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**JOHN THE BAPTIST: A MODEL FOR CONTEMPORARY
PASTORS**

**AN ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE NIGERIAN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY (THEOLOGY)**

BY

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CONCLUSION

John the Baptist is a distinguished personality among Bible characters. The history of Christianity started with him, no wonder, each Gospel writer gives him a prominent place in their writings.

Every Christian particularly contemporary pastors have vital things to learn from both his life and ministry. These vital lessons and challenges have been adequately discussed in the previous chapter.

Although John possessed many exemplary qualities which contributed a lot to his greatness but the fulfillment of his ministry can be attributed to the influence of the Holy Spirit on him. He was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth (Luke 1:5). He depended on the Holy Spirit throughout his ministry. This calls for yearning for the power of the Holy Spirit and total dependence on him by contemporary pastors for the fulfillment of their ministries.

John has a good relationship with God. He was a devoted Jew. He gave himself to the law of God and prayers. The fact that he taught his disciples how to pray indicates that he was prayerful (Luke 11:1). He secluded himself from the world unto God. He did not crave for material things. He did not give himself to worldly pleasures neither did he look

flamboyant in his dressing. Contemporary pastors should know that a good devotional life and separation from the worldly affairs unto God are things of necessity in the ministry.

John has a good relationship with his parents. He was an obedient child to them. His parents greatly influenced his life positively while he was young. His father being a priest may be said to be the pastor of his own time, then John was a pastor's son. Hence, he can be presented as a model for pastor's children in this regard. Therefore every contemporary pastor should be a good son or daughter to his or her parents and take the training of their children seriously.

Though John lost his life because he refused to compromise the truth; but he multiplied himself through discipleship. He took time to disciple his followers. When their master died they continued the ministry. Discipleship should not be taken with levity hand today because it is one of the major ways through which the church of God grows spiritually, numerically and otherwise.

Considering everything that has been said in this research work. No doubt, John left a model of a man of God that is worthy of emulation by all and sundry. Contemporary pastors are particularly challenged to borrow a leaf from him. They should study his life and ministry to see a model of a humble, courageous, pious, pure and faithful man of God.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The blame of unfulfilled ministry rests heavily on the pastor himself. It may be through failures on his part but it may also be indirectly attributed to the defective training he received from the theological school he attended if at all he received formal theological training. Half-baked pastors may end up their ministries in failure. Therefore, these recommendations are presented to the theological schools particularly the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho for consideration.

1. More spiritually and morally oriented courses should be introduced into the school curriculum in addition to spiritual formation, Christian ethics and ministerial ethics courses.
2. Spiritual retreat should not be limited to the beginning of a session or semester but should be done for students at least two or three times in a semester especially for the graduating students.
3. Discipleship courses like Follow the Master, Serve the Master, Master Life, Experiencing God, In God's Presence, the Kingdom's Life, The Mind of Christ should be part of the school curriculum. This will go a long way to influence positively the spiritual life and ministry of every student.
4. School authority should try as much as possible to help each student ascertain his or her area of call in the ministry by organizing lectures or seminars in that line or through the help of faculty advisers. A course may even be designed towards that direction and be made part of school curriculum.
5. Students are not always willing to work in the villages after their training even if they feel led to those places because of poor environmental and financial condition of village churches. Therefore, bivocational ministry should be encouraged and the school should prepare students towards that before the end of their training in the seminary.
6. In preaching and teaching oriented courses clarity and simplicity in presentation of words, ideas or thoughts in any preaching or teaching exercise should be emphasized by the lecturers taking those courses.