

THE MINISTER'S PERSONAL LIFE AS A
FACTOR FOR FULFILLMENT IN MINISTRY

NBTS
MATS
OL-42

A THESIS PRESENTED TO
THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MATS)

2013 — 0433

OLADEJO ABIODUN OLADUNNI

08/0014

JUNE 2014
J.C. POOL LIBRARY
BAPTIST SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

This work set out to appraise how minister's personal life is a factor for fulfillment in ministry. Minister's name that are no longer held in high esteem by the members of the community as a result of decline in character and pursuit of wealth instead of relationship with God is the major concern of the researcher. This research used questionnaire which consists of thirty questions divided into three subsections which are: Minister's relationship, Minister's Integrity and minister's personal life. The questionnaire was distributed among forty ministers in Ikorodu area of Lagos State. It was discovered that personal life of any minister is an essential factor for fulfillment in ministry. It also revealed that a ministers' calling is the prerogative of God, therefore he owes his allegiance to God as he faithfully and fearfully serves God through his people. The work also revealed that the Minister should walk in the fear of the lord and in the integrity of their heart knowing that they will surely give account of their stewardship to God in the day of reckoning. It also revealed that, integrity, commitment, concentration, holiness and truth living should be a focus of the minister. Minister's home front comes before the ministry; their family should not neglected as a result of doing ministry. The work also revealed that the ministers of God must take full garment of love to the sheep, to prayer, words of God and progress of his church and mission more than self. Therefore, it was recommended that ministers' of the gospel must have cordial relationship with God in prayer and study of the cordial relationship with God in prayer and study of the word of God. Also every minister must look for a mentor he or she should not be a lone ranger instead of he or she must have somebody to report to that will have spiritual oversight over him or her. Ministers should try to be outstanding and excel in his service God and humanity.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in order not to labour in vain ministers of the Gospel must have great concern about their personal life, because it speaks volume, personal life has to be taken as noble challenge and to look for a mentor who will be watching over his

life because a minister needs a minister. The following points are very important for fruitful ministry:

1. A minister's calling is the prerogative of God (Heb. 5:4); therefore, he owes his allegiance to God as he faithfully and fearfully serves God through His people. All ministers should remember the day of reckoning, which is when the ultimate fulfillment shall be determined.
2. The foundation of fulfillment in the ministry in one's quality relationship with God followed by one's personal life, then ardent commitment to one's assignment in the ministry.
3. Every minister must have a correct life first before God and then before the people. The church is described as a sheepfold and as such grows by following the example of the undershepherd. So if the Pastor is not correct then the whole assembly is doomed as the saying goes "as does the pastor, so the church."
4. Minister should remember the caller and be focused he should know that he is a steward.
5. Minister of the Gospel should:
 - a. Stay under mentoring of a minister of the gospel for some years.
 - B. Able to win the heart of his or her house members for Christ, being his or her first evangelism.
 - c. Ready to face persecution even when things are going on fine, the way God wanted.
 - d. Having the mind of Christ (Phil. 3:5) humility and ready to settle differences almost immediately.
6. Fulfillment in ministry can only be determined by the owner of the ministry not by anybody, because God is the all-knowing.

7. Minister must have absolute faith in the word of God; study the word of God; rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance applies wisdom in whatever he does. Must be humble, respectful and shun pride and hypocrisy. Must be careful in the company he keeps. He must bear in mind that even in the church of God, Satanic agents abound.
8. The minister should walk in the fear of the Lord and in the integrity of their heart knowing that they will surely give account of their stewardship to God in the day of reckoning.
9. Minister should:
 - a. Maintain a closer walk with God which will enable him to work for God.
 - b. Family comes before the ministry. You need their goodwill to succeed in your ministry.
 - c. Ministry is principally about service let make fencing the people of God our focus and not money, go after the lost souls.
10. Integrity, commitment, concentration, holiness and truth living should be a focus.
11. Minister need to uphold the truth of God's word and put it into practice in fullness.
12. The ministers should constantly evaluate themselves if they are in perfect relationship with God and spouse.
13. Proper management of their life, ministry, family gospel and the church of God. Above all be contented (Phil. 3:12-13).
14. Ministers should be in tune with God always.
15. To have good relationship with God their caller, creature and source of their calling.
16. Should be sincere with the callings.

17. A minister of God today must be a man of the Spirit and a man of the word of God and man of prayer.
Ministers are the letter that people are reading, their attitudes, integrity, moral behaviour is very important and they must work on all this point.
They must run away from these three things: a. Money b. Women
c. Food.
18. No matter the case may be, all ministers should focus on Jesus Christ alone in order to be fulfilled.
19. Minister should:
Live a pattern of Christ like, Do what they preach be watchword and philosophy of ministry should be sincerity and not diplomacy especially with spiritual and moral issues.
20. Integrity and uprightness must be their watchword and also the fear of God.
21. Ministers of the gospel must take the full garment of love to (i) the sheep, (ii) prayer, words of God and the progress of his church and mission more than self. It is then that God Himself shows His love and kindness to such minister in all spheres.
22. Ministers must ensure that he or she receive a call before stepping into the ministry. He must be determined to face challenges without compromising and be faithful to the master who calls him or her and be heavenly focused.
23. Minister should trust and depend on their caller. They should always depend on the master tool. The life of the minister is more important to God than the ministry of the minister.
24. Minister must be faithful, trustworthy, very careful in any action taken and must put his or her trust in God alone.
25. He must be focused, walk with God first before working with Him. The disciples walk with Christ before the work with Him.

