you will never enter the shoes you once tore down. "He that is not against us is for us." Whatever wrong they are doing, God, who is building the church, has within His system a way of correcting their anomalies. Nobody will be more zealous than God.

My life has experienced accelerated growth. One of the reasons for balance is the spread and open-heartedness in listening to a variety of people with different perspectives, managing, through the lens of Scripture, whatever is not of God, but never allowing hatred to be planted in my heart. If I were waiting for perfect people, Koinonia would still be at the beginning today. If you are waiting for perfect friends, you will not have any friend anywhere. If you are waiting for perfect ministerial allies, you will never have one.

The call, therefore, as we prepare to pray, is to search for sincerity and purity of heart and to define your level of participation with men: those deserving of alignment, intimacy and relationship; those deserving of distance because of disparity in lifestyle, values or philosophy, whose content can still serve you; and those whose philosophies it is not healthy even to listen to, though, because you are wise, even from afar you can see through their lives what not to do.

In any case, you become a magnet that attracts wisdom daily. Practice what I am teaching you for one month, and you will carry the wisdom of ten years. You learn from children as you watch them fight, and as you watch them say, “I’m sorry.” You learn from elders as you watch them fight, and as you watch them say, “I’m sorry.” You learn from God when He is silent, that it is not hatred; He is allowing you to grow. You learn when you see a woman give birth to a bouncing baby boy, and you learn when you see a dead body. Every dead body is a preacher; it reveals the brevity of time. When you watch a millionaire, you can learn from him; when you watch a poor man who is happy and grateful, you may not learn prosperity from him, but you can learn comfort in the midst of any situation. This is wisdom.

Some of you may not exactly understand what I have said tonight; go back and listen again, and you will hear what you did not hear before. Even if you encounter Jesus, the Holy Ghost and the word of God, if you do not know how to receive the ministry of men, there are heights you will not get to. Go down to Joppa and ask for one Simon. Bring him here, and watch his life and listen to him. He will show you what you ought to do. Even though he doubted Jesus, even though he may not be the kind of man you want, overlook it. He will show you what you ought to do.



Closing Prayer and Altar Call

Please rise up on your feet. Hold hands with someone, with whoever is on your left and right. We are going to pray two prayers. The first prayer is for your neighbor: say, in the name of Jesus Christ, everything stopping that one from receiving the ministry of men, whether hurt, past or present, disappointments, or the awareness of the humanity and limitations of men, that proximity brought you to a point where you saw the anger of the pastor or the businessman, saw that he was anointed on stage but his family life is not the best, and that is affecting your receiving.

Now you have learned wisdom. Open your mouth and pray for your neighbor: Lord, cause my brother and my sister to receive maximally, that when Simon comes to his house, he will look beyond the limitations of Simon, because there is a word from God through the lips of Simon. Elijah may be a temperamental man, but he carries the grace that can part your Jordan. Moses was called the meekest man, yet there were limitations around his life; can you look beyond them? Abraham had Ishmael with Hagar, yet the promise did not leave him; he is still the father of nations, and the Bible still says, “Look unto Abraham your father.” Even though you knew Saul as the one who persecuted the church and brought much pain to the program of God, may you have the courage,

because God has endorsed him, to call him brother Saul: not enemy Saul, brother Saul, sister Rahab, sister Mary.

Three End-Time Ministries

I taught you that there are three ministries the church must be sensitive to in these end times, so as not to fight them unnecessarily. This was a revelation God gave me, and I found it consistent with Scripture.

- Number one is the ministry of the madman of Gadara. He was once a madman. But make sure you discern when the spirits have left and when Jesus has trained him, because ten cities were destined to be won through that man, and if you reject him because you used to know him as a madman, you will lose ten cities.
- Number two is the woman at the well. She had five husbands, and the sixth was not her husband. When you find Jesus sitting with her at the well, don't hate Jesus because He left the crusade ground to sit with one woman; there is a whole city that can come to Jesus because of the efficiency of her witness.
- Number three is Saul of Tarsus. You knew him; he used to kill people. But do not forget that from the last time you saw him until now, there was a light that came down on him. And when you don't see him for years, he did not disappear for nothing; he was in the wilderness of Arabia being worked upon by the Spirit. The next time you see him, do not confuse him with the Saul you saw. He has become Paul, Apostle Paul, and fighting him would be fighting two-thirds of the New Testament.

There are other smaller ministries. When you see Zacchaeus on a tree trying to see Jesus, I know he ate your money yesterday, but don't be quick to criticize him, because Jesus will cancel a crusade to go to his house. When you see the woman with the alabaster box breaking it before Jesus and using her hair, don't say you knew her to be a prostitute before. Her past is now a worshipper, her tears a worshipper, her hair a worshipper, her wealth a worshipper. Be careful; she is needed for the ministry of Jesus. We will never endorse the works of darkness. But I pray that our hearts are flexible, that

the church will get into maturity, to not kill Abraham, to not kill Saul of Tarsus, to not kill the madmen delivered from Gadara. For God so loved men, you must also love men.

A Prayer for Yourself

Now lift your voice and pray for yourself: Lord, plant the spirit of love in my heart, love for the body of Christ. Let the spirit of self-righteousness and a judgmental spirit be far from my life. Grant me the maturity to respect the body of Christ while preserving my own spiritual values, not to be corrupted by everything and everyone, and the grace to look at the body of Christ with compassion and grace. Grant me the grace to know those to connect to, those to receive from afar, and those to cut away from, even in love, to protect the sanctity of what You have placed upon my life. I will not be the reason for the pain of any church, any man of God or any ministry. I will not be the reason for the decline of any nation, any family or anybody's destiny.

And in every dimension You deposited in men that I should have entered into, but lack of discernment kept me from, from today I open my heart to receive without being corrupted by the excesses. Give me the wisdom to receive the ministry of men, intellectually, spiritually and in leadership, while preserving my core values and editing the excesses that come with them. Let the disappointment that comes from recognizing the humanity of men be something I grow over, learning that the best of every man is a man.

And please look at me, everybody. Having taught you this: when you find men whose lives have modeled spiritual, intellectual, moral and emotional excellence in spite of all their limitations, give them double honor. Their state of excellence demonstrates the extra work of alignment, discipline and the maximization of grace. When you find those who by mercy have shown consistency of character through the years, please do not downplay their contribution. The Bible calls them the men that rule well, and says they should be counted worthy of double honor.

Praying for the Church in Nigeria

Let me lead you one last time to pray over the church in Nigeria, and extend it to Africa. We can pray for politics and for business, but let us pray for the church. Mention any church you know and ask for the help of God. For those who need a work upon their lives, pray that God will do it. For those who have been standing strong, pray that God will grant them the grace to keep standing and to last.

For those who have entered the way of apostasy, pray that God, by mercy, will show them the truth. For those who are downcast and discouraged, pray that God will bring them to the consolations that come from walking with God. Lord, we pray for Your body. Let the church grow. Let the church mature. Help us to learn how to receive from one another, and from the brilliant minds You have placed around our world. Take away the sentiments that have stunted our growth. Give us the grace to receive from any and all kinds of people without being corrupted. In Jesus' name we pray.

The Altar Call

We never end a service like this without receiving from Jesus. More so, I taught you about receiving from men; tonight I want you to receive from the Man Jesus, the God who became a man and died for you. The Bible calls Him the propitiation for your sin. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” That is the verdict. Wherever you are, I want to give you an opportunity to make it right with Jesus.

Don’t leave this place and go back home when you know the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and saying, “Make it right with Jesus.” Please leave your seat and come. God bless you, sir. God bless you, sister. Keep coming. He wants to give you a new beginning. You can start afresh. As many as come to Him, the Bible declares, He will in no wise cast out. Those of you in the overflows, across our viewing centers and everywhere across the globe, move to your LED screens.

Lift your right hand as a sign of surrender to this Jesus. Say it as loud and as clear as you can: Lord Jesus, tonight I have heard Your word. I love You with all my heart. Tonight I declare that Jesus is my Savior, my Lord and my King. I declare that the power of sin, Satan, hell and the grave is broken over my life. From tonight I am a child of God. I go forward ever and backward never. Amen.

Keep your hands lifted. I bless you in the name of Jesus, and by the authority of Scripture I declare your sins forgiven. I declare that the grace to live the victorious Christian life is hereby imparted upon you. You go forward ever and backward never. In Jesus' mighty and marvelous name, Amen and Amen. Counselors with the placards will have a word with you, and then you will be back to your seat. Let us honor them as they go.



About The Speaker

Apostle Joshua Selman is a Nigerian minister of the gospel, teacher of God's Word, and the founder of Eternity Network International (ENI), the ministry behind the widely known Koinonia meetings.

His ministry is marked by deep scriptural teaching, prophetic insight, and a strong emphasis on intimacy with God, spiritual growth, and the accurate understanding of kingdom principles.

Through conferences, teachings, and global outreach, he has impacted millions of believers, equipping them to walk in spiritual maturity, purpose, and effective service in God's kingdom.

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