

Biblical Honour (Part 5)

The Technology of Double Honour

Key thought: Who you are under is important

A. There are levels in the kingdom.

Numbers 12:1-15

¹ Then Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married, for he had taken a Cushite wife. ² "Does the LORD speak only through Moses?" they said. "Does He not also speak through us?" And the LORD heard this. ³ Now Moses was a very humble man, more so than any man on the face of the earth. ⁴ And suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "You three, come out to the Tent of Meeting." So the three went out, ⁵ and the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the Tent, and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them had stepped forward, ⁶ He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, will reveal Myself to him in a vision, I will speak to him in a dream; ⁷ not so with My servant Moses; he is faithful in all My house. ⁸ I speak with him face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you unafraid to speak against My servant Moses?" ⁹ So the anger of the LORD burned against them, and He departed. ¹⁰ As the cloud lifted from above the Tent, suddenly Miriam became leprous, a white as snow. Aaron turned toward her, saw that she was leprous, ¹¹ and said to Moses, "My lord, please do not hold against us this sin we have so foolishly committed. ¹² Please do not let her be like a stillborn infant whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb." ¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her!" ¹⁴ But the LORD answered Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Let her be confined outside the camp for seven days; after that she may be brought back in." ¹⁵ So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until she was brought in again.

From this passage we see that 1. There are levels in the kingdom 2. There are individual and corporate consequences to familiarity.

Daniel 10:11

He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Not everyone is highly esteemed by heaven.

2 Tim 2:20-21

²⁰ A large house contains not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some indeed are for honourable use, but others are for common use. ²¹ So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honour: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.

We are called by God, but can also experience spiritual promotion based on the degree to which we set ourselves apart for His purposes.

B. There is rank amongst angels in the Kingdom of God

Daniel 10:13

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

1. There are 3 ranks of Cherubim (One who grips, holds firm and guards) - (Seraphim, Zoa, and Ophanim)
2. Archangels (e.g. Michael and Gabriel)
3. Irin-Qudeshin – Holy Watchers
4. Angel Priests (at the altar in heaven)
5. Angelic hosts (They can look like men or chariots and horses, the armies of heaven, countless).

C. There is rank in the church

1 Cor 12:27-29

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it. ²⁸ And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, and those with gifts of healing, helping, administration, and various tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?...

D. Jesus works through spiritual rank and authority

Rev 2:1

To the angel^[a] of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

E. Your ministry can be greatly augmented through impartation

Joshua 1:1-6

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

The passage above shows us that often there is an increase in spiritual authority when someone is commissioned into spiritual leadership.

Numbers 27: 18-20

¹⁸ And the LORD replied to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man with the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. ¹⁹ Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, and commission him in their sight. ²⁰ Confer on him some of your authority, so that the whole congregation of Israel will obey him....

Numbers 34:9

Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

2 Kings 2:13-14

¹³ Elisha also picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah, and he went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the waters. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. And when he had struck the waters, they parted to the right and to the left, and Elisha crossed over....

1 Sam 19:21–24

²¹ When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. ²² Then he himself went to Ramah and came as far as the large well that is in Secu; and he asked and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And someone said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." ²³ He proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah. ²⁴ He also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

2 Tim 1: 6

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

The ease of impartation (conduit) is often influenced by the heart attitude and honour that you give the source.

F. In heaven we will not be rewarded the same

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things DONE IN THE BODY, according to what He has done, whether good or bad.”

1 Corinthians 3:8

and each one will receive His own reward ACCORDING TO HIS OWN LABOR.”

Revelation 22:12

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone ACCORDING TO HIS WORK.”

Mark 10:29-30

²⁹ *So Jesus answered them and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brother or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or land, for My sake and the gospel’s, ³⁰ who shall not receive a HUNDREDFOLD now in this time ... and in the age to come, eternal life.”*

G. The church will be built up to the degree to which it receives ministry gifts

Eph 4:11-12

¹¹ *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*

Part of this equipping can include impartation.

H. The reward we receive on earth is partly based on how we receive God’s ministry gifts

Matthew 10:41-42

⁴¹ *Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.”...*

Receive = with ready reception welcoming what is offered. Name = authority, cause. 2nd Receive = lambano – to take or lay hold of. Actively. Assertive. Reward = pay, wages, recompense

I. When we partner together in ministry, we are partakers of each other’s grace.

Phil 1:7 ASB

For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

King James Bible

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

Partaker = joint sharer, Grace = blessing, favour, kindness

One of the ways we stay connected in partaking of the grace on these leader’s lives is by showing them honour.

10 Practical ways to show honour to the ministry gifts over you.

1. We show honour to church elders by giving generously to them financially.

1 Tim 5:17-18

¹⁷ *the elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.* ¹⁸ *For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," [a] and "The worker deserves his wages."*

Gal 6:6

Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

2. We show honour to church elders by not easily entertaining accusations against them.

1 Timothy 5:19 ESV

Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

3. We show honour to our leaders by obeying their instructions.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Make it easy for them to lead you. Take their words seriously. Put into practise what they teach you. Respect and appreciate their watchman role. Defer to them.

4. We show honour to our leaders by imitating their faith.

Hebrews 13:7 ESV

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

It's easy to forget your leaders.

5. We honour our leaders by attending their meetings

Arrive on time and be willing to wait if need be (that's what you do for medical specialists).

Romans 1:11-12

¹¹ *For I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you,* ¹² *that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith....*

Sometimes you have to be present to win. Some impartations only happen when you are in proximity to them.

2 Tim 1:6

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1 Tim 4:14

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

6. We honour our leaders by seeking their opinion and reflecting on their teachings

1 Cor 4:17

For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

7. We honour our leaders by passing on their teaching

2 Tim 2:2

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

8. We honour our leaders by not leaving them prematurely.

2 Tim 1:14–16

¹⁴ *Guard the treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.* ¹⁵ *You know that everyone in the Province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.* ¹⁶ *May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he has often refreshed me and was unashamed of my chains....*

It's easy to desert a leader for various reasons (You get bored, you follow others, you get offended, you see a weakness, you become envious of others who are closer, you feel the relationship has changed, you become proud, you forget about the impartation you received etc)

9. We honour our leaders by reciprocating affection

1 Thess 2:7-9

⁷ *On the contrary, we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother caring for her children.* ⁸ *We cared so deeply that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our own lives as well. That is how beloved you have become to us.* ⁹ *Surely you recall, brothers, our labour and toil. We worked night and day so that we would not be a burden to anyone while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God....*

2 Cor 6:11-13

¹¹ *We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you.* ¹² *We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.* ¹³ *As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.*

Ministry should never be about the show going on. It is about faith expressing itself through love.

10. We honour our leaders by trusting their decision-making

Acts 4:34 – 35

There were no needy ones among them, because those who owned lands or houses would sell their property, bring the proceeds from the sales, and lay them at the apostles' feet for distribution to anyone as he had need.