
TO BOLDLY GO



REV. GAYLE CLAXTON

FROM THE AUTHOR

It has been one of life's challenges to get my thoughts into some form of readable material, that I have felt would help so many who have walked the road that I have. Knowing that I wanted my life to mean something for God and touch lives of those around me. The problem was not knowing what to do but how to do it, feeling as though everyone else had the talent but me, yet at the same time knowing that God has called me as His messenger where I was.

I will be forever grateful for the spiritual foundations that have been laid into my life, by various people such as Suzette Hattingh, Peter & Evangeline VandenBerg and Rev. Paul & Yvone Ras, along with numerous others who have impacted my life and have allowed me to grow in God.

My desire is that you will also see that God needs you, and that reaching people is important, but more than that, I pray that you will be challenged in your walk with God into new dimensions.

Yours for the extension of the Kingdom,

Rev. Gayle Claxton

Co founder of Voice in the City Ministries



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Unless otherwise noted all Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, The Living Bible Translation.

ROMANS

15: 14-21

(THE LIVING BIBLE)

14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

15 I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me
16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

17 Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done

19 by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

21 Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

**WE ARE ALL
MINISTERS
CALLED BY GOD**

INTRODUCTION

We are all ministers called by God, with the primary focus on building His Kingdom. It is vital to understand that, although we may not be called into the five-fold ministry as prophet, teacher, apostle, evangelist or pastor, we are called by God as ministers to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ through personal testimony, witness and lifestyle.

I never envisaged myself as being a minister of the Gospel - my pre-conceived idea was of standing in one of these five offices. However, the more I prayed and studied the Word of God, the more I knew and understood that to be called a minister of God was to take what the Holy Spirit revealed in my heart and share it with others. With every call, vision, or dream entrusted to us by God, we can apply the characteristics of Paul, revealed in the above passage of Scripture, which made him such a great minister of God.

These are:

- 1 Paul was gracious in his dealings with the people and called them "brothers and sisters in Christ." (v14)
- 2 Paul was bold in reminding the people of the great truths of God and His Gospel. (v15)
- 3 Paul was determined to be a minister of Christ Jesus. (v16)
- 4 Paul gloried and talked about issues that related to God. (v17-19)
- 5 Paul strove to be a pioneer to unreached areas with the Gospel. (v20-21)

**TO BE CALLED A MINISTER OF GOD WAS TO
TAKE WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN
MY HEART AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS**

THE GRACIOUSNESS OF PAUL

Paul was a man who was personally motivated to destroy the Christian Church. However, after his powerful conversion on the road to Damascus, he became a man pursuing the call of God upon his life. Two very specific aspects of his character are displayed in this passage when dealing with the Roman Church.

1 Paul refers to the Roman Church as “brothers and sisters in Christ.”

This clearly established their equality before God and displayed Paul’s attitude of servanthood to those to whom he was writing. He did not see himself as being

- better
- more spiritual
- more intellectual
- more educated

He did not refer to them as “sons and daughters”, but affirmed them as “brothers and sisters”, thereby justifying their position in Christ. This attitude allowed him to minister to all walks of life and society.

Today, can we really honestly say before God that we do not consider ourselves better, more spiritual, more educated than others?

One recollection I have is of a Christmas party that had been organised for beggars, drug addicts and prostitutes that we had been ministering to for weeks on the streets of Germany. Many of them had never attended anything like this before. At that time, we were hiring a building in which to hold our church meetings. So we decided to approach the pastor of the church as to whether he would allow us to hold our party there. It is important to remember that this was a traditional church, in a very well-to-do area. Because his Christmas service would finish at 3:00pm, the pastor agreed to us using the building from 4.00pm. Invitations were handed out to our street friends, many of whom had accepted Jesus - their hearts were washed in the blood of Jesus, but their bodies not yet in soap! We managed to arrange free transport to take them to the church and expected around 200 people.

I remember arriving at the church at 1:30pm to see 50 or 60 people, with all their belongings in bags, already waiting outside the Church building. Some had also brought their dogs and beer bottles with them.

I rushed back to the house, where many of my friends were cooking and preparing the food, and told them to prepare more food and wrap more Christmas gifts!

The traditional Church service finished at 3:30pm and out walked the saints of God in their Pierre Cardin jackets, carrying their Mona Lisa handbags. Many of them were horrified as they walked through the middle of the “street group.” If looks could have killed, most of our street friends would have been dead! Their obvious distaste conveyed itself to my new friends and I saw many begin to feel uncomfortable.

Just then, the pastor left the building, and once he saw the assembled group with their dogs, bags and bottles, he called us back inside the building. “I can’t believe that you have disgraced me by bringing these type of people to this area, to my church,” he said. “We are well respected and now these people have been seen, all these drug addicts and beggars coming to the church”. With that he withdrew his permission for us to hold our Sunday services there, and we had to find a new building for our worship meetings.

It is true to say that, as Paul, the Body of Christ needs to aspire to become all things to all men.

(1 Cor 9 v22)

2 PAUL COMMENDS THE QUALITIES OF THE ROMAN CHURCH

a) They were “filled with goodness.”

The Greek word used here is *mestoi-ogathosunes* which means, full of kindness and helpfulness, of virtue, of inner depth and richness.

We read many scriptures where we see the kindness and indeed the loving kindness of the Lord:

Ephesians 3v19 (New King James)

To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Isaiah 63v7 (The Living Bible)

I will tell of the loving kindness of God. I will praise him for all he has done; I will rejoice in his great goodness to Israel, which he has granted in accordance with his mercy and love.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalms 37v5, Psalm 34v8

b) They were “filled with all knowledge and spiritual insight.”

The Greek word used here is *pases gnoseos* which is the perception and knowledge of the love of Christ, God and the Holy Spirit, and of the spiritual need of man in this world.

John 8v31-32 (NKJ)

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him,

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed” ... “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Additional Scriptures:

John 17v16-17, John 17v3

c) They were able “to admonish one another.”

The Greek word used here is *nouthetein* which means to implant truth into the minds of the believers, to guide, correct and instruct.

Colossians 3v16 (NIV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Additional Scriptures:

1 Thess 5v14, 2 Thess 3v15

"IF YOU ABIDE IN MY WORD, YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES INDEED"



I can remember the first time that I had to stand in front of a group of people and give my testimony. I had been asked to explain what Jesus had done in my life. I stood there and stuttered, not really having an understanding of what I was expected to do. I desperately tried to make sure that I did everything the correct way, and in a perfect attitude, the way I thought you conducted yourself in a church.

After finishing my testimony, an old man from the church approached me and said, "What you have done today has spoken volumes into my life because of the way you spoke." It is important to remember that, as we continue to grow in Christ, we should continue to encourage each other in our knowledge and understanding of what God is doing within each of our hearts. We need to admonish one another to strive towards the growth that is so necessary in our own lives to become mature Christians.

Having never ministered in the Roman Church, Paul's perception of it was very much based upon the reports he had received from the few Roman Christians he had met on his travels. To use a modern-day analogy, this letter to the Body of Christ in Rome was like a sermon being preached by a visiting minister in your local church. It has been my experience many times that God will send one of His servants, who has no prior knowledge of a local church situation, to minister the Word of God to those people through the revelatory gifts of the Holy Spirit. The result is often growth and an increase in faith in that body of believers.

In summary, right from the start, Paul calls these Roman believers brothers and sisters, and pays careful attention to the God-given qualities of their fellowship together. As long as we understand that the Church of God is made up of people, and we recognise within God's people the qualities that He is shaping in their lives, we will always keep the perspective of respect between our brothers and sisters.

**AS LONG
AS WE
UNDERSTAND
THAT THE
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GOD IS MADE
UP OF
PEOPLE**

THE BOLDNESS OF PAUL

Paul is never ashamed to proclaim the Gospel. With Paul's example before us, we can see how urgently he admonishes us to do the same. It is the duty of every believer to proclaim the great truths of God and the Gospel to a dying and needy world. We are their only hope. This was the passion that drove Paul to accomplish great exploits for God.

Every one of us has this potential. However, we can only get there by unashamedly applying ourselves, as Paul did, to the message of the Gospel.

There have been many situations in my life when it would have been easier for me to be a "closet Christian," and ignore my godly responsibilities as a "minister" to stand up with boldness and declare the message of the cross of Jesus to a crowd that did not want to listen. Jesus was the perfect example. He boldly declared our salvation as He hung on the cross while the crowds mocked, jeered and spat at him. As He cried, "It is finished!" a declaration and statement rang through heaven and the ages, saying, "Salvation has come to the lost." It would have been so much easier for Jesus to deny He was the Son of God.

Boldness and the Gospel might cost you your pride, friends, and cause misunderstanding, but the rewards are eternal and everlasting.

2 Corinthians 4v1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Additional Scriptures:

1Tim 1v12, 2 Cor 5v20, 2Tim 1v11

**IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY BELIEVER TO
PROCLAIM THE GREAT TRUTHS OF GOD AND
THE GOSPEL TO A DYING AND NEEDY WORLD**

PAUL'S DETERMINATION TO MINISTER

The Bible clearly teaches that all believers are created to be kings and priests. When Paul called himself a minister, the Greek word used was “leitourgon”, which referred to the priests of the Old Testament. Paul places great emphasis on his priestly duty to pray and then to proclaim the Gospel. He reinforces the point that we are not mediators between God and man. This responsibility rests with Jesus. We are instruments that God uses to share the Gospel of salvation with man. As priests, our duty is to intercede and then to present every aspect of the Gospel, in salvation, healing and deliverance. This is the full work accomplished at Calvary, representing the complete Gospel.

Having had the privilege of ministering alongside such renowned evangelists as Reinhard Bonnke and Suzette Hattingh, I have witnessed with my own eyes the priestly capacity flowing through these ordinary men and women of God. Remembering that our duty is to present the Gospel in all its fullness, I have seen floods of salvation, countless healings and amazing deliverances, all in a single meeting. However, we must always understand that these signs and mighty miracles are only the outworking of these ministers operating in their priestly capacity, demonstrated through their determination to bring a complete Gospel to a lost world.

1 Thess 1v5-7 (TLB)

For when we brought you the Good News, it was not just meaningless chatter to you; no, you listened with great interest. What we told you produced a powerful effect upon you, for the Holy Spirit gave you great and full assurance that what we said was true. And you know how our very lives were further proof to you of the truth of our message.

So you became our followers and the Lord's; for you received our message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the trials and sorrows it brought you.

Then you yourselves became an example to all the other Christians in Greece.

Additional Scriptures:

1 Peter 2v5

Paul's emphasis on the word “acceptable” in verse 16 of this passage is interesting. The urgency of the Holy Spirit prompts us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to a lost world, in order that everyone might have the chance to be accepted by God, and acceptable to God. The only person set apart to God by the Holy Spirit is the person who comes to God in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ. As priests, we have to make the opportunity available to everyone touched by our lives.

John 14v6 (TLB)

Jesus told him, “I am the Way— yes, and the Truth and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of me.”

Often the hardest people to reach are our own family members. It takes determination and courage to present to everyone, whether close or distant, the same opportunity for eternal life through the message of God.

ALL BELIEVERS ARE
CREATED TO BE KINGS
AND PRIESTS

For my husband and I, it was often how we lived and not what we said that brought a breakthrough. Although we are both in active full-time Christian work and ministry, we are the only members of our families to have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord. As my family lived in Africa, it was very difficult to show them the opportunities and rewards of a life in Christ. However, it was a different story with my husband's family. As we visited them on average two to three times per week, a situation would often present itself where we would talk about the Gospel. However, as I'm sure has been your experience, one's words do not always meet with a positive response. We soon realised that the key to their salvation would be, not just to talk about Christ, but live Christ before them.

We are the instruments that God will use to speak into people's lives. There were many situations when sickness or difficulty came into our lives, and we were asked how we were dealing with those issues. Our only response was that we were praying and trusting that Jesus would bring us through. These examples stayed with them. It was not that they saw us pray, but they saw the answer to that prayer. It was not that they saw us respond to God, but they saw God's response to us. This began to get them thinking. However, it still remained our responsibility to bring them to that place of making a decision to follow Jesus.

I have often heard Suzette Hattingh say that nobody is kidnapped into heaven. We cannot assume that good lifestyles will get people into heaven. We need to bring them to a place where an opportunity presents itself for them to make a freewill choice to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

It was so much easier to talk to my next-door neighbour because I could share with them and then walk away. They did not see my lifestyle. Everything is under the microscope with our families. The certainty is that, when we start to minister to our families from the truth in our hearts, God is faithful to perform His Word. Remember that it is never our job to save them. It is our job to talk to them and make the opportunity. It is the job of the Cross of Christ to bring about salvation.

THE CONVERSATION OF PAUL

Paul's conversation was always filled with the goodness, knowledge and fruit of God's Word. He couldn't help but give glory to the acts of God in his own life which, when coupled with a demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power, gave birth to faith. There are three different topics worthy of note in Paul's conversation in this passage.

1 Paul gloried in Jesus

Paul gloried in Jesus alone and not in building programs, ministries, positions or titles. In verse 17, we clearly see Paul referring to his service to God. In the past few years, as I have travelled throughout the world, it has so often been heartbreaking to see so much energy, finance and effort being put into bricks and mortar, and social programs within the Church. I believe, in many ways, that this has helped to bring about the "bless me club" mentality. However, Paul was referring to what he could do to further the Kingdom of God. We see how God is beginning to move in the lives of his servants to come out of the church walls, lay down their titles and positions, and once again pick up the original mandate of preaching the Gospel to the lost. This is what I believe Paul was referring to when he says:

"Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God."

A very good friend of mine decided to do exactly that, to lay down his title as an evangelist and pastor, and once again to pick up the mandate of reaching the lost. He wanted to reach the people in his community that were not coming to his church services or being touched by his social programs. The idea came to him to start a Christian disco. This did not make him flavour of the month among his fellow church leaders. However, he knew that he would reach a group of people that would never walk through his church doors. He purchased the best equipment and hired the best lighting. He set everything up, and played entirely Christian music at his discos. There was no smoking, no drugs, no alcohol. Once people began attending the disco, he began preaching the straight Gospel to them. He has now seen hundreds of young people come to Christ and discipled within his local church. Growth in his fellowship has been tremendous as he has begun to move the goal posts, to forget what man would say and once again strive for the very thing that Christ came for - the lost and dying world.

2 Paul talks about the obedience of the converts

Due to his conversion, he knew the power of the Gospel to save and transform the Gentiles. He boldly said in V18:

“I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done.”

It is once again clear that Paul brings both aspects of the Gospel together - speaking and doing. Our obedience to speak and do what God has asked us to do will bring about the fruit in our lives. In the early days of my salvation, I knew that God had said we should lay hands upon the sick. Just knowing this and repeating it, almost parrot fashion, never brought about one healing. It was only when I became obedient to the full command “lay your hands upon the sick “ that I knew I had to add action to my words. I can remember praying for what I considered to be the simplest of ailments. I prayed for maybe, 15 people one after the other, and not one was healed. Jesus never told me to heal the sick. He told me to lay my hands upon them and leave the healing up to Him. The doing of the Gospel takes perseverance, even when we do not see the results. I persevered in praying for my headache cases and then the power of the Holy Spirit stepped in. Jesus began to heal.

**PAUL
GLORIED IN
JESUS ALONE**

3 Paul talks about the mighty signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit

Paul was in the wonderful predicament of not having to report second-hand information concerning the miracles and mighty signs that accompanied the preaching of the Gospel. His conversation was full of firsthand testimonies of the demonstration of God's power through his life and ministry. Many times, we look at our own ability and come to the conclusion that we will never see any Holy Spirit demonstration through our lives. We are so busy comparing ourselves to others. God has never asked us to be like those others. It is also a very clever plan of the enemy to fix our eyes on our own human ability when God releases the full potential of His power through us. We need to recognise that the power of the Holy Spirit is released in us when we become obedient to His spoken word, no matter how insignificant it may seem.

**JESUS NEVER
TOLD ME
TO HEAL THE SICK**

PAUL'S PIONEERING SPIRIT

Paul talks about his ambition to preach the Gospel to people groups who had yet to hear the salvation message of Jesus Christ. We so often have a misconception of the word 'ambition.' There are ambitions that are noble and worthy. These are to be cherished. All believers are under an obligation to make the most of their lives and to develop their God-given gifts and talents to the full. Jesus himself taught that any ambition that centres around and ends with oneself is wrong. However, an ambition that centres on the glory of God and the welfare of His Church is, not only legitimate, but also praiseworthy. We should, therefore, aim to put more into life than we take out of it.

WE ARE SO BUSY COMPARING OURSELVES TO OTHERS

Paul never wanted to ride on anyone else's anointing, but to build on the foundation of the challenges of God in his own life. We must never get in the habit of relying on someone else's anointing to be our soul foundation. We need to seek the new things of God and cause our spirits to pioneer in the truths of God's Word. Your neighbour may never have heard the Gospel. God has called you to be a pioneer to that person - to take the Gospel where no preacher has gone before. The Bible says to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." That also means to go into the world of every person we meet, many of whom may be in desperate need. We have the message of hope. Let us make it our ambition to reach our streets, neighbourhoods and towns with the message of Jesus Christ. Paul was the first of God's chosen vessels to carry the message of salvation to those who had never heard. Tragically, there are still multitudes of people who have yet to hear this Gospel of hope. The challenge to us all is:

- **Will we be the Pauls of today?**
- **Will we have the courage to pioneer the work of reaching the unreachable and unloved?**
- **Will ours be the voice that carries the message to those who have never heard?**

My prayer for you as you've read this booklet is that your heart will have been stirred by the Holy Spirit, not to become more like Paul or any other great preacher, but to be true to the call and vision that God has placed in your heart as ...

"a Minister of God in Action."

**WE SHOULD
THEREFORE, AIM TO
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BEFORE YOU GO

This was 1 of a 5-part series. If this message blessed you and you are interested in more teachings, visit our online store at: <https://www.voiceinthecity.org/shop/>

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