

INTRODUCTION

It honors the Father when His people respond by faith to His call to support His Church. According to Scripture, those who lead receive a special calling from the Lord and anointing from the Spirit to help His Church fulfill the ‘Great Commission’ calling. Indeed, it is a holy calling—and surely unimaginable reward awaits faithful servants. However, though the reward for God’s leaders can be great, so are the expectations. The Apostle James cautioned individuals not to desire to teach, for the Lord’s expectations for those called to teach are high (James 3:1).

Sharing the truth of God is not a popular message today; it can be difficult and often comes at a cost. However, the greats in the faith embraced their calling, witnessed with boldness, and shared the truth as God opened doors before them. The Apostle Paul wrote:

“For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over... [the] flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood...” (Acts 20:27-28)

Leaders must lead, and view God’s word of exhortation to Ezekiel as being timeless— applicable to leaders then and now. In Ezekiel 3 we read God’s command:

“When I say to the wicked, you shall surely die, and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at your hand. Yet if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your soul” (Ezekiel 3:18-19).

Teachers and **preachers** must be **watchers** and **warners**. Scripture warns that those called to teach must both encourage **and** exhort lest they be in danger of judgment. Yes, it *is* easier to teach on heaven, love, grace, and mercy, but leaders must follow the example of Jesus, who preached on love and grace, but also boldly taught on giving, sacrifice, commitment, hell, and what will happen in the last days.

Those who are called by God to teach are responsible for sharing the warnings and truth of God. Those who lead in ministry are God’s chosen servants and have the privilege and burden to share God’s wisdom and warnings. Ephesians 6:10 encourages believers to be “strong in His might.” I urge those who teach and preach to echo Paul’s request for intercessory prayer: ***“Pray that I may boldly make known the mysteries of the Gospel”*** (Ephesians 6:19).

God seems to be on the move. More prophecies have been fulfilled in the last 75 years or so (since Israel was reborn as a nation in May 1948), than in the 750 years leading up to that point in history. There have always been wars and rumors of wars but no one can doubt that in recent years there seems to be a convergence of significant (and prophetic) happenings. Israel is thriving; she has been victorious in battle despite overwhelming odds, Jerusalem has become a ‘cup of trembling’ and a ‘burdensome stone’ (Zech. 12:2-3) to the nations, there is talk of war, enemy alliances, and peace agreements. All of this is the fulfillment of prophecy, including the fact that the tiny nation of Israel dominates the news and UN diplomacy.

There has been a surge in celestial anomalies, weather changes, larger-scale earthquakes, volcanic activity, and animal die-offs—just as Hosea 4:3 prophesied there would be in the last days.

Observing the abundance of fulfilled prophecies and signs should lead believers to sense that the return of the Lord is near—and it should compel those called to preach and teach to communicate a sense of urgency regarding the need to be spiritually prepared for the Rapture Jesus said:

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.” (Matt. 24:32-33)

The material on this website is designed to exhort and encourage—it includes resources to help you identify and develop your calling, solidly grasp and easily share the key doctrines of the historic Christian faith, be prepared to be a strong and effective witness for the Lord and have the resources you need to lead a small study group.

Many are slow to step into a leadership role because they fear they are not worthy or do not know enough. But consider the group in Luke 10, who were with Jesus only a short time before he sent them out to proclaim the Gospel message (and they did so with great effectiveness).

The Samaritan woman in John 4 became a great witness for the Lord though she spent only a few hours with Jesus. Jeremiah was called to be a prophet when he was ‘just a youth,’ and God used David, Moses, Abraham, and many others to accomplish great things, though these men did not always make great, God-honoring choices. The truth is, none of us are worthy to serve as leaders in God's work, but He allows it, not because of our merit, but because of His grace. Embrace the calling, for those who do will receive a great reward.