

## What Every Believer Needs to Know about False Ministries

### 10. True Pastors are called to guard their flock from false ministries

#### Acts 20:28-29

<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

This is how seemingly harmless people can be.

### 11. False ministries feed on people's fleshly desires

#### 2 Tim 4:3-4

<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Material things are flaunted, and this feeds the greed of the people that want what their leaders have and even more. These false leaders preach messages that feed the flesh. They will give their people secret formulae for wealth and success but not talk about character and death to self. You don't hear them building the family unit.

### 12. False ministries point people to "a man" and not to Jesus

Barnabas and Paul tore their clothes when people tried to worship them. How do false prophets and teachers today respond when they are worshipped? Often, they want more. More weight and excitement is placed on the words of the leader than on Jesus and His Word.

#### Acts 14:13-15

<sup>13</sup> The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates, hoping to offer a sacrifice along with the crowds. <sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul found out about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting, <sup>15</sup> "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them...

They have a mindset of "You owe me" "I healed you, so you owe me"

#### Luke 6:26

*Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.*

Sadly they end up being puffed up and believing their own press.

### 13. False ministries are often riddled with the love of money

Money can't buy everything

#### 2 Peter 2:15

*They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness.*

Read Numbers 22 to see the account of Balaam the prophet. He was enticed to compromise in how he prophesied based on King Balak's promise of gifts and honour. This is prevalent today.

**Mt 10:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,<sup>[a]</sup> drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Let's examine how Peter dealt with the love of money:

**Acts 8:9-24**

<sup>9</sup> Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup> and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God." <sup>11</sup> They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup> Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

<sup>14</sup> When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. <sup>15</sup> When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money <sup>19</sup> and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

<sup>20</sup> Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup> You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

<sup>24</sup> Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

Today false prophets and sorcerers function like sophisticated witchdoctors. They have an expectation of financial compensation from the recipients of their "ministry". Some will even teach that the bigger the sacrifice then the bigger the breakthrough.