



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

### Overview

As Elders and Ministers in the Way of the Cross Organization, we have the responsibility to prepare our minds, homes, skills and abilities through the word of God to be the future leaders of this organization and our churches. Preaching is but a portion of the ministry God has called us to. It is important for us to understand and embrace the totality of the individual ministries God has called us to. God has placed us where we are for a reason. We must fully understand our role in that ministry; begin the work God has called us to, while improving and perfecting the skills we must have to be effective leaders in our local assemblies and national organization.

Our goal at the end of these seminars is for each attendee to walk away with a full understanding of why God has placed us in the Ministries we are in, understand our gifts and talents, know our roles and identify our weaknesses and create a plan for improvement.

| # | Title                          | Focus   | Scriptures of Focus\Readings   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | This is who I am               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did you arrive at the ministry you are at?</li> <li>What gifts and talents did you bring or what gifts and talents were birthed in your current ministry?</li> <li>Who are you really and what makes you who you are?</li> <li>What are your likes and dislikes?</li> <li>If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?</li> <li>How do you view your upbringing?</li> <li>What is the testimony of your wife and children concerning you?</li> <li>What is the testimony of the saints concerning you?</li> </ul> | Reviewing the call to ministry of the following and how they handled the call allows us to understand and answer the following in the proper context: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abraham</li> <li>Moses</li> <li>Joshua</li> <li>Samson</li> <li>Saul</li> <li>David</li> <li>Jeremiah</li> <li>Elisha</li> <li>Paul</li> <li>Peter</li> </ol> |
| 2 | This is what I am called to do | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do you know this is your calling?</li> <li>How active are you in your calling?</li> <li>Have you made mistakes?</li> <li>Are you supported in your calling?</li> <li>How did you prepare for this?</li> <li>How do others view your calling?</li> <li>Are you effective in your calling?</li> <li>How has your temperament and attitude affected your calling?</li> <li>When did you know this was your calling?</li> <li>Who validated your calling?</li> </ul>   | Ephesians 4:11-16<br><br>Focus on the scriptures and understanding what the word says about:<br><br>Gifts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corinthians 12:23-31</li> <li>Proverbs 18:16</li> <li>Psalms 75:5-6</li> </ol>   |
|   | This is what I am doing        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What other things are you doing besides preaching?</li> <li>Does your work schedule permit you to do other things?</li> <li>Do you have balance? (work, church,</li> </ul>   | Ministers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psalms 103:21,</li> <li>Psalms 104:4,</li> <li>Ezekiel 44:11,</li> <li>Joel 2:17,</li> </ol>   |



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

|          |                        |   |  |
|----------|------------------------|---|--|
| <b>3</b> |                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>home)</li> <li>• Are you doing too much?</li> <li>• How do you know if you are doing too much?</li> <li>• Of the things you are doing, what is your primary responsibility?</li> <li>• Are you prepared for these tasks?</li> <li>• Do you want to do them or do you do them because you are asked or no one volunteered?</li> <li>• How would God view your activities?</li> <li>• How do you refresh your mind or unwind?</li> </ul> | <p>5 2 Corinthians 3:6,<br/>6 2 Corinthians 6:1-10,<br/>7 Hebrews 1:7,<br/>8 2 Corinthians 11:15</p> <p>Elders\Bishops-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 Timothy 3:1-7,</li> <li>2. Titus 1:5-11,</li> <li>3. 1 Timothy 4:1-16,</li> <li>4. 1 Timothy 5:17-25,</li> <li>5. 1 Peter 5:1-8,</li> <li>6. 1 Corinthians 12:23-31</li> </ol>   |
| <b>4</b> | Here are my weaknesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the areas you feel inadequate in?</li> <li>• Have you expressed those feelings to your leaders?</li> <li>• Do you feel attacked in those areas by the enemy?</li> <li>• Are your weaknesses causing you to be ineffective in other areas of the ministry?</li> <li>• What have your weaknesses cost you?</li> <li>• How did you know you had a weakness?</li> </ul>   | <p>Bring in real world examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jimmy Swaggart</li> <li>2. Eddie Long</li> <li>3. Juanita Bynum</li> <li>4. Paula White</li> <li>5. Ted Haggard</li> <li>6. Peter Popoff</li> <li>7. Jim Baker</li> </ol> <p>Review of these examples and others are not to cast blame or accusations as we know the bible tells us of our responsibilities in situations like this in Galatians 6:1-6. We are one bad decision from being in the same situation, but for the grace of God. We are to glean from these falls and understand how weak the flesh is and how important it is for us to know ourselves and keep our flesh on the altar.</p> |
| <b>5</b> | Here is how I improve  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are you doing to overcome this weakness?</li> <li>• Have you found a character in the bible that exhibited these same weaknesses?</li> <li>• What are you reading, watching and studying to improve you?</li> <li>• How will improvement change you, your ministry and your understanding of God?</li> </ul>  |  |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Summary</b> | <p>The higher we go in God, the more we are tried, tested, ridiculed and persecuted. Society has glamorized being the leader of church and set false expectations of those coming into the ministry. It is our goal to lay the foundation and set the proper expectations from the very beginning. Bad habits and false expectations not dealt with from the beginning become insurmountable mountains as we go higher in God.</p> <p>Being effective and understanding who you are in God, who you are as a Minister\Elder, who you are as a man, who you are as a father and brother in the church allows us to see ourselves and be able to know when our flesh is in a battle with the Spirit. We must be true to who we are.</p> |
|----------------|---|



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

### Who Called us:

#### **Ephesians 4:11-16 (King James Version)**

11And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:13Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

### Gifts:

#### **1 Corinthians 12:23-31 (King James Version)**

23And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.24For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:25That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.26And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.27Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.28And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.29Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?30Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?31But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

#### **Proverbs 18:16 (King James Version)**

16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

#### **Psalms 75:5-6 (King James Version)**

5 Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck.6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

### MINISTERS

- 1 Psalms 103:21,**  
21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.
- 2 Psalms 104:4,**  
Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flamingfire:
- 3 Ezekiel 44:11,**  
11 Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them.
- 4 Joel 2:17,**  
17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?
- 5 2 Corinthians 3:6,**  
6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
- 6 2 Corinthians 6:1-10,**  
1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) 3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: 4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; 6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, 7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; 9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; 10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.
- 7 Hebrews 1:7,**  
7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.
- 8 2 Corinthians 11:15**  
15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

### ELDERS\BISHOPS

#### 1. I Timothy 3:1-7,

1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil

#### 2. Titus 1:5-11,

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

#### 3. 1 Timothy 4:1-16,

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a **good minister of Jesus Christ**, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. 7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. 9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. 10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. 11 These things command and teach. 12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

### 4. 1 Timothy 5:17-25,

17Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. 19Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. 23Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities. 24Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. 25Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

### 5. 1 Peter 5:1-8,

1The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6Humble yourselves herefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour

### 6. 1 Corinthians 12:23-31

23And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 28And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

Who we were before we were saved or called to the ministry is as much apart of us after we are saved. We just have the ability to control it. These experiences add to the testimony of our calling. We must share those experiences as God permits. This sharing will encourage and impact those in a positive manner that we will come in contact with.

We do not forget how we were raised, or the influences tragedies had in our life. All these make up who we are, how we think, what we will tolerate and what we will not tolerate.

Never forget we are teaching and preaching to Gods people. Never get to the place where we feel we are above the people or we know more than them or that we are better than them.

### 1 Corinthians 9:22-27

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. 24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: **lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

### Who were they before they were called?

#### Group Discussion-Chart responses

- Who were you before your conversion?
- How did you arrive at the ministry you are at?
- What gifts and talents did you bring or what gifts and talents were birthed in your current ministry?
- Who are you really and what makes you who you are?
- What are your likes and dislikes?
- If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
- How do you view your upbringing?
- What is the testimony of your wife and children concerning you?
- What is the testimony of the saints concerning you?

### This is what I am called to do

- How do you know this is your calling?
- How active are you in your calling?
- Have you made mistakes?
- Are you supported in your calling?
- How did you prepare for this?
- How do others view your calling?
- Are you effective in your calling?
- How has your temperament and attitude affected your calling?



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

- When did you know this was your calling?
- Who validated your calling?

### 1. Abraham

Terah, the tenth in descent from Noah, begat three sons, Abram (later called Abraham), Nahor and Haran. Haran begat Lot (who was thus Abram's nephew), and died in his native city, Ur of the Chaldees. Abram married Sarai, who was barren. Terah, with Abram, Sarai, and Lot, then departed for Canaan, but settled in a place named Haran, where Terah died at the age of 205. (Genesis 11:27–11:32) The LORD had told Abram to leave his country and kindred and go to a land that he would show him, and promised to make of him a great nation, bless him, make his name great, bless them that bless him, and curse "him" that curses him. (Genesis 12:1–3) Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and the wealth and persons that they had acquired, and traveled to Shechem in Canaan. (Genesis 12:4–6)

### 2. Moses

According to the Book of Exodus, Moses was born in a time when his people, the Children of Israel, were increasing in numbers and the Egyptian Pharaoh was worried that they might help Egypt's enemies. Moses' Hebrew mother, Jochebed, hid him when the Pharaoh ordered all newborn Hebrew boys to be killed, and the child was adopted as a foundling by the Egyptian royal family. After killing an Egyptian slave master, Moses fled across the Red Sea to Midian, where he encountered the God of Israel in the form of a "burning bush". God sent Moses back to Egypt to request the release of the Israelites. After the Ten Plagues, Moses led the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt and across the Red Sea, after which they based themselves at Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments. After 40 years of wandering in the desert, Moses died within sight of the Promised Land.

### 3. Joshua

Joshua (Hebrew: **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** Yĕhōshúa'; Greek: Ἰησοῦς, Arabic: **يُونُسُ بْنُ يَشَع** Yūsha' ibn Nūn ; [[Turkish]] :Yuşa ), is a figure in the Torah, being one of the spies for Israel (Num 13–14) and in few passages as Moses' assistant.[3] He is the central character in the Hebrew Bible's Book of Joshua. According to the books Exodus, Numbers and Joshua, he became the leader of the Israelite tribes after the death of Moses; his name was Hoshe'a the son of Nun, of the tribe of Ephraim, but Moses called him Yehoshu'a (Joshua) (Numbers 13:16) the name by which he is commonly known; according to the Bible he was born in Egypt prior to the Exodus .[citation needed] He is occasionally associated with Caleb.

He was one of the twelve spies of Israel sent by Moses to explore the land of Canaan. (Numbers 13:1–16) After the death of Moses, he led the Israelite tribes in the conquest of Canaan, and allocated the land to the tribes. According to Biblical chronology, Joshua lived between 1355-1245 BCE,[4] or sometime in the late Bronze Age. According to Joshua 24:29, Joshua died at the age of 110.

### 4. Samson



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

Samson's activity takes place during a time when God was punishing the Israelites, by giving them "into the hand of the Philistines".[4] The Angel of the Lord appears to Manoah, an Israelite from the tribe of Dan, in the city of Zorah, and to his wife, who had been unable to conceive.[5][6] The Angel of the Lord proclaims that the couple will soon have a son who will begin to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines.[7] The wife believed the Angel of the Lord, but her husband wasn't present, at first, and wanted the heavenly messenger to return, asking that he himself could also receive instruction about the child that was going to be born.

Requirements were set up by the Angel of the Lord that Manoah's wife (as well as the child) were to abstain from all alcoholic beverages, and her promised child was not to shave or cut his hair. He was to be a "Nazirite" from birth. In ancient Israel, those wanting to be especially dedicated to God for a while could take a nazirite vow, which included things like the aforementioned as well as other stipulations.[5][6][7] After the Angel of the Lord returned, Manoah soon prepared a sacrifice, but the Angel of the Lord would only allow it to be for God, touching his staff to it, miraculously engulfing it in flames. The Angel of the Lord then ascended up into the sky in the fire revealing that it had been God in angelic form, as the Angel of the Lord and "an" angel are two different things. This was such dramatic evidence as to the nature of the Messenger, that Manoah feared for his life, as it has been said that no-one can live after seeing God; however, his wife soon convinced him that if God planned to slay them, he would never have revealed such things to them to begin with. In due time the son, Samson, is born; he is reared according to these provisions

### 5. Saul

Samuel, the Judge, had sons who were dishonest and not trustworthy of the faith. The leaders of the Israelites feared that it would be disastrous if his sons were to be judge over them and requested that Samuel give them a king. God warned that if he appointed a king over them, they would suffer from the dealings of the king. Saul, a young Israelite, was commanded by his father, Kish, to go and locate their lost donkeys. Saul obeyed and Samuel saw him walking toward him. God revealed to Samuel that Saul would be the one anointed as the "first" King of Israel. Peter J. Leithart observes: Saul, the first king, begins as an ideal choice to lead and judge Israel ..... Saul cares for his father's animals (as did Joseph and Moses, and as David will), and he is a dutiful son ..... Saul is a handsome man and a head taller than any Israelite (1 Samuel 9:2)[3]

In the Books of Samuel, Saul is not referred to as a king (melech), but rather as a "leader" or "commander" (nagid) (1 Samuel 9:16; 1 Samuel 10:1).[4] However (possibly representing an opposing literary strain[citation needed]), Saul is said to be made a "king" (melech) at Gilgal (1 Samuel 11:15). Even David, before he was anointed king, was referred to only as a future nagid, or military commander (1 Samuel 13:14).

The Israelite people generally used the term "king," because they wanted to be like the other nations (1 Samuel 8:5; 10:19). This may be indicative of the tension between what a certain faction of the people wanted, and a definite reluctance of certain leaders (e.g., the prophet Samuel) to break with the old tribal order. But Saul was finally crowned as "king" (melech) in Gilgal. (1 Samuel 11:14-12:2)

### 7. David



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

God rejects Saul as king. The prophet Samuel seeks a new king from the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem. Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was ruddy and handsome. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.[3]

### 6. Jeremiah

Jeremiah (/dʒɛrɪˈmaɪ.ə/;[1] Hebrew : יֵרֵמְיָהּ, Modern Hebrew: Yirməyāhū, IPA: jirməˈjaːhu, Tiberian: Yirmīyahu, Greek: Ἰερεμίας, Arabic: إرميا Irmīya) meaning "Yah Exalts", also called the "Weeping prophet" [2] was one of the major prophets of the Hebrew Bible. Jeremiah is traditionally credited with authoring the Book of Jeremiah, 1 Kings, 2 Kings and the Book of Lamentations,[3] with the assistance and under the editorship of Baruch ben Neriah, his scribe and disciple. Judaism considers the Book of Jeremiah part of its canon, and regards Jeremiah as the second of the major prophets. Islam considers Jeremiah a prophet, and he is listed as a major prophet in Ibn Kathir's canonical collection of Annals of the Prophets[4]. Christianity also regards Jeremiah as a prophet and he is quoted in the New Testament.[5] It has been interpreted that Jeremiah "spiritualized and individualized religion and insisted upon the primacy of the individual's relationship with God." [6]

About a year after King Josiah of Judah had turned the nation toward repentance from the widespread idolatrous practices of his father and grandfather, Jeremiah's sole purpose was to reveal the sins of the people and explain the reason for the impending disaster (destruction by the Babylonian army and captivity),[7][8] "And when your people say, 'Why has the Lord our God done all these things to us?' you shall say to them, 'As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve foreigners in a land that is not yours.'" [9] God's personal message to Jeremiah, "Attack you they will, overcome you they can't," [10] was fulfilled many times in the Biblical narrative, Jeremiah was attacked by his own brothers,[11] beaten and put into the stocks by a priest and false prophet,[12] imprisoned by the king,[13] threatened with death,[14] thrown into a cistern by Judah's officials,[15] and opposed by a false prophet.[16] When Nebuchadnezzar seized Jerusalem in 586 BC,[17] he ordered that Jeremiah be freed from prison and treated well.[18]

### 8. Elisha

Elisha was a prophet and a wonder-worker of the Northern Kingdom of Israel who was active during the reign of Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash (Joash).[3]

Elisha was the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah; he became the attendant and disciple of Elijah,[4] and after Elijah was taken up into the whirlwind, he was accepted as the leader of the sons of the prophets, and became noted in Israel. He possessed, according to his own request, "a double portion" of Elijah's spirit;[5] and for sixty years (892–832 BC) held the office of "prophet in Israel".[6]



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

His name first occurs in the command given to Elijah to anoint him as his successor.[7] After learning in the cave on Mount Horeb, that Elisha, the son of Shaphat, had been selected by God as his successor in the prophetic office, Elijah set out to make known the Divine will. On his way from Sinai to Damascus, Elijah found Elisha "one of them that were ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen". Elisha delayed only long enough to kill the yoke of oxen, whose flesh he boiled with the very wood of his plough. He went over to him, threw his mantle over Elisha's shoulders, and at once adopted him as a son, investing him with the prophetic office. Elisha accepted this call about four years before the death of Israel's King Ahab. For the next seven or eight years Elisha became Elijah's close attendant until Elijah was taken up into heaven. During all these years we hear nothing of Elisha except in connection with the closing scenes of Elijah's life.

After he had shared this farewell repast with his father, mother, and friends, the newly chosen prophet "went after Elijah, and ministered unto him." [8] He went with his master from Gilgal to Bethel, to Jericho, and thence to the eastern side of the Jordan, the waters of which, touched by the mantle, divided, so as to permit both to pass over on dry ground. Elisha then was separated from Elijah by a fiery chariot. He then beheld Elijah taken up by a whirlwind into heaven. By means of the mantle let fall from Elijah, Elisha miraculously recrossed the Jordan, and so won from the prophets at Jericho the recognition that "The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha". [9] He won the gratitude of the people of Jericho for healing its barren ground by adding salt to its waters.

### 7. Paul

Paul's conversion can be dated to 31–36 [31][32][33] by his reference to it in one of his letters. [14] There are three accounts of his conversion (Greek: *μετάνοια* metanoia) in the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 9:1-31, 22:1-22, and 26:9-24.

It took place on the road to Damascus where he reported to have experienced a vision of the resurrected Jesus. The account in Acts 9 says that both Saul/Paul and the men that were with him heard the voice asking, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" (The account in Acts 22:9 says his companions saw the light, but did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to Saul.) Saul asked, "Who are you, lord?", to which the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do". From that experience he was blinded for three days and had to be led into Damascus by the hand. His sight was restored by Ananias of Damascus. This extraordinary life-changing experience and revelation convinced Paul that God indeed had chosen Jesus to be the promised messiah. Luke, the author of Acts of the Apostles, likely learned of his conversion from Paul, from the church in Jerusalem, or from the church in Antioch. [34]

Paul's letters do not refer directly to this experience on the Damascus road. In Galatians 1:16 he writes that God "was pleased to reveal his son to me". In 1 Corinthians 15:8, in listing the order in which Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection, Paul says "last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also". (NASB) These two passages have been interpreted to refer to his road



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

to Damascus conversion experience which he elsewhere had described as the resurrected Jesus appearing to him, but in none of his own epistles does he mention that profound epiphany.

### 9. Peter

Peter's life story is told in the four Canonical Gospels, the Book of Acts, New Testament Letters, Non-Canonical Gospel According to the Hebrews and other Early Church accounts of his life and death. In the New Testament, he is among the first of the disciples called during Jesus' ministry. It was during his first meeting with Jesus that Jesus named him Peter. Peter was to become the first Apostle ordained by Jesus in the early church.[9]

Peter ran a fishing business in Bethsaida.[Jn. 1:44] He was named Simon, son of Jonah or John.[24] The Synoptic Gospels all recount how Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus at their home in Capernaum[Matt. 8:14-17] [Mk. 1:29-31] [Lk. 4:38] which, coupled with 1 Cor. 9:5, clearly depict Peter as married man. His wife is known in the East as Febronia and her feast is celebrated on June 28. In the Synoptic Gospels, Peter (then Simon) was a fisherman along with his brother Andrew and the sons of Zebedee, James and John. The Gospel of John also depicts Peter fishing, even after the resurrection of Jesus, in the story of the Catch of 153 fish. In Matthew and Mark, Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew to be "fishers of men".[Matt. 4:18-19] [Mk. 1:16-17]

### THIS IS WHAT I AM DOING

- What other things are you doing besides preaching?
- Does your work schedule permit you to do other things?
- Do you have balance? (work, church, home)
  - **Ephesians 5:15-17, Colossians 1:9-14**
- Are you doing too much?
- How do you know if you are doing too much?
- Of the things you are doing, what is your primary responsibility?
- Are you prepared for these tasks?
- Do you want to do them or do you do them because you are asked or no one volunteered?
- How would God view your activities?
- How do you refresh your mind or unwind?

### HERE ARE MY WEAKNESSES

#### Luke 22:31-33 31

And the Lord said , Simon, Simon, behold , Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:32But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted , strengthen thy brethren.33And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

#### Galatians 6:1-6



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

1Brethren, if a man be over taken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted . 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.3For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.4But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.5For every man shall bear his own burden.6Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

### **Matthew 7:1-6**

1Judgenot, that ye be not judged .2For with what judgment ye judge , ye shall be judged : and with what measure ye mete , it shall be measured to you again .3And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?4Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold , a beam is in thine own eye?5Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.6Givenot that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

### **Luke 6:33-43**

33And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.34And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive , what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again .35But love ye your enemies, and do good , and lend , hoping for nothing again ; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.36Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also ismerciful.37Judgenot, and ye shall not be judged : condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned : forgive , and ye shall be forgiven :38Give , and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down , and shaken together , and running over , shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again .39And he spake a parable unto them , Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?40The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.41And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceives not the beam that is in thine own eye?42Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

eye.<sup>43</sup>For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

### **Proverbs 11:1**

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

### **Proverbs 20:23**

Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.

### **John 8:7**

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

### **Proverbs 16:16-23**

16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!<sup>17</sup> The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.<sup>18</sup>**Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**<sup>19</sup> Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.<sup>20</sup> He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. <sup>21</sup> The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.<sup>22</sup> Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.<sup>23</sup> The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

#### **Bring in real world examples:**

1. Jimmy Swaggart
2. Eddie Long
3. Juanita Bynum
4. Paula White
5. Ted Haggard
6. Peter Popoff
7. Jim Baker

- What are the areas you feel inadequate in?
- Have you expressed those feelings to your leaders?
- Do you feel attacked in those areas by the enemy?
- Are your weaknesses causing you to be ineffective in other areas of the ministry?
- What have your weaknesses cost you?
- How did you know you had a weakness?



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS INTERNATIONAL

## ELDERS AND MINISTERS

### HERE IS HOW I IMPROVE

- What are you doing to overcome this weakness?
- Have you found a character in the bible that exhibited these same weaknesses?
- What are you reading, watching and studying to improve you?
- How will improvement change you, your ministry and your understanding of God?