

## Self-Study Courses through Niceville Assembly of God

Distance learning and self-study are among the most dynamic and fastest-growing educational strategies in colleges and churches across America. Though different from traditional classroom study methodology, the goal is the same: to guide students through a systematic approach to spiritual formation.

This course has been carefully written and prepared so that you may experience intellectual and personal growth in the convenience of your home and at your own pace. Do not expect home study to be an easy shortcut to learning; it requires high motivation and self-discipline, since there are no prearranged class times. If you follow the process faithfully, however, your investment of valuable time will pay rich dividends in increased understanding and spiritual growth!

To assist students in grasping the concepts presented in self-study courses, a qualified Course Advisor is available to answer any questions you may have and to help guide you through the materials. Simply e-mail your questions or comments about course content to [dguthmuller@nicevilleag.com](mailto:dguthmuller@nicevilleag.com). Your question(s) will receive prompt attention by your Course Advisor!

### Suggestions for Studying

You cannot study the Bible as though it were just another book. Those who wrote it were inspired by the Holy Spirit, so you need the Holy Spirit to illuminate its truth to your heart and mind. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, a textbook, and a study guide, you're in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. As a student of the Holy Spirit, you'll achieve the goal of this course--anointed learning. Here are some study tips:

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. Concentration is easier if you turn your mind to your studies at the same time each day.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. Ask the Lord to help you understand the material and make appropriate application to your life.
3. Look over the lesson objectives and the questions at the back of this workbook prior to reading each section.
4. Read through the lesson. Look up scripture references and take any notes that may be helpful. You may want to highlight pages or take notes in the margins as specific points make an impression on you.
5. Close the book and try to think through the main points. Think about what you've learned and seek ways to apply it in your personal life, in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible lesson, etc.
6. Answer the study questions in the back of the workbook. To get the most out of this study, be sure to use the manual properly. Don't simply turn to the section designated and search only for the answer, leaving the rest of the valuable material unread.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.
8. Make good use of reference tools, such as a study Bible, a comprehensive concordance, and a Bible dictionary. An up-to-date English dictionary will help you understand words that may be unfamiliar.
9. If you have access to the internet, you may want to use online resources such as <http://www.biblegateway.com/>, <http://www.bible.org/>, <http://www.e-sword.net/>.
10. Email any questions you may have concerning this course and its contents to [dguthmuller@nicevilleag.com](mailto:dguthmuller@nicevilleag.com). Please indicate which course you are taking and the specific page number(s) which is/are in question.
11. When you have completed all study questions, you may check your answers against the answer key in the back of the workbook. Don't "cheat"! Remember, the only person you will be cheating is yourself!

## Personal Goals and Progress

### Learning Goal

From this course I hope to be able to:

### Study Goal

I plan to schedule the following time(s) for study:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday:

Hours per Week:

### Progress

Date Course Started:

Date Course Completed:

## Personal Commitment

I hereby submit myself to the Holy Spirit and commit myself to becoming the person God created me to be.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Anointed to Serve

## Course Syllabus



**Course description and focus:** After defining the word anointing and distinguishing between the general callings of God and His specific calling, the writer provides the reader with 16 principles for effective ministry. This course is a must for all workers in the church.

**Course Objectives(s):** The course objective is to help the reader...

1. Understand the term “anointing.”
2. Identify his or her God-given gifting.
3. Become effective in that gifting.

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Suggested Reference Materials:** Bible

# **Anointed to Serve**

(Niceville Assembly of God, Niceville, Florida)

(By Boyce A. Teas)



## **Preface**

Except otherwise noted, all Scripture is taken from the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You are permitted and encouraged to make copies of this study provided you do not sell or alter them.

## **Section 1 – Understanding the Anointing and Callings of God**

The issue is not do we have an anointing, a calling - we all have one. The question is do we have God's enabling nature to help us understand that anointing? See John 3:3, 6, 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 1 Corinthians 2:10-14. Until a person is born again of God's Spirit (John 3:3, 6) he or she is incapable of understanding spiritual matters and doing God's bidding (1 Corinthians 2:7:14). This principle applied to those who lived under the Old Covenant. Take King Josiah for example. Josiah became king at the age of eight (2 Kings 23). His father and grandfather were both evil (2 Kings 21). According to Jewish tradition, Josiah's grandfather, Manasseh, was the king who had the prophet Isaiah sawed into. Normally, children follow in the footsteps of their parents. But something happened in Josiah at age 18 that was so life changing it caused him to destroy the very idols his forefathers set up. What was so life-changing that would cause this young impressive king to break out of idolatry? He entered into a relationship with God. One day while workers were cleaning and redecorating the temple they came across the Law of God. After hearing about the judgments that would come upon those who fail to keep its precepts, Josiah entered into covenant with God. He then took steps to have all forms of idolatry removed from Judah (2 Kings 22; 2 Kings 23). God gave Josiah a destiny and an anointing to turn a backslidden nation around before his parents ever saw each other; 300 years to be exact (1 Kings 13:1-2). But it was not until this young king entered into a right relationship with God that he was able to understand his destiny in life.

Let me explain it this way. The off-spring of a bird displays every bird-like faculty and characteristic. The moment baby birds are born they are miniature copies of their parents. They eat, sing and have instincts like a bird. There comes a time when they spread their wings and take to the air. Why is that? It is because they are a bird. The offspring of an earth born creature like a worm cannot fly nor sing because it has the wrong nature. Even though a person is given an anointing, he/she cannot understand what it is or how to carry it out until he/she is born of God's Spirit.

What is the anointing? The anointing is basically God selecting you to serve Him in some field of ministry. The word "anoint" is the same in both the Hebrew and Greek:

“to smear; rub; to concentrate to an office or ministry.” In the opinion of this writer, terms such as “anointing, calling, office, gift, commission, destiny, ministry, tagged, and marked are interchangeable. Read 1 Samuel 16:11-13 and Luke 4:18-19. Oil in these passages is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

Who has an anointing, a calling? Everyone! No exceptions! Even the unbeliever has an anointing. They just don't know it. The anointing and callings of God are given to us before we are born: “Even before I was born, God had chosen me” (Galatians 1:15, Contemporary English Version). The Psalmist said to God: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalms 139:14-16). You say, “But my parents told me I wasn't wanted and that I would never be any good. How can I have an anointing from God?” I'm not talking about your parents planning your destiny. I am talking about the all seeing Creator who sees the past and future as one event planting a calling deep within your spirit before you were born (Isaiah 44). Isaiah called an unsaved king by the name of Cyrus, “God's anointed” (Isaiah 45:1). God selected King Cyrus to give the order to let the Israelites return home. The prophecy of Cyrus signing the decree to let the Hebrews return home occurred 150 years before it was fulfilled! Of course King Cyrus wasn't aware he was being used of God. Unbelievers do not have the spiritual insight to understand the things of God (1 Corinthians 1:14).

What is the difference between the gifts of the Spirit and the anointing? Spiritual gifts are the ability from God to carry out your anointing. The word “gifts” in Romans 11:29 and Romans 12:4-6 is referring to believers being gifted or endowed by the Holy Spirit to stand in certain offices, but not necessary stand in the same offices (do the same things). We can also see this in Romans 12:6-7, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:11, where Paul talks about the different gifts and ministries given to people. Romans 12:6-8, “So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (6) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. (7) If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach, (8) if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Here, Paul lists what can be called the gifts of grace (Greek: *charismata*). They are inward desires or dispositions as well as enablement or abilities (Philippians 2:13) given by the Holy Spirit to individuals in the congregation to provide the needs of the Church and express God's love to others (see 1 Corinthians 12:1; 14:12, 26; 1 Peter 4:10). However, one's primary gift (anointing) does not exclude the exercise of any other of the gifts as need may arise. Paul's list of seven grace gifts should be taken as reprehensive rather than exhaustive (see 1 Corinthians 12-14 for further explanation of spiritual gifts).

What is the difference between the gifts spoken of in Ephesians 4:11-12 and the manifestations of the Spirit referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. In Ephesians 4, the person (i.e., pastor, evangelist, teacher, etc.) is the gift. The purpose for these callings is to lead the Church in some capacity. In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, the Holy Spirit is the gift, and from Him comes special manifestations. Manifestations of the Spirit help believers carry out their God-given anointing (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 14:8-18; 16:16-18; 19:11-20; 28:1-10; Hebrews 2:3-4). They also manifest the grace, power and love of God (1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 14:25; Romans 15:18-19-20; Ephesians 4:8).

## Section 2 - General Callings

Born again believers have four general callings:

1. *Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.* This experience follows salvation. Receiving God's nature is what enables us to understand the anointing God has placed upon our lives. Receiving the Holy Spirit baptism is what enables us to carry it out (Acts 1:8). The Apostle Peter said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38-39).

I know some church groups say the gift of the Holy Spirit was for the apostles and not for modern times. But that's not true. First, there were 120 believers in the upper room not just the apostles (Acts 2:4). Furthermore, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was a common experience following receiving Christ as Lord and savior in the early Church (Acts 10:44-46; 19:4-7). The Holy Spirit is who gives us the ability to carry out our calling. You say, "I know people who are teaching and preaching and they don't have the gift or baptism of the Holy Spirit. But how much more effective would they be if they had more of the supernatural power of God working through them? Why wouldn't a believer want all that God has?"

2. *Understand biblical truth and defend the faith.* First John 2:20 states, "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth." John is not saying Christians doesn't need someone to teach them. If we didn't need teaching why would Christ anoint (call) some to be teachers (Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11)? The context of 1 John 2:20 is there were false teachers who were claiming superior knowledge over true followers of Christ. John is saying every born again believer is anointed to understand the Bible and defend the faith. Cross-reference Galatians 1:9; Philippians 1:16, 27).
3. *Evangelize the world.* No exceptions! Sixty-five percent of Jesus' recorded ministry was to lost people. So it must be important. There is a legend that goes somewhat like this. The angels had a celebration following Christ's ascension back to heaven. One of the angels noticed He had nail prints in His hands, a scar on His side and jagged scars on his brow. The angel asked, "Lord, what happened to you? What is the meaning of all those scars?" Jesus said, "I received them when I suffered on the

cross for my friends.” The Lord explained the reason He suffered and died was to save lost humanity. Another angel said, “That is an incredible story of love Lord. But you are here and lost humanity is there. How are the lost ever going to hear about what you have done for them?” Jesus gathered the angels on the balcony of eternity, directing their attention to an upper room where 120 people were worshipping and praying. “You see that hand full of ordinary believers from all walks of life down there praying? They know about what I have done and will pass it on to the entire world,” said the Lord. Another angel spoke up: “That is great, Lord. Surely some of them will be laughed at, some persecuted and some even put to death. What if they grow weary and become discouraged and fail to tell the story of you dying on the cross for the sins of humanity? What is plan B, Lord?” “There is no plan B,” replied Jesus. Other than worshipping God, there is no greater calling upon your life than to share the good news about Christ with the lost. The Lord tells us in Matthew 28:19 to go and make disciples. He further instructs us in Mark 16:15 to go into the entire world and tell everyone about the good news about Jesus. There’s nothing more rewarding than to know that you’ve influenced others for Christ and can make a difference in someone’s eternity. The best way to do that is to live like Jesus lived. Not living the character of Christ in front of the unsaved is like witnessing naked--it is shameful. People see right through us if we are not authentic.

4. *Believe God for miracles.* Jesus said in John 14:12 that His followers would do greater works than He did. How can that be? That is because when Christ walked the earth He could only be in one place at a time. Today, the Holy Spirit has untold number of born again believers to work through on the earth. Thus, more can be done. Although God sometimes places special anointing on people for specific miracles, each born again believer has been called to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and experience miracles (Mark 16:15-18). For more information on miracles, see my study on “Faith, The Making of a Miracle.”

### **Section 3 –Identifying your Specific Anointing (Calling)**

God doesn’t save us to “hang out” with nothing to do until Jesus returns. When we received Christ as Lord and Savior we received a work assignment. It is extremely important that you know what that is. There is an interesting story in 2 Samuel 18 about a runner by the name of Ahimaaz (pronounced hay-maaz). Absalom (David’s favorite son) had committed treason and was trying to take over the kingdom. Court officials rushed the king out of the capitol city in fear Absalom would kill his father. Absalom is eventually hunted down and killed. General Joab selected a Cushite who witnessed the battle to go tell David what he has seen (2 Samuel 18:21). Another runner by the name of Ahimaaz asked if he could carry a message to the king. The problem was he had not witnessed the final outcome of the battle. Nor, did he know about Absalom being killed. Thus, Joab’s response was, “You don’t have a message.” But he kept insisting until Joab finally gave in and agreed to let him run (2 Samuel 18:24). Ahimaaz out ran the Cushite and gets to the king first. Listen to what Ahimaaz said when David asked him about Absalom: “I saw great confusion just as Joab was about to send the king’s

servant and me, your servant, but I don't know what it was" (2 Samuel 18:29). King David saw the Cushite coming and realized he had the message he was looking for, had Ahimaaz stand aside and received Joab's message (2 Samuel 18:30). Think about it. After Ahimaaz ran all that way and being there at that historic moment he didn't have anything to say because he was unprepared. Ahimaaz misunderstood his calling (anointing). He thought it was to be a runner when it was actually to be a messenger! Make sure you are in your God-given calling. Here are six ways you can identify your anointing.

1. An interest or aptitude test can help you identify your calling. If you are unable to locate one on line, your local church can assist you in locating one. An aptitude test from a local high school or college can also help. But it will not address Christian minister. A Christian interest test does. I've taken several of them and they all point to the same calling. God is not going to ask you to do something you don't have an aptitude (innate desire) for. Why? It is because that is what He instilled deep within your inner self at birth. The Apostle Paul stated, Paul said, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). The Psalmist said, All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" (Psalms 139:16).
2. Your calling in life will be something you enjoy doing. Psalms 20:4, "May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." The reason God can do that is because your desires match up with His desires. Be assured, the Lord isn't going to give us the desire to serve in some capacity in Church for selfish or sinful ambitions. So ask yourself what do I enjoy doing or have a longing to do for God? You don't necessary have to be good in that area of ministry. That can come later through training and practice. But you should at least be interested in serving in that capacity.
3. Another way to discover your calling is by what you are good at. God has given each of us the innate ability to do certain things well. Matthew 25:15, "To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability." Notice each servant was called to do something *according to his ability*. This is a picture of what God does, and one of the means of identifying your anointing. It is God who gives both the anointing and the ability to carry it out.
4. Does your personality match up with what you believe to be your calling? There are some callings in life that require a person to have a people-friendly personality. There are also callings that don't require people skills. While all callings (ministries) are equally important, spiritual leaders must have people skills to be successful. To be in a position that does not match your personality is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole – it doesn't fit. People can get hurt as a result.
5. Have you been asked by a leader in the Church to serve or minister in some capacity? The very fact you have been asked indicate God wants to use you in that area of ministry.

6. Sometimes, your calling will be nothing more than a knowing deep within you. You can't explain it. You just know you have to do this. If it conforms to God's Word, it's the Holy Spirit speaking to you. Go for it!

## Section 4 – Elisha's Story

Read 1 Kings 19:15-21. The prophet Elijah finds Elisha plowing in a field. Elijah walks over and throws his mantle or cloak over Elisha. The Hebrew word for mantle or cloak is "addret." It means "skin of an animal." Elijah most likely placed his old bear skin coat over Elisha. Materially, it wasn't worth very much but in the spirit realm it represented the prophetic office. This was Elijah's way of telling Elisha he had been called by God to the office of a prophet. Elijah does not anoint Elisha immediately because there were to be years of preparation before Elisha would be ready to assume his role as national prophet of Israel.

Throughout this story, Elisha's actions tell us he placed more value upon spiritual matters than he did on material possessions and wealth. Elijah finds him plowing with the 12<sup>th</sup> team of oxen. That meant Elisha was the overseer of the other eleven plowmen ahead of him. In other words he was in charge. Had he been merely another field hand he would not have killed his master's oxen and burned the equipment. This would have been a criminal act. Anyone who owned 24 oxen was wealthy. Elisha was either wealthy or the son of a wealthy land owner. In any case, he was financially well off. Why is it important to know this? It shows that Elisha had enough spiritual insight to understand that God's call on his life was of more importance than anything this world could offer.

Read 2 Kings 2:9-12. Elijah is saying to Elisha, "It's your turn now, demand what you would like." Elisha could have asked for anything he wanted; wealth, fame, popularity, etc. Instead, he asked for spiritual power. Wow! The term "double portion" referred to in verse 9 has caused much controversy. There are those who believe Elisha was asking for twice as many miracles as Elijah. It is true Elisha had fourteen miracles to Elijah's seven, but that is not what is being asked for here. First of all, Elisha is not requesting this from God but Elijah! Can Elijah give it? The answer is no. Secondly, there is no mention of miracles whatsoever in Elisha's request. Besides, Elijah cannot give you twice as much as what he has. How can you give someone two automobiles if you only own one? One has to understand the rights of the first born son in ancient Israel to understand what Elisha was asking for. "Double portion" referred to a father-son relationship in ancient Israel. Before a father died he would divide his wealth into three parts and give it to his sons. You can visualize this by thinking of a pie that has been cut into three equal slices. The firstborn son received two of the three parts. The other sons equally shared the one third that was left. Deuteronomy 21:15-17 describes this Jewish custom. The double portion for the first born was not automatic, however. It could go to a younger son if the older son did something that defamed the family name (i.e. infidelity, etc.). For example, the double portion of Ruben's birthright was given to Joseph's son, Manasseh (Genesis 35:22; 1 Chronicles 5:1).

It is clear from the context of 2 Kings Elisha viewed Elijah as his spiritual father and was asking for the double portion, or two thirds, of Elijah's prophetic anointing. That is he was asking to receive from God the spiritual power needed to be the lead prophet in Israel. Miracles automatically accompanied that office. Man can appoint, but only God can anoint. It is God who truly knows one's heart.

Here's my paraphrase of what Elisha was saying: "Elijah, you won't need the power where you're going, but I sure could use it here. As the overseer of five Bible schools, I know you have many ministry sons. Because I have followed God's call on my life by faithfully serving you, I am asking for the spiritual double portion from God that is due the first born son to rest upon me. Let the rest be divided among your other spiritual sons." That is exactly what happened. Read 2 Kings 2:9-16. The "company of the prophets" (called "sons of the prophets" in the Old King James translation) is referring to a group of men who were being trained for the ministry. In other words, they were Bible school students. Samuel established five Bible schools throughout Israel. Whoever the national prophet was, he was in charge of those schools. In this case it was Elijah.

Our English translations do a poor job translating 2 Kings 2:10. Elijah is not saying it is a hard or difficult for God to give Elisha the anointing. The Hebrew reads like this: "You have asked for the essential thing. But it's not up to me to give this to you. If you see the method in which God takes me up into heaven, your request will be granted." That is what happened. Elisha was permitted to look into the spiritual realm and see the chariot of fire that took Elijah up into heaven and the angels who were driving it. The group of prophets who were standing on the other side of the Jordan River never saw what happened. These guys showed more academic learning than heart experience. Three different groups of prophets throughout 2 Kings 2 seem to display an arrogant attitude towards Elisha. They taunted him with, "Are you aware of the fact your master is going to be taken from you soon? We've got a Rema, word, from God..." Elisha would reply with, "yada." This Hebrew word refers to intimacy. Elijah was saying, "I know more than the facts, I have an intimate with God and can understand spiritual matters. You be quiet." These prophets had an occasional prophetic manifestation but the one who would get the mantle would be the one who had an intimate relationship with God, Elisha. Thus, the group of prophets standing on the other side of the Jordan didn't have the spiritual insight to see the method in which Elijah was taken up into heaven. Like the space ships that are sent into space at Cape Kennedy, a person could have seen this event a mile away if it took place in the physical realm. But it didn't. The chariot, horses, and horsemen were spiritual. If you had been there with a video camera all you would capture on film would have been two men walking side by side and all of a sudden the older man disappears and his coat (mantle) falling to the ground and the younger man picking it up and standing alone. This was all hidden from the natural eye. Only through spiritual eyes could one have seen this event. The same thing will happen when Jesus returns for the Church (Matthew 24:40-44; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Hebrews 9:28). Today, the double portion is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit that is given to born again believer to empower them to carry out their anointing (Acts 1:8).

## **Section 5 - Principles for Effective Ministry**

Each person who contributes something toward the accomplishment of the mission of the Church is a full time minister and can benefit from this section of the study. Full-time ministry has nothing to do with being a paid staff member in a church office. A full-time minister is the believer who fulfills his/her God-given anointing according to the enablement of the Holy Spirit.

In Colossians 4:17, the Apostle Paul closes out his letter to the church at Colosse with these words: "Tell Archippus [pronounced ark-i-puss]: See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord." Archippus was not a pastor. He was the son of

Philemon, a wealthy landowner who lived at Colossae (Philemon 2). Note the word “*receive*” in this passage. Most of us are familiar with the word receive, as we’ve heard pastors and evangelists say during altar calls, “Come forward and *receive* the Lord.” We may have asked a brother or sister in the Lord, “When did you receive the Lord and have your sins washed away? The word “received” in our text is not about receiving a blessing, but about being one: “Tell Archippus to make sure he completes the work he received in the Lord.” In other words, make sure you tell Archippus to complete the work assignment he received from the Lord. The kind of work Paul was referring to had nothing to do with Archippus’ livelihood. Sinners can operate computers, teach school, drive a school bus, perform clerical work, farm, etc., but they aren’t involved in the Lord’s work. Archippus was called into ministry so he could fulfill his anointing. It is believed Archippus became the pastor of the church at Laodicea.

What Paul said to Archippus can be said of every single born again believer. God did not save us to “hang out” with our friends until Jesus returns. When we receive Christ as our personal Savior, not only do we receive pardon for all our sins and have our names added to the Lamb’s Book of Life, we are called into the service of the Lord and received a work assignment. Here are five guidelines to help you to help you carry out the work (ministry) God had given you.

1. First, and most important, step in fulfilling the calling and gifting God has placed upon your life is to be spiritually prepared. Regardless of how talented a person might be, it means nothing if he/she is not spiritually prepared. Because God’s kingdom has no parliament building, no royal trappings, no geographical borders, fences or walls separating God’s people from the physical world they live in, it is sometimes difficult for *immature* Christians to break with the worldly mindset they grew up under. Romans 6 tells us what the new life is like, Romans 7 acknowledges our problem if we step outside of Christ for even an instant, and Romans 8 presents the wonderful answer of abiding in Christ.
2. You must also prepare yourself mentally and physically. There are numerous ways in which you can do that. For example, you can take Bible or training courses, observing others who have a similar calling, etc. Some may be thinking, “I don’t have time for all that.” Then, you are either not called to that area of ministry or too lazy to prepare for it. There are those who say, “I am filled with the Holy Spirit. Isn’t that enough?” No! I know Spirit-filled people who are not qualified to work in any Church ministry, not because they don’t have power, because they don’t know how to use the power they have. An overzealous person can destroy the work of God. Many years ago at one of his church growth conferences, Pastor Marvin Gorman told the story of a young energetic Spirit-filled man who wanted to be an altar worker. The young man was so explosive and energetic he was dangerous. Pastor Gorman asked him to sit on the front pew of the church for two years and observe what goes on around the altar. He humbly submitted and became the best altar workers in the Church. It was clear he was called to be an altar worker. He just needed some training. David was nothing more than a teenager when he was anointed king. It was years later before he was prepared and ready to assume that

office. David's first assignment from God was the official harp player for King Saul (not a very glamorous position). Why? So he could observe and learn. Even while Saul was chasing David with the intent of killing him, David was learning how to be a leader in God's Kingdom. David proved he was ready to be king when he had an opportunity to kill Saul but didn't (1 Samuel 22:1).

3. Acquire a full understand of the ministry God has called you into. Acts 13:2, "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" Although Paul and Barnabas were involved in well meaning ministry they were suppose to be doing something else. You cannot fulfill your calling if you don't know what it is. There are highly gifted believers who have no idea what God has called them to do in life. I've seen evangelists try to pastor and failed miserably because they were not anointed for that office. I've seen pastors try to be an evangelist and fail because they were called to do something else. We are all called to do the work of an evangelist but we are not all called or appointed to fill the office of an evangelist. You say, well I saw an evangelist who became an effective pastor. Either he was still flowing in his evangelistic calling and happens to be doing it in the same place each week or God gave him an additional calling of pastor. His evangelistic anointing (style of preaching) will still come through in the pulpit if that is the case. One thing for sure a person who is outside their calling will be frustrated. I witnessed this first hand in one of the churches I attended many years ago. It was not unusual for someone to ask me after a service what the pastor was trying to say in his sermon. While I did my best to edify the pastor, many times I didn't know myself. He was a kind and gentle Christian but was serving God outside of his anointing. God not only calls us according to our personality, He calls us according to our gifting as well.
4. If you have not already done so, receive the Baptism (gift) of the Holy Spirit as revealed in Acts 2:4. There is a direct correlation between the Holy Spirit and the anointing. Read 1 Samuel 16:13. Notice the Spirit of the Lord did not come upon David until after he was anointed. That is because the Holy Spirit is the power behind the anointing. Did the Holy Spirit come upon David before this time? Yes, but not to carry out his calling as king. David was anointed to be a shepherd up to this time. It is the Spirit of God that enables us to do what God has called us to do (Acts 1:8).

Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8). That is exactly what happened to me. I was ineffective until I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was speaking to His followers who were already saved. These guys went from being a disciple (bench warmer) to an apostle ("sent one") over night after being baptized with the Holy Spirit. James and John stopped being called "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17), which means "lightening boys." They started out with a serious problem with their temper. When a Samaritan village rejected Jesus they volunteered to take care of it their way (Luke 9:54)! Jesus' reply was, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of" (Luke 9:55). You never hear of these guys having a problem with their temper after

they were filled with the Spirit. Peter completely changed after he was filled with the Spirit (compare Matthew 26:69-75 with Acts 3). Coming to Christ and being baptized with the Spirit for the early Church were mutually inclusive (Acts 2:38-39; 10:44-47; 19:1-7; 1 Peter 3:21). Peter's demand that his hearers be baptized in water before receiving the "gift of the Holy Spirit" in (Acts 2:38) must not be taken as an absolute requirement for receiving this experience or an automatic consequence of water baptism (Acts 10:47). Repentance and acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior are the only conditions for receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:47; 3:19; Galatians 2:21; Ephesians 2:8). Furthermore, the *gift of the Holy Spirit* must be distinguished from the gifts of the Spirit. The former is the Holy Spirit Himself, while the latter are special abilities granted by the Holy Spirit to equip believers for service (1 Corinthians 12:1-31).

5. Stay within God's timing. People get hurt and the ministry suffers because people miss God's timing. Timing is everything in some situations. Moses' first attempt to deliver the Israelites failed because he missed God's timing and tried to do it his way (Exodus 2:11-15). The book of Esther provides an interesting story that emphasizes the importance of timing. An evil Persian nobleman by the name of Haman became angry because a Jew by the name of Mordecai refused to bow to him. Haman tricked the Persian king into signing a decree to authorize Persian citizens to kill as many Jews as they come in contact with on a certain day. What Haman didn't know was that Esther, the queen, was also a Jew and that Mordecai was her uncle. Mordecai mourns when he hears the news, goes and sits near the palace gate weeping and wearing sackcloth and ashes. This was a sign of extreme grief during ancient times. Esther sends him some clothing, but he rejects it. She most likely lived a secluded life away from contact with those outside the palace and didn't know of the decree. Mordecai sends Esther a copy of the decree through one of her servants and asked Esther to speak to the king on behalf of the Jews. Remembering what happened to Vashti, the former queen, Esther protests at first, reminding Mordecai the queen can only approach the king when called (Esther 4:9-11). She would be risking everything including her life. Appealing to Esther's character, Mordecai reminds Esther that she and her entire family will perish along with the rest of her people if something isn't done. Mordecai then interjects, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this" (Esther 4:13-14). Even if the king kills her, Esther agrees to follow his plan and asks Mordecai to come together with the other Jews to fast and pray for three days. She and her maids also fasted during this time (Esther 4:16-17).

The crucial moment arrives. Esther, in her royal robe, took up a position in the inner court of the palace in front of the king's throne room. The king was facing the entrance when he notices Queen Esther. Pleased to see her, he extends the gold scepter in his hand out to her, indicating she is permitted to enter. Esther approaches and touches the tip of the scepter. He asks what it is she desires, even if it's half of his kingdom. This sounds like her moment to expose Haman – but she doesn't. Not now. She understands the value of timing. She isn't in a hurry and she isn't revengeful because she has been *waiting* on the Lord. When we get in a hurry

and don't wait on the Lord we usually say and do things we later regret. When we have sufficiently waited on the Lord, He gets full control of our spirit. Esther's response is beautiful. While she has been fasting she has also been preparing a banquet. "If it pleases the king," said Esther, "let the king come with Haman to a dinner I've prepared for him." The king and Haman join Esther at the dinner she arranged. The king may rule Persia, and Haman may sign decrees with the king's official seal, but it is the Lord who is in control of this entire situation. And being in the center of God's divine plan, Esther becomes invincible. Following the meal, the king asked, "Now, what is it you want? Half of my kingdom isn't too much to ask! Just ask." She tells the king that she will give him a straight answer if he and Haman would come tomorrow to a dinner she will have prepared (5:5-8). Esther could have done everything today that she's going to do tomorrow, but she's trusting God's timing on this. As we'll soon learn, God's timing requires one more day.

Haman must have walked out of the palace thinking the sky's the limit. He's bursting with pride and ego. Guess who he runs into? Mordecai – that Jew who will not respect him. Mordecai is still not intimidated by Haman. He knows God is greater. Again, Haman is furious but he heads for home thinking that soon Mordecai will get what's coming to him. Haman wants to revel in his own glory. It was the ultimate opportunity to drop names. He goes home and brags to his wife and friends about his vast wealth, his many sons and how he had been elevated above everyone else. And, now the queen has invited him to dinner again. With all his wealth, glory and power you'd think that Haman would be satisfied. But he's not. He tells his wife and friends, "All this gives me no satisfaction as long as I can see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate" (5:13). His wife and friends suggest he build a 75-foot gallows and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go with the king to dinner and be happy. Haman liked the idea and orders the gallows built (5:14). He has it built seven-and-a-half stories high so every one can see what happens to people who don't go along with his program. By the way, the word "gallows" here is not what we in the western world traditionally think of it. Back then it meant "pole" or "stake." A stake was thrust into the body, and then the body was hung on a pole (in this case, seven-and-a-half stories high). The Romans got the idea of crucifixion from the Phoenicians who earlier learned it from the Persians. That's why Jesus is said to have hung on a tree or on a pole. The Romans developed the practice of driving nails into the hands. The Persians simply impaled the body on a pole. It was an anguishing, humiliating and torturous death.

That night the king couldn't sleep. He ordered the day-by-day journal of events to be brought and read to him (probably hoping it will bore him to sleep). When the attendant got to the entry where Mordecai had exposed the plot of two of the king's officers trying to assassinate him, the king asked what honor had been given to Mordecai for saving his life. Attendants informed him that nothing had been done. Of all the nights to suffer insomnia, this is the night. The king knew nothing of Haman's plan to kill Mordecai. The king asked the attendant, "Who is in the court?" Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected. An attendant informed the king that Haman was standing in the court." The king had him brought in (Esther 6:4-5).

The king asks Haman what would be an appropriate gift for the man whom the king wanted to honor in a special way (Esther 6:6). Thinking the king was going to honor him, he quickly begins to list every glory he can imagine for himself. Haman suggested having a high-ranking official take one of the king's robes and place it upon the man. Then, have the official lead him on horseback on the king's horse through the city square, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man whom the king especially wants to honor!" (Esther 6:7-9). The king liked the idea and commanded Haman to be the one to honor Mordecai in exactly that way (Esther 6:10). While Haman is furious, he has no choice but to comply. Talk about an in-your-face assignment! What goes around comes around. Sitting on the king's horse in regal attire, Mordecai was the most surprised man in the kingdom. In humiliation, Haman ran home hiding his face. After hearing Haman's story, his wife and friends tell him that Mordecai will be his downfall (Esther 6:13). They are right on target. While they are still talking, the king's attendants arrived and hurried Haman off to the dinner that Esther had prepared.

Without realizing his fate, Haman arrives at the dinner Esther had prepared for him and the king. While they were drinking wine the king asked Esther for the third time what she would like him to do for her. With much diplomacy and sensitivity, Esther exposes Haman's plot and reveals her nationality (Esther 7:3-6). In a rage, the king stomped out into the palace garden (Esther 7:7). Haman is terror-stricken. Realizing his doomed, Haman pleads for his life before the queen. When the king came back into the room and saw Haman on the couch with Esther reclined, he exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in this house?" The attendants covered Haman's face and took him away (Esther 7:8). Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, informs the king that there's a seventy-five feet high gallows next to Haman's house he had built for Mordecai, the guy who saved the king's life. The king orders Haman taken out and hanged on the gallows! The king gave the orders to make it so. The secular world calls this irony. Theologians call it sovereignty. Queen Esther was given Haman's estate, who in turn gave it to Mordecai. Esther told the king Mordecai was her uncle. The king took off his signet ring, which he had taken off of Haman, and gave it to Mordecai, making him second-in-command (Esther 8:1-2; 10:3). Keep in mind this is a Gentile country where Jews are exiles! Here, Esther (a Jew) is Queen and Mordecai (a Jew) is second in command of the most powerful empire on the planet. Talking about timing!

David was no more than a teenager when he was anointed king over Israel. He was 40 years old when he was finally crowned king (2 Samuel 5:3). Why? It wasn't God's timing. Like David, God prepares some through a cursing experience. Many years ago a young mother was bathing her two and three year old children in the bathtub when she heard the dog barking at something. Not wanting to disturb the neighbors, she told her three-year old to watch the baby while she went to see what the dog was barking at. She was only gone for a couple of minutes. When she returned the two-year old had drowned. She was crushed to say the least. She received all kinds of letters from people telling her how bad of a mother she was, most of which were Christians. But out of that tragedy birthed a unique ministry that

literally reached thousands of hurting mothers. God impressed upon her to write a letter of sympathy and encouragement when she read in the news paper about a mother who had lost a child.

6. Remain humble and submissive. Read Philippians 2:5-8. Submission is easy for some personalities, but difficult for others. Here are some areas that require submission regardless of one's anointing.
  - a. Remain submitted to God and His Word at all times (James 4:6-7). We are not equipped to do God's will unless we know and follow Scripture. That is because most of our decisions have already been made for us through the pre-determined boundaries for holy living outlined in the Bible. It is what God has in mind for the Christian life.
  - b. Submit to pastoral leadership. Read Philippians 2:5-10. Hebrews 13:17 states "obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over your as men who must give an account." Speaking of the Church, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:25, "There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other." See also 1 Corinthians 12:12-25. God can accomplish much when His church is unified. Over the years, I've seen people who said they didn't believe in Church and went out and done their own thing independent of the Body of Christ. They led good and sincere people away from the family of God and eventually away from God as the result. Some of these anti-church people organized their own church, the very thing they said they didn't believe in. I am not saying it's wrong having Bible study in our homes or to come together for fellowship outside of the sanctuary of the Church. But I am saying individual groups must come under the purview of the pastor. There is something wrong when a person stubbornly refuses to do so. Jesus said, "...on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, NKJV). Jesus was speaking of Himself, not some Bible study leader. You say, "What about the early Church? They met in homes." Yes, but they also submitted to God appointed leaders ("devoted themselves to the apostles teaching;" Acts 2:42). They attended temple services (Acts 2:46) until they were forbidden to speak in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). God appointed godly men to oversee the various flocks that sprung up as the result of persecution. James, for example, was the pastor of the Church in Jerusalem (Galatians 2:13). Submission to pastoral leadership is the pattern for Christ's Church until He returns (Ephesians 4:11-13).
  - c. Submit to government. The only time we are told to disobey the laws of the land is when they conflict with God's spiritual laws found in the Bible. See Acts 5:28-29. Regardless of how minor the decision, it should always be made in light of Biblical absolutes (commandments).
  - d. Submitted your tongue to Christ's service. Colossians 4:6 states, "Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put

them down, not cut them out” (Message). According to the apostle James, control of the tongue is a sign of spiritual maturity (James 3:2). According to the Lord, what comes out of our mouth reveals the true spiritual condition of our heart (Matthew 12:35).

- e. Be submissive in your home. This includes husbands! See Ephesians 5:18-22. Submission is a two-way street. We can't act like a tyrant at home and expect God to bless our ministry.
  - f. Finally, remain submitted to God and His will. Pride has brought many a person down. Take Korah for example (Numbers 16). Korah didn't get into trouble with God because he questioned Moses' decision. He got into trouble because of his self-righteous attitude and controlling spirit. A self-righteous person usually believes he/she can do a better job than the person in charge. Korah's destructive end, and those who followed him, is found in Numbers 16:31. James and Peter states, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5). In other words, God blocks or stands in the way of a proud person. I.e., "Lord, I am going to do a great ministry for you." And off we go only to find an obstacle blocking our way. We say, "Get behind me devil" and nothing happens. So it must not have been the devil standing in our way. There is a silly song that states, "If the Lord shuts the door, I'll kick open a window." Brilliant! If no one can open a door God shuts goes for windows, stupid! The bottom line is God cannot use a person who is proud and arrogant (1 Peter 5:5-9).
7. Pay your debts. Romans 13:8, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another." We don't hear a lot about this in Church but we should. Failure to pay our debts can make us ineffective in our anointing. People don't have any respect for those who don't pay their just debts.
  8. Financially support the local Church, cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6-11). A person who does not have enough faith to financially support the local Church does not have enough faith to be used of God in ministry.
  9. Receive a revelation of grace. A person bound with the dogma of religion (legalism) will be ineffective at whatever he/she tries to do for God. Here's my testimony: I believed in Jesus as a child and drift away from the Lord and went into rebellion. I became blinded in my left eye in a bar room fight at age 20. Not knowing if I would ever see again in that eye, I renew my commitment to serve Christ (which was later confirmed at an altar in a local church). Then, I got wrapped up in religion. Except for "minor" infractions, I lived a behavioral pure life. The only problem was my selfish desires were as evil as anyone's. My definition of holiness was one of external deeds and church-related activities. I viewed "being holy" more in terms of what to avoid than what to experience. I was actually better off in rebellion because at least I know I was wrong. In religion, I thought I was doing what God wanted. There was another problem; "clothesline" (external holiness) never draws people to the Lord. A judgmental lifestyle always repels people. More importantly, it was not

the life Jesus came to bring to me. Then one day I received a revelation of the grace of God which changed the way I viewed my relationship with God. Grace not only freed me from the dogma of religion, it changed my internal desires and motivation as well. You will experience five things when you receive a revelation of the grace of God. First, you will know beyond the shadow of a doubt you have truly been forgiven and accepted by God. Second, there will be closeness with Father God that cannot be expressed in words. Third, you will feel that the past life is irrelevant. It is not that you deny the wrongdoings of the past; there will simply be a lack of connection between the past and the present. Fourth, you will no longer feel compartmentalized or feel dead on the inside, but alive. Fifth, and foremost, you will have the internal motivation to live like Jesus lived and set the example for others. You will view working in Church ministry as a privilege and honor, not a duty or dreaded task. For a free detailed study on grace and how to break out of legalism (dogma of religion), contact the First Assembly of God Church, Niceville, Florida at [TEMO@nicevilleag.com](mailto:TEMO@nicevilleag.com).

10. Develop your spiritual warfare skills. Ministry in whatever level or capacity is spiritual warfare, of which we must be prepared for at all times. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. In this central New Testament passage about spiritual warfare, Paul tells his readers the nature of the battle and how they are to fight it. The full meaning of Paul's general command—"Be strong in the Lord and His mighty power" (v. 10) means to allow yourself to be continually strengthened by the power already made available to you in your new position and relationship with Christ. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now resides in you if you are born again. Next, Paul gives us a specific command: "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (v. 11). How do we allow ourselves to be strong in the Lord? By continually and repeatedly holding on to our position in Christ as we are bombarded by satanic strategies designed to destroy us or render us ineffective in Kingdom pursuits. In verse 12, Paul provides us with the reason for these commands: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." In other words, our real struggle—our battle, our wrestling match to the death—is not against physical or material adversaries like people, circumstances, and organizations. It is against a hierarchy of demonic forces doing battle in the spiritual realm. If the breastplate of righteousness Paul spoke of in Ephesians 6:14 is experiencing God's forgiveness and experiencing God's character, King Saul's heart was unprotected. He rejected God's true assessment of his sin and listened to the voices of jealous, accusation, and tormenting spirit. Not only was his repentance superficial, he always attempted self-justification before asking God's forgiveness. Righteousness was on his lips, not over his heart! A careful reading of Saul's story in 1 Samuel 9-31 shows the sad progression of an armorless warrior. Demonstrating humility, mercy and wisdom, Saul showed great promise after being anointed king. But early in his reign, Saul strayed. His impatience on the verge of a battle caused him to take his eyes off of God's clear command. A rash oath brought trouble to his son and the nation of Israel. His tendency to adapt God's instructions to suit his own desires led to God's

rejection of him. A reign that began in glory ended in disaster all because the warrior Saul clothed himself in the kings' armor before every battle but did not guard his heart and his mind. He neglected the spiritual armor of a greater King. "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth, buckle around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:14-15).

11. Make yourself available for ministry. The Lord Jesus spoke prophetically word when He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Matthew 9:37-38). I don't know of any Church that has enough workers. Jesus didn't say the worshippers are few. He said, "The Laborers are few." You know what laborers do? They work. Some would say, "But I thought God the Holy Spirit was going to do it?" Not without you! "But, I thought God was sovereign?" He is, but He has chosen us to be co-laborers with Him in the harvest field (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). The world is the harvest field. The point I am trying to make is there are highly talented and gifted believers who are not in any kind of Church ministry. And that should not be. In Matthew 25, in the parable of the talent, Jesus calls upon us to be good stewards of the talents and opportunities He has given us to serve. As you read though this parable you will notice each individual was given different talents (anointing) according to their God-given ability. But there was one guy who didn't do anything with what he was given because he was afraid of failing. Because he was afraid he couldn't measure up he didn't do anything with his gifting (v. 25). Richard Exley, a writer, once said, "We cannot write without the anointing but we can have the anointing without writing. What we do with our anointing is our responsibility." Jesus had this to say at the end of His earthly ministry: "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work that you gave me to do" (John 17:4). Paul said, "The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).
12. Walk in the faith God has given you to fulfillment your calling. Read Romans 12:3-5. The measure of faith spoken of in this passage is not saving faith but faith to receive and exercise the gifts God apportions to us. The "measure of faith" given to us will always correspond to the role the Redeemer assigns to us in life.
13. Don't make a god out of ministry. Here are four consequences should you do that:
  - a. First, you will become hurt and emotionally wounded when others receives recognition and you don't.
  - b. Second, you will become angry and bitter if you are asked to step down. No one likes to be fired. Read 1 Peter 5:6-9. The devil is there to devour anyone who becomes angry and bitter. No one can take your ministry or calling away! That comes from God. Church ministry is simply an opportunity (open door) into its fulfillment that all. God is not going to penalize you if a leader does not allow you to use your God-given calling. If you feel you aren't being allowed to reach your

full potential discuss it with those over you. If still no resolution, leave the matter in God's hands. Your reward will depend upon what you do with what you have, not on what others will not let you do (2 Corinthians 8:11-12).

By all means don't pout and run off to another Church. If you do, you'll most likely carry over into the ministry of that Church bitterness and resentment, which will disqualify you for further ministry. I've seen Christians leave a Church in anger bad mouth the leadership of their former Church. That should not be. You say, "What if they were wrong in that Church. Don't worry about it. That's not your concern. It's not your Church. It's God's Church. It's God's business what He allows to go on in His Church. Besides, no one is getting away with anything. "Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism" (Colossians 3:25. God with either open another door or give you a different anointing which will be just as fulfilling if you remain humble and loving. This may be His way of getting you to step out by faith into another anointing. The bottom line is, remain humble and submissive to spiritual leaders and to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- c. Jealous and resentment will fill your heart if you turn your ministry into a god. There are those who are jealous and resentful because others have received the visible positions in church while they are offered behind the scene jobs. I.e. "I don't understand why so and so gets to sing specials on Sunday morning and I am not allowed to do so...I am asked to teach a children's Bible class while so and so, who is less qualified, is asked to teach an adult class." And on and on it goes. If what we do in Church is for the Lord and for His glory and honor, it shouldn't matter where we work or if we get the less visible jobs. Those who perform menial tasks and give support to the messengers of the Lord will receive the same blessing and reward as the messengers (Mathew 10:41). It should be a privilege and honor to serve the Lord in whatever capacity.
  - d. We will become covetous and controlling when make ministry into a god. There was a lady in one of the churches I pastored who was extremely talented. She could preach, teach, take care of the church books, etc. When the church was small (i.e. 6 people) I called upon her to do everything but preach. After the congregation grew and I tried to bringing others into the different ministries of the Church, the sister became disgruntled to the point she started a "get rid of the pastor" campaign behind my back. I got wind of it and had a private meeting with her to find out what her problem was. She became so angry in that meeting she cursed at me like a heathen. What was her problem? Ministry had become a god to her. As the result, she became possessive and controlling.
14. Understand Christ is your real boss, not some church leader. Read Ephesians 6:5-8 and Colossians 3:23-24. When you view your anointing or calling as a gift coming personally from the Lord, and that He is your real supervisor, it will be no big deal if you are forced to step down from a position in the Church. Knowing Christ is your real boss will also inspire you do your very best when others are not looking.

15. Don't expect your reward in this life. Paul said, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Your heavenly reward is not based on the positions you've held in Church but on your motive for serving the Lord and doing your very best at what He's given you to do (2 Corinthians 8:12). One of the way the devil tries to discourage us is to try and get us believe we aren't receiving our fair share of recognition. Discouragement and bitterness eventually sets in as a result. A discouraged person is usually defensive. Matthew 6:19-21, "Don't store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value, and are safe from thieves. If you profits are in heaven your heart will be there too" (The Living Bible). Paul said, "No eye has seen no ear has heard no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who live Him" (2 Corinthians 2:9). No one can steal your heavenly reward.
16. Draw on the anointing. Drawing on the anointing means being absolutely sure God has called you into that ministry and is empowering you to carry it out. Hebrews 11:3, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." The Lord Jesus stated in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor..." The Spirit of God was upon Jesus because He was doing what He had been selected (anointed) by God to do. The Holy Spirit will always be drawn to the anointing.

Read John 7:14-29 and John 8:19-20. The reason the Lord Jesus wasn't concerned about what people thought about Him was because He knew who He was and what his anointing was. Many people wrongly believe the outcome of a church service is all God's responsibility. We say when we have a good service, "God really came down and moved..." When we have a routine service we say, "God didn't move in that service." God moved in both services. The outcome of a worship service is not as much up to God as it is to His people. God will move in any Church service when people worship in Spirit and truth and carry out their God-given anointing. The Psalmist said, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5, KJV). You should believe without a shadow of doubt God will enable you to be effective in your anointing. First Peter 4:10, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." Wow! Philippians 2:13, states, "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose..." Paul said, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). God will always meet you at your level of faith. Second Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." That is why we can draw on our anointing and move out by faith.

Read Joshua 3:3-16. Israel was at the bank of the Jordan River ready to enter the Promised Land. The only problem was the river was at flood stage. Joshua 3:3-4, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before..." Joshua 3:15-16 tells us what happened when the feet of the priests touched the water's edge. It had to take a lot of faith for these guys to do that. But as soon as they moved out in their anointing the water from upstream stopped flowing allowing all the people to safely cross over into the Promised Land. Talents alone are not enough. We must have God's anointing to be successful in ministry. Draw on your anointing.

17. Understand failing does not mean you are a failure. Everyone fails. No exceptions. What separates successful and unsuccessful people is not how often they fail but how they deal with failure. "It's not what happens to you, but how you react to what happens that separates the winners from the losers, the successful from the unsuccessful," says Lewis Timberlake. There are those who believe they can no longer be used by God because they stumbled and failed. Nonsense! David committed two hideous crimes and went on to become one of Israel's greatest kings after repenting. God used Noah in a great way but what did he do after the ark landed? He planted a vineyard. And, in a drunken stupor, Noah exposed himself (Genesis 9:21). Abraham not only laughed at God's promise of a son (Genesis 17:17), he lied about Sarah being his sister to protect his own skin (Genesis 20:1-2). Lying must have been a genetic disorder that ran in Abraham's family because his son Isaac also lied. Gideon started out as a coward. How about Rahab's resume? Imagine her filling out a request for ministerial credentials? I.e., what is your previous occupation? Answer: Prostitute! Here's my point: God calls imperfect human beings, not angels, to carry out His work on earth. All of the hero's of faith found in Hebrews 11 have three things in common: (1) They failed; (2) they repented; and (3) they did not let their past keep them from fulfilling God's calling on their life. You say, "Well I am afraid if I start doing what I feel I am called to do the devil might throw something in the way to keep me from doing it." You are right (2 Timothy 3:12)! Does that make you feel better? But that does not mean the enemy of your soul can be successful (Romans 8:28). There are legions of angels at your disposal, not to mention the Holy Spirit there ready to help you (Galatians 5:16). The only thing God is waiting for is for you to step out in your anointing.

While both Saul and David sinned, there is a vast difference between what these two individuals did and how they ended up. I know any sin is wrong, but wouldn't you agree with me that David taking a man's wife away from him and then having him murdered to cover up the crime is more serious than Saul refusing to kill a few animals like Saul did? Yet, David goes down in Biblical history as someone who seeks after God with all his heart (1 Samuel 13:14) while Saul is viewed as someone who rebelled against God (1 Samuel 15:23) and committing suicide (1 Samuel 31:4). Why is that? The key to understanding this is not the sin of these two men but their attitude toward their sin. When Saul was confronted with his sin of rebellion, he said

“OK I’ve sinned but make me look good before the people” (1 Samuel 15:30, my phrase). Saul was only interested in his image; how he looked in the eyes of people (1 Samuel 15:3); no remorse, no repentance, only contempt for being exposed (1 Samuel 15:20). Samuel said Saul’s refusal to repent was the same as witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). After being confronted by the prophet Nathan (2 Samuel 12:7) David’s response was, “I have sinned against the LORD” (2 Samuel 12:3). He even went before God and said, “Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me” (Psalms 51:11-12). David valued his relationship with God more than he did his reputation. Saul, on the other hand, didn’t. Like David, provided you repent, God can still use you should you step out of grace and sin. Hebrews 11 proves failure doesn’t have to be final.

## Conclusion

The Lord had you in mind long before He laid down earth's foundations (Ephesians 1:4). His hands shaped you to do ministry (Job 10:8), to be a servant in His Kingdom. The Apostle Paul said, “Throw yourselves into the service of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort” (1 Corinthians 15:58; MSG).

## Section 6 - Probing Questions

Paul states in 1 Corinthians 12:31, “But eagerly desire the greater gifts.” “What are the greater gifts?” Unity in diversity is the context and the key to understanding what the greater gifts are. Paul is talking about how the different parts of the body work together for the common good of the whole body. From that context, the *greater gifts are the ones that meet the need at any given moment in the life of the local assembly*. At the moment, it might be the person who is anointed to work in the church nursery. Unsaved parents aren’t going to attend church if there their little ones are not taken care of, etc. We must be careful not to think that those who serve on the platform or have visible anointing (i.e., sing specials, play an instrument, lead worship, preach, prophecy, give messages and interpret tongues, etc.) are more spiritual or more important than those who have less visible (anointing) jobs in church (see 1 Corinthians 12). Regardless of what you’re gifting or calling might be, it’s equally important and vital to the overall functioning of the Church. This same principle applies to individual needs. The greater gift for an individual might be a word of encouragement, for another healing, etc.

If someone backslides, doesn’t he/she lose the anointing?” Not according to Romans 11:29. However, a person who is not in right relationship with God loses the *ability* to carry out his or her anointing (1 Corinthians 9:27; Hebrews 3:6-19). Samson is an example of this. Samson was anointed to be judge in Israel with supernatural strength. Over time, because of his continued disobedience, the Spirit of God left Samson and he was unable to fulfill his anointing through his supernatural strength (Judges 16:19-20). But he did not lose his anointing. Proof of this is found in the fact that after repenting and calling upon God, Samson supernatural strength was restored, allowing him to kill more of the enemy in his death than his lifetime (Judges 17:28-30). What Samson lost

by not remaining separate from the world was his ability (the Spirit of God) to carry out his anointing. Samson's hair was simply symbolic of the Spirit's presence. Samson's great physical strength was not his own, but was the result of the Spirit coming upon him (Judges 14:19; 15:14; 16:28-30). After repenting and calling upon God Samson fulfilled his anointing, resulting in his inclusion among the heroes of faith (compare Judges Hebrews 11:32).

King Saul is another example of this. Read 1 Samuel 16:15-23; 18:9-10. Notice it was the Spirit of God who left Saul, not the anointing! Without the Spirit's backing the anointing means nothing. In 1 Samuel 24:6, after cutting off a corner of Saul's robe, David said to his men: "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." Although the Holy Spirit had left Saul long ago because of his rebellion, he is still called God's anointed by David. David was basically saying, "God forbid I should harm someone who has been marked by God for a task in life." What Saul lost was the ability to carry out his God-given anointing, the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit didn't leave Saul because he disobeyed God; the Spirit left Saul because he refused to repent and entered apostasy. See 1 Timothy 1:19; 4:1-2; Hebrews 3:7-19; 6:4-6; 10:26-31 for New Testament examples of apostasy. Should an individual continue down the pathway of rebellion his or her name can be removed from the book of the redeemed (Revelation 3:5).

While a backslidden person is not capable of carrying out his/her calling, the anointing is there should the person return to the Lord. One time, while pastoring a home mission's church, I heard of a man and his family who didn't attend church. I was told he had become hurt over a church split and backslid. His mother in law, a devout Christian who lived with he and his wife, was bed ridden. I asked him if we could drop by and conduct a prayer meeting in his home to encourage her. He agreed. Not only was his entire family saved in that pray meeting, he rededicated his life to Christ. A short time later he entered missionary work. He was a far better speaker than I was and had more wisdom in spiritual matters. You see, he had left his anointing but his anointing never left him! Without God's power of presence, we don't have the means of carrying out our God-given gifting and calling. But whatever a person's spiritual state, he/she is still called of God. Furthermore, the Word of God being proclaimed will accomplish God's purpose regardless of who is standing in the pulpit. See Philippians 1:15-18 and Isaiah 55:10-11.

"How do we know a person doing ministry in church is a true believer?" First, let me say the Bible provides ample warning concerning deceivers: 2 Corinthians 11:13; Matthew 7:15; Matthew 24:10-11; Mark 13:22; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1; Jude 4; Revelation 16:13; 19:20. The primary way to identify a false believer is given by our Lord in Matthew 7:16: "By their fruit you will recognize them." Fruit of the Spirit, not gifts, is proof that someone is saved (Galatians 5:19-25). Fruit of the Spirit is the character of God. So ask yourself, "Does that leader display the fruit of the Spirit?" If not, then he/she is not of God. Satan cannot duplicate God's character in his followers.

“What if I feel my pastor is wrong?” So? Who hasn’t been wrong at one time or other? Go to your pastor and discuss the matter. If still no satisfaction, leave it in the hands of God and pray for him or her. Never slander or pass on negative rumors about anyone, especially a spiritual leader in God’s Church. To do so will get you in trouble with God. Furthermore, don’t start up or join a “get rid of the pastor committee.” One time I was asked to attend a prayer meeting. When I showed up I realized it was a “get rid of the pastor” committee who wanted to solicit my support. I looked them in the eye and let them know in no uncertain terms I would not be a part of what was going on there. It is God who puts up and takes down.

You say, “I don’t know if I agree with that or not?” Is it worth finding out? There is only one way to find out and that is to do what David wouldn’t do, touch God’s anointed. You say, “But Saul was trying to kill David.” That doesn’t matter. It’s not about what the leader does; it’s about what we had better not do. Don’t touch God’s anointed! It’s better to be loyal to an unworthy leader than to be disloyal (Romans 14:10-12). We would be wise to follow God Word and not touch God’s anointed. That includes passing on gossip, spreading rumors, etc. No one can touch God’s anointed and get away with it. A well know evangelist several years ago brought hurtful accusations against a well know pastor. Although what the evangelist said was true, it occurred six years earlier. By the time the evangelist heard of the incident the pastor had already repented, taken himself out of the pulpit until he had made restitution and recovered from his wrong doing. But this did not stop the vengeful evangelist. He never let up until the pastor was totally removed as pastor of the Church. Shortly afterwards, it became public that the vengeful evangelist was engaged in a sinful practices while he was pointing his legalistic finger at the pastor. The difference between him and the pastor was his immorality was exposed, not to church leaders, but to the media for the whole world to see. Today, the pastor is a successful senior pastor in a very large Church in another denomination. The vengeful evangelist is a struggling evangelist.

What if the individual has sinned against me? Matthew 18: 15-18 and Galatians 6:1 provides the steps to take to recover a person who has fallen into sin. Always follow God’s Word! If a leader is in error God will send someone to call him or her into accountability. We would do well to not touch God’s anointed and follow the Word of God when dealing with offenses.

## Questionnaire for Anointed to Serve

In the pursuit of a course of this nature much Scripture must be *read*. It is recommended that you read the assigned scripture before reading the explanatory material in the study course. Certainly, the student hardly needs the exhortation to read *prayerfully*. The Bible is a class by itself, different from any other book ever written. That is because the Holy Spirit is its true author (2 Peter 1:21).

Please read through an entire section before answering the questions provided in the workbook. The value of reading with continuity is that we discern the central line of thought, the pivotal idea, which is so essential to the understanding of other scriptures related to it. Questions have been prepared following each section to help you grasp the “meat” of the study. It is important that you completely read through each section before answering these questions.

### **Section 1 – Understanding the Anointing and Callings of God**

1. Every one is called to enter into a personal relationship with God through Christ.  
\_\_\_ True \_\_\_ False
2. Terms such as “an office, gift, commission, destiny, ministry, tagged, marked, calling,” are often used to describe what?
  - a. The pastor
  - b. Sunday school teachers
  - c. Only those called into full time ministry.
  - d. The anointing of God on one’s life.
3. The anointing means you have been selected by the Holy Spirit to...
  - a. To serve God in a specific way in life.
  - b. Only to worship on Sunday morning.
  - c. Attend a Bible class.
  - d. All of the above.
4. What is the difference between the gifts of the Spirit and the anointing?
  - a. None.
  - b. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the anointing.
  - c. Spiritual gifts are the ability from God to carry out your anointing.
  - d. Spiritual gifts are for unbelievers only.
5. The word “gifts” in Romans 11:29 and Romans 12:4-6 refer to believers being gifted or endowed by the Holy Spirit to stand in certain offices, but not necessary stand in the same offices (do the same things). \_\_\_ True \_\_\_ False

## Section 2 - General Callings

The writer lists four general callings for believers in Christ. What are they?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Section 3 – Identifying your Specific Calling

1. The writer list six ways in which one can identify his or her anointing. Which one of these do you believe is most helpful and why:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In what way did you discover your anointing? (If you need help identifying your anointing email [TEMO@nicevilleag.com](mailto:TEMO@nicevilleag.com).)

## Section 4 – Elisha’s Story

1. The Hebrew word for mantle or cloak is “addret.” It means “skin of an animal.” What was Elijah placing over Elisha to indicate God had selected him to be his replacement as head prophet?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Elisha’s actions tell us he placed more value upon \_\_\_\_\_ than he did on material possessions and wealth.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What was Elisha asking Elijah for when he asked for a “double portion?”

## Section 5 - Principles for Effective Ministry

1. Full-time ministry has nothing to do with being a paid staff member in a church office. A full-time minister is the believer who fulfils his/her God-given anointing according to the enablement of the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_True \_\_\_False
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. The first, and most important, step in fulfilling the calling and gifting God has placed upon your life is to be \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Why is it important to stay within God's timing?
4. Why is submission important?
6. Failure to pay our debts can make us ineffective in our anointing.  
 True  False
7. A person who does not have enough faith to financially support the local Church does not have enough faith to be used of God in ministry.  
 True  False
8. How can a revelation of God's grace enable you to do ministry?
9. Ministry in whatever level or capacity is spiritual warfare, of which we must be prepared for at all times.  
 True  False
10. The measure of faith spoken of in Romans 12:3-5 is not saving faith but faith to ...
- Receive and exercise the gifts God apportions to us.
  - Make people feel good.
  - Help people do better in their homes, on the job and in church.
  - Enlighten us as to what we should do.
11. If we become hurt and emotionally wounded when others receives recognition and you don't or we become angry and bitter when we are asked to step down and let someone else take over, it is a good possibility we have made ministry...
- Important.
  - Our only goal in life.
  - Into a god
  - All of the above.
12. If Christ is our real boss, we will work hard whether others are watching or not.  
 True  False
13. How will not expect your reward in this life make you more effective?

14. What did the writer mean by “draw on the anointing?”

15. God has placing His spiritual mantle, calling, upon you to worship and serve Him in spirit and truth. \_\_\_True \_\_\_False

### **Section 6 -Probing Questions**

1. The Apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians 12:31, “But eagerly desire the greater gifts.” What are the “greater gifts?”

2. A believer who backslides does not loses his/her anointing but he/she does loose\_\_\_\_\_.

3. How do we know a person doing ministry in church is a true believer?

4. What did the writer say you should do if you feel the pastor or your church is wrong on something?

5. What are some things you must never do when you disagree with someone?

**Answer sheet**  
**Section 1 – Understanding the Anointing and Callings of God**

1. T
2. d
3. a
4. c

**Section 2 - General Anointing**

1. Receive the Baptism (gift) of the Holy Spirit
2. Understand biblical truth and defend the faith
3. Evangelize the world
4. Believe God for miracles

**Section 3 – Identifying your Specific Anointing Callings**

1. Open for discussion.
2. Open for discussion

**Section 4 – Elisha’s Story**

1. Elijah most likely placed his old bear skin coat over Elisha.
2. Spiritual matters
3. It is clear from the context of 2 Kings Elisha viewed Elijah as his spiritual father and was asking for the double portion, or two thirds, of Elijah’s prophetic anointing. That is he was asking to receive from God the spiritual power needed to be the lead prophet in Israel.

**Section 5 - Principles for Effective Ministry**

1. T
2. spiritually prepared
3. We may miss out on the will of God if the timing is not right.
4. God resist the proud.
5. T
6. T
7. T
8. Grace empowers us to carry out the gifting and callings of God. A person bound with the dogma of religion (legalism) will be ineffective at whatever he/she tries to do for God.
9. T
10. a
11. c
12. T
13. You will make an effort to please Jesus not people. Furthermore, you won’t be working for recognition of man but of God!
14. Drawing on the anointing means being absolutely sure God has called you into that ministry and is empowering you to carry it out.
15. T

## **Section 6 – Probing Questions**

1. The greater gifts are the ones that meet the immediate need in the life of the Church.
2. the ability to carry out their anointing.
3. By their character. Fruit of the Spirit, not gifts, is proof that someone is saved (Galatians 5:19-25). Fruit of the Spirit is the character of God.
4. Go to your pastor and discuss the matter. If still no satisfaction, leave the matter in God's hands and pray for your pastor.
5. Never slander or pass on negative rumors about the person.