

Will

you

also

go?

- Resisting the urge to quit



## "Will you also go? Resisting the urge to quit"

We shall deal with:

1. Quitting ministry
2. Quitting your place of personal communion
3. Quitting your marriage

We shall first focus on quitting Ministry.

There is a conducted survey that revealed that a huge percentage of people in ministry considered quitting. Maybe from your personal experience or from others that you have seen, what do we think are the reasons why quitting may be considered?

### Response 1

This is a very thought-provoking topic and well worth exploring. I know pastors think of quitting because of the amount of stress that has been building up over the years. They try to be everything to everyone as this is their 'calling'

Deborah

Yes, this is one of the main reasons.

We must look after our well-being while looking after the people in ministry. Ministry can be very difficult and exhausting. It often costs you your time, energy, finances etc.

But it is a sacrifice worth offering for the sake of He who redeemed and made us His Own.

Survey shows that a high majority of pastors or people in Christian ministry are considering leaving the work of ministry.

For us as wives in ministry, either as co-pastors with our husbands, as the pastor of a local church or as a women's ministry leader, we may also be faced with so many reasons why we should throw in the towel.

In all honesty, ministry is tough, but it is also rewarding. I think we will be able to manage stress if we know that:

### **1. We are called to love God and not first the people.**

This is why for me, I must continue to check whether I love the Lord or love His work. We have many who love God's work more than God. We usually spend time with those we love,

we speak with those we love, and this should be the case for us. Let us evaluate our love level, is God still at the top of our love life?

Loving God for me means a continuous fellowship with Him in the Word and Prayer. It is in our personal fellowship with God in prayer and the Word that we can be real with our struggles in ministries.

## **2. We are called to serve God and not first the people.**

If we see ministry as God's work, then we will be able to take our questions, challenges and struggles in ministry and our personal lives to Him who is the Owner of His work.

For us to stay the course, we must not quit our relationship with God.

### **Response 2**

The enemy wants to create contention between immediate family relationships. As he knows in that way, we grow weaker quickly. As mentioned we need to pray for each other along this journey. Together we are stronger.

### **Response 3**

I believe that if we don't love God first, we cannot love the people rightly. We should remember God is Love and it is God that will teach us how to love the people rightly.

### **Response 4**

Coming into ministry for the first time, I find it very challenging and lonely, it seems to come between family relationships and our children, my consolation is the fact that I know we did not put ourselves there and we are willing to work with God, in all of it we see His hand and that has kept us going. I truly believe the driving force here is the love of Christ. May the love of Christ compel us and keep pushing us amen!

### **Response 5**

It has been rightly said, that it is God we have been called to serve and not first the people. Understanding this truth has helped us to hold on to Him who called us to serve even when we faced difficulties and disappointments from the people we serve. *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”* Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV

When close associates and trusted people who are working with you in ministry turn against you, it can bring discouragement like in the case of Moses and Korah.

When it happened to us some years ago, we were so disappointed and it brought weariness but God encouraged us and reminded us that He had not and will never disappoint us. This experience taught us afresh to put our absolute trust in God and to look unto Jesus alone.

Even Paul suffered from false brethren amidst all the sufferings he endured but he did not call it quit. All these are for our examples and edification in ministry.

Deborah

If we are going to stay the course we must learn to say no and also support and encourage our husbands when they need to say no to opportunities.

## **Response 6**

Thank you so much for this insightful topic. May the Holy Spirit of God help us not to fall by the wayside.

As we are doing the work of ministry we should remember that we are not GOD. Even Jesus Christ retreated to go have one to one on the mountain.

We should learn to rest, say no, meditate on the Word of God; have a relationship with God and pray without ceasing.

Deborah

We are not God. Christ in human body was tired and He rested by the well of Sychar.

As we move on from the matter of quitting ministry, I want us to remember that we are not meant to do everything by ourselves. Share the labour with mature members wherever possible. Ask help from fellow like-minded ministers.

Don't pursue number or fame, be focused on whosoever God has given you and your husband to labour on.

## **Quitting the place of personal communion with God.**

What could make us quit this very important place? And what is the danger?

I think for me, there are many reasons why we can quit the place of our personal communion with God.

The enemy knows that it is the place of our equipping, so anything that will stop us from going there will be well promoted by the enemy.

Some reasons for quitting the place of personal communion are:

- 1. Our personal challenges that overwhelm our hearts.** The danger of this is that our hearts will continue to sink, meanwhile, when we keep that communion going we find comfort and strength in our hearts.

I believe we should have people that we can confide in when we are in that state so that they can encourage and support us.

We need faithful Aarons who will lift up our hands as they speak the truth to us and carry us in prayer.

- 2. Another reason is busyness.** This may be busyness at home, work and ministry.

Some of us are in full-time ministry and at the same time working and also looking after the home. We need to manage our time so that our alone time with God is not eroded. We must try to protect our time with God. It is not in the quantity of time, rather it is the quality of time spent with Him.

You can spend 2 hours and use one and a half hours of the two hours to wander about in your mind, and you can spend half an hour and have full attention on Him. So, quality is above quantity.

- 3. Another one is unanswered prayers.** As wives in ministry, we have many things that we ourselves believe in God for.

But when these things are not coming through we must not allow our hearts to be discouraged. The Bible says that hope delayed wearies the heart...Prov 13:12

God knows the right time to come through for us. And we should go to Him not because of what we are seeking to get from Him, but because we love Him.

- 4. Another reason is the type of company we keep.** Proverbs 13:20 says walk with the wise and become wise.

We must evaluate our inner circles. Are they people who spur us to pursue the presence of God more, or people who help us to pursue more activities? Women can be loud sometimes, and activities upon activities can bring us distraction from the place of our communion with God.

If we have friends whose involvement in our lives always interrupts our personal communion, then we need to evaluate such friendship.

Also, the people who approach us for help, prayer, and counselling must not be draining us and pulling us out of the presence of God.

Personally, I have a principle that I don't turn my phone on before a particular time and if I do, I switch it off the moment I finish with it.

Sometimes people may call you in the morning to discuss their troubles while you are in the middle of your devotion and before you know it you have been distracted.

For me, I don't pick up calls until I am totally done with my devotional time. I will only pick it if I deem it necessary.

I try to keep my phone away but sometimes I need it during devotions, so I exercise discretion and discernment when possible.

No matter what season of life we are all in, let us keep the place of our personal communion going. We may quit all else, but not our personal place of communing with God.

No matter the pressure, let us stay put to our time alone with God. That is the only way we can continue in ministry and also keep our marriages.

### **Response 1**

Thank you sis for these words of encouragement. That songwriter says when my heart is overwhelmed, please lead me to the Rock that is higher than I and that Rock is JESUS.

### **Response 2**

Colossians 1:27. *“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”* May we continue to find hope and strength in Him.

### **Quitting Marriage While in Ministry.**

People sometimes don't know that the same difficulties they face are what people in ministry are faced with.

My husband and I met an old acquaintance who had a church near us many years ago.

The man had been through all sorts of, my husband then asked after his wife and he said they were no more. He said he caused the end of the marriage or so. I don't know the details of their marital issues, but it paints the state of many in ministry.

As wives in ministry, what are the things that could be happening that may be pushing us towards separation or ending in divorce? How can we avoid this and how can we seek help?

### **Response 1**

I think misplaced priorities can be one of the causes of this, what I mean is when ministry though very important is placed above our marriage and home. I recently heard a man of God saying, that ministry is everything because is the work of God, it comes before his marriage

and home. Having such understanding and attitude will cause one to be so consumed with ministry at the expense of cultivating and nurturing his marriage and home.

*‘For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church’?* 1Timothy 3:5

Understanding the above truth and the place of marriage in the plan of God will help many in ministry to avoid the consequences of neglecting our marriage for ministry.

Deborah

I agree, that is really key. Misplaced priority by people in ministry has ruined ministers' marriages. When marriage is not prioritised while in ministry it has a bad effect on marriage.

As wives in ministry, I think we must be deliberate with our relationship by creating me and my husband time, maybe to pray, study together, retreat together, watch movies together and communicate our fears and concerns. Lack of communication is not good in marriage. Please let us communicate with our husbands.

As women, we often overreact when we actually think we are communicating, we must keep our emotions in control and communicate in love and patience with our spouses.

## **Response 2**

Misplaced priority' sometimes is due to ignorance as many say “God's work comes before family.”

I have seen many women called into ministry yet they managed their homes and relationships. Wisdom is profitable to direct. Ecc 10:10

Deborah

We must not stop dating our husbands, you can choose a day of the month, or in the week when you do something with your husband whether spiritual or recreational.

I believe if we are investing in our marriages, issues will be addressed as they arise. When we leave things for long or bottle them in, we become fed up and think it is better to move on from this marriage.

We can manage our homes and ministry together through the wisdom of God. Amen.

Another reason why the minister's marriage may break can be abuse. This may be emotional, verbal and sometimes physical. I believe we must not cover abuse, we must talk to those who can in wisdom step in.

A pastor who is abusing his wife needs help, that is not a reflection of Christ. Let us be a good helper to any abusing husbands by talking to those who may be able to step in with godly wisdom to help them out.

## **Infidelity**

Another reason why wives in ministry think of quitting their marriages is infidelity. Infidelity is happening in ministers' marriages. And again, when we suspect unfaithfulness in our spouses, let us not take it too personally, let us see from the lens of a soul lost and pray and seek godly wisdom as to how to rescue our husbands from any form of immorality.

Sometimes, this infidelity is with pornography. Pastors are watching porn, so we need evaluation and the wisdom from above to combat any form of infidelity in our Christian/Ministry homes.

Finally, lack or difficulty can also lead to considering quitting a marriage, but we can trust God to help us in our lacks and difficulties.

Find people or someone you know you can open up to regarding the state of your marriage. Don't bottle things in, speak to someone, but at the same time be careful who you speak to.