

**GRACE BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE (GBTC)**  
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**ARUSHA - TANZANIA**

**SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES**

**LESSON 4: ANOINTING & CHARACTER**

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**Anointing of the Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 2:1-5; 1:27-31)**

A leader's success in ministry depends heavily on the Holy Spirit's anointing on his life. Without God's anointing on a leader's ministry, it will not produce any lasting fruit for the kingdom of God. The external look of a leader is not a primary issue, but the Spirit's ability to use his life to bring change into the lives and characters of others is a primary issue (1Corinthians 4:20; 2:4-5).

The Church today desperately needs to operate under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It needs something divine to create its success (John 6:63). Flesh cannot glory in God's presence (1Corinthians 1:27-29; 2Corinthians 4:7) and the holy anointing oil cannot rest upon the things of the flesh.

Anointing is born from a humble and broken heart before God. An anointed person is one who is consecrated to the Lord. To be consecrated means to be dedicated to God for His purposes; made holy in character and thus fit for spiritual use and a setting apart for God's service.

**Definition of anointing (John 7:37-39; 1Corinthians 3:6-7)**

The anointing of God's Spirit is the overflowing of God's divine life into a human life which has been consecrated to God, which makes it spiritually rich and thus able to impart effectively the light and fragrance of God's word into the lives of others, producing in them deep spiritual satisfaction and obvious Christian fruitfulness.

The Bible says: 'Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights...When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses...they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them...and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him...' (Exodus 34:28-32 NIV).

When the Israelites were in Moses' company, there was a look on his face that told them he'd been in the presence of the Lord. They could see it and sense it. The Bible refers to this as the 'anointing' (1 John 2:27).

Simply put, the anointing is God equipping and empowering you to succeed in what He's called you to do. Anointed leadership is always characterized by these four benchmarks:

- Calling - When people are around an anointed leader, they sense that God has truly gifted and assigned that person to fulfil a certain purpose
- Character - People see God's nature in an anointed leader, and as a result they trust them
- Competence - An anointed leader has the ability to get the job done right. The results validate his or her calling.
- Conviction - Anointed leaders aren't wishy-washy; they have moral and spiritual backbone and they stand up for what's right.

These four qualities are benchmarks of God-called leadership, and when people see them at work in your life, they will follow you.

The following typical examples illustrate when the anointing of the Holy Spirit is in evidence:

- When God goes beyond the natural abilities of a leader or a believer and gives him or her a supernatural ability to preach, teach or counsel (Exodus 35:10, 30-35; 31:1-6; 36:1-2);
- When a leader preaches an entire message spontaneously, as quickened by the Spirit, totally discarding his planned message, and the congregation is moved spiritually in a special way;
- When the conscious sense of God's abiding and moving presence appears (2Chronicles 5:13-14);
- When a believer or leader's message brings spiritual results in the lives of his hearers, even though it might not follow the rules of grammar, homiletics or professional presentation. (This does not imply that one should not learn speaking skills).
- The power of the Spirit in the ministry of a believer or leader when God heals the sick, delivers sinners, and shows His power through His yielded vessel;
- When a believer or leader is lifted up in spirit and ministers the word of God by prophetic illumination and speaks directly to the needs of the people present;
- When a believer or leader inwardly senses through the Spirit the specific spiritual or physical needs of a congregation in a church service, and ministers to them;
- When a believer's whole being (spirit, mind, will, emotions and body) responds positively to the wooing of the Holy Spirit.

The above examples are not exhaustive as the Holy Spirit moves in several ways depending on the need of the congregation and the submission of the leader to His promptings.

## **Anointing and Character**

Leaders should understand that God is as interested in developing the gifts of the Spirit in their lives as developing the fruit of the Spirit. Character is so essential to enjoy God's greater anointing and blessings. God desires a balance between character (integrity) and ability (power) in every leader's ministry. Both character and anointing (divine ability) are essential to perform the Lord's ministry effectively. One of the qualifications for ministry is character and integrity (1Timothy 3:1-7; Acts 6:3). Whenever a person steps beyond scriptural guidelines for moral character and conduct, he disqualifies himself from ministry (James 1:12-17).

## **Conclusion**

Many leaders today are wandering in the wilderness of despair and unfruitfulness on their way to the Promised Land. As long as God's daily Presence (the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night) is there, be assured that you are on your way to fulfilment and success. You can be going through difficulties in service, but on the way to fulfil your mission as leader, for example, David, Joseph, etc. The key thing is 'Is God with you? Are you walking with Him? Are you operating within His will?' etc.

Many people today want to lead without first learning to follow. We must learn to follow the great Master and Lord Jesus Christ in humility, submission, faith, love and character before we can lead His people.