



**The
Believers
Worship
Center**

The mentality that hinders church growth

Ministered July 12, 2009

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The Mentality That Hinders Church Growth

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The problem with church membership today is that too many members don't focus on improving their conduct for a church to grow in the power of the Holy Spirit. Disobedience, unbelief, and a lack of commitment are big problems within the church. A pastor faces this all the time when building the ministry. Mentality has a whole lot to do with setbacks for church growth. Jesus had to deal with the mentality of people all the time, and the only way He could change bad mentality was proving that faith must be strong in the mentality of people. Jesus is rejected when there is no faith. When we don't believe, we reject what the Lord can do for us. Take note of what **Matthew 13:58** says, now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. When there is a mentality of rejection, nothing can get done in a church. When a pastor gives members instructions to move forward on projects and there's rejection, the work won't get done because of unbelief. When building a church, every member must understand the faith that it takes for the work.

A good example of rejection of the work of the ministry is when you tell members to believe **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**. Christians will actually sit in church and won't believe that if they sow bountifully, they will reap bountifully. They also won't believe that God loves a cheerful giver, that grace abounds towards you, and that you will have sufficiency in all things, and you will have an abundance for every good work. Why do members of a local church reject this promise instead of receiving it? Simply put, they don't believe in God's ability. The vision of the church is not in their heart, and their love for God and the Pastor is not strong. You cannot get any results from a mentality like this for church growth. It is not just the pastor's job to eradicate a mentality like this in the church. Members must also help to rebuke people who murmur and complain about the truth of God's word to prosper. When a heart is stony, a person has no root in himself to be anchored by God; they won't endure in church for the work of the ministry. **Matthew 13:20-21** makes this very clear to church membership. This is how mentality should be in the local church for a vision. Church membership must do what the Pastor

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says to bring forth building the vision of the ministry. Members must have faith in God and in the leadership of the Pastor. A good example is in **Acts 1:4-15**, when Jesus instructed the Apostles to wait in the Upper Room in Jerusalem to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit. One hundred and twenty people united in the Upper Room with Peter to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came because they united based on what Jesus said and what He promised. Based on the mentality of one hundred and twenty people to unite and agree to stay in Jerusalem as Jesus commended, they all received the Holy Spirit as promised, spoke in different kinds of tongues, (foreign languages) Peter preached a sermon of salvation and God added three thousand new members to the one hundred and twenty member in the Upper Room according to **Acts Chapter 2**. If the mentality of all membership in a local church would just unify to agree on what the Lord instructed the pastor to do, the church would grow and accomplish the vision. All it took was unity, agreement, and a sermon of sound doctrine for one hundred and twenty people to grow to a three thousand, one hundred and twenty church membership. **(Acts 2:40-47)**

There were three key words that all one hundred and twenty members in the Upper Room focused their mentality on in **Acts 1:14**. Commanded, Wait, and Promise! Your mentality should change based on what the meaning of a word says it can do for you. God uses words for the mind to adjust and absorb to bring victory. Your mentality has to change, not God's mentality about why He uses certain words that defines results. Words have meanings! Failure is the result of how the mentality of a mind is used. God does not totally trust your mind, so He made it clear in **Philippians 2:5**, which states to let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. The mentality of Jesus was spiritual therefore, He believed what His Father said and commanded Him to do. When church members don't follow the example of having the mind Christ, it hinders church growth. Why? Because it takes the same mentality that Jesus had to believe in miracles. Jesus believed in miracles; as a member of a church do you? Do you really believe all things are possible with God as Jesus did? As a member of the church, can you read **Mark 10:27** and believe it? Can you adjust your mentality to believe that scripture when you are going through trials and tribulations and still remain

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a strong supporter of your church? As a member of a church, you must answer these questions. A pastor needs a strong mind to build a vision not a weak one.

In $\begin{matrix} _ \\ _ \end{matrix}$, God used words to form the creation of the world. This proves that words have meanings to produce life. Word usage is so important for mentality to spring forth and produce for the kingdom of God. Words change mentality to produce power. I would like to challenge the mentality of church membership to focus on eight (8) words that will produce growth in the church.

If the words Grace, Faith, Love, Unity, Giving, Intercessory Prayer, Obedience and Fruit have no meaning in your mentality as a church member, then the church won't grow with you, and you won't grow with the church. Why, because this is mandatory for mentality to grow to experience God in a local church. I will define each word to help a church member understand how valuable the meaning of a word is to mentality.

1. Grace – unmerited favor for sinners to receive salvation, and for saints to have victorious living. **1 Corinthians 12:9-10** makes it clear that grace is sufficient for you. Jesus said “My strength is made perfect for you in weakness”. So how can a Christian be weak when grace makes them strong? Mentality needs to see and adjust to the fact that grace produces sufficiency. This means that provisions or supply is coming your way. Whatever the amount of adequacy you need, the strength of grace will provide for you. Instead of being weak by your infirmities, reproaches, needs, persecutions, and distresses, you would take pleasures in them for the sake of Christ, because your mentality understands when you are weak, you are strong. So what does trials and tribulations have to do with grace? Absolutely nothing! Your mind has to know what grace does.
2. Faith – Is belief, trust, confidence, and reliance. These words hold substance! We must believe in God, trust in God, have confidence in God, and rely on God. Faith is belief not based on sight. **Hebrews 11:1** says faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hope means I'm looking forward to something I haven't seen. **Verse 9** says, but without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God, must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. A church member must have faith to believe in God. A lot of members come to church and don't believe

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in God. How can a Christian be an effective member if they don't have faith? When God looks at a church and see that the membership has no faith in Him, it displeases Him. God does not bless people He is not pleased with. Therefore, if members are not blessed by God, how can the local church grow and prosper? Mentality has to change. When you come to God, you must believe that He is God. When you truly believe who God is, you seek Him. When you seek Him, this means you believe. Now your mentality has to change, that when you seek Him you believe something is going to happen. However, God used the word diligent, so your mind must adapt to the word diligent. This means you have applied a constant effort to be persistent in pursuing God. A diligent Christian believes in **Hebrews 4:16**, let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Notice God uses what comes from Him to bless you. Grace and mercy in your time of need. Diligence provokes God's grace and mercy and that has to be processed through your faith. Read **Matthew 19:26** and believe with your faith. Change your mentality. A Christian should always be in position to believe in these scriptures:

- a. Matthew 5:3-12
- b. Mathew 6:25-34
- c. Matthew 10:1
- d. Mark 8:1-9
- e. Luke 4:18-19
- f. Acts 1:5-8
- g. Acts 2:21
- h. Romans 12:3-8
- i. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- j. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
- k. 1 Corinthians 14;2-5
- l. Galatians 5:22
- m. Revelations 20:11-15

3. **Love**- This is a mentality members of a church must operate in and understand when to use it. Let me start by saying how much do you love the Lord, your pastor, and

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the church? Love to these three areas are very important in order for a church to grow. Love produces excitement and joy for the Lord and the work of the ministry. A loving mentality produces submissiveness and commitment to the church. When reading the book of Acts, chapters 1 through 4, I see nothing but love in the mentality of the members growing from 120 in the Upper room, to 3,120 after Peter's sermon. Then to an astounding number of 8,120 from a miracle wrought through Peter. When you add women and children to **Acts 4:4**, it had to be more than 8,120 members of the early church in Jerusalem. There was so much love in the mentality of the church membership, that they all were of one heart and one soul. Their mentality was so strong in love for each other, that none of the members said the things they possessed were their own, but they had all things in common. That mentality produced the grace of God on them all, meaning every member of the church had favor from God. The love of God was so strong in the church for each other that no one lacked anything. The church members that were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things they sold and laid it at the Apostle's feet. Look at the love and the mentality to commit to leadership. The church had so much money, it distributed to anyone who had a need. Only love for the Lord can produce like that. the mentality of love from this church is the same type of love Jesus had for the people in His earthly ministry. Let's see what **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** says to develop our mentality in love. If you want to grow spiritually and serve your church well as a member, then please believe in these scriptures. ⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails!" If church members who lack this belief in their mentality would change the way they think, the love from them would impact the vision of the church. **John 3:16** says For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Notice the scripture says God gave His love to the world, by giving us Jesus Christ not to perish, but have eternal life. If the mentality of church members would focus constantly on giving love as their heavenly Father God does, the presence of God would have an immediate impact on the church.

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This means God will have a direct relationship in building the church, because membership is showing love. I'm encouraging every member of a local church to read and meditate on these scriptures: **John 13:34-35**; **1 Peter 1:22-23**; and **1 John 4:7-11**. Bringing forth these scriptures in your mentality will change you as a child of God, if you lack love as a member in your church. You are important to God and your church. Grow in love!

4. **Unity**- If there is no unity amongst membership in a church, then how can it grow? Members must unite to build a church vision. Unity is being one, having oneness of mind, and being on one accord to accomplish the work of the ministry. When members of a church use their mentality to unite and agree, God can manifest His power to prosper the church. To build unity in a church is a project within itself because some member's mentality about life is different. As a church member, there should be one common goal, build the vision of the church. That should be the mission of every member that joined the church. The pastor explains the vision, but if the members don't unite to build it, then how can it come to pass? Listen to what **1 Corinthians 1:10** says, Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Notice the scripture says "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" speak the same thing, there should be no divisions and church members should perfectly be joined together with the same mind and judgment for the will of the Lord. Perfectly joined together means to completely use your mentality for the Lord to speak the same thing, don't use your mentality to bring divisions, and use your mentality to be of the same mind and judgment. Please remember to be perfectly joined together mean you are completely using yourself to bring results. Every member of a church should read **Ephesians 4:11-13** and understand it is their obligation to know the role of their pastor as a gift of service for them.

5. **Giving**- There is a problem every pastor faces financially for the church, and that is inconsistency with tithes and offerings. Mentality for giving is not always so cheerful for some members. When church members use their mentality to put the financial burden on others and not be dedicated themselves, it shows a lack of faith and love for

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the ministry. Reading **Malachi 3:8-12** is a proven fact that God is committed to tithes and offerings. **Hebrews chapter 7** reveals in the New Testament that tithing was commanded by God, and an act of obedience from the times of Abraham, Moses and the Leviticus priesthood, up to our Lord Jesus Christ who lives forever as our High Priest. Therefore, Jesus receives our tithes and offerings as a High Priest with a better covenant. **Malachi 3:11** says God will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so he won't destroy you. **Hebrews 7:25** says our Lord Jesus Christ is able to save those who come to God through Him since He lives to make intercession for us. When a church member don't want Jesus to be their financial advisor, they don't believe in God. Jesus lives to pray for your salvation and financial difficulties from problems in life. God organized the tithe for His financial system in the earth to produce His will through generations for the work of the ministry. God does use money to build the Kingdom of God in the earth. The problem is members who don't tithe to the church, must adjust their mentality to obey God in this area. Not obeying God to tithe is to willfully sin against His financial system for the church. How can a church produce if members have the mentality they don't have to tithe? **Ecclesiastes 10:19** says, money answers everything. Money pays the church mortgage, utility bills, the purchase of a sound system, pews, carpet, salaries, and many materials and items to build and function as a church. So why would a church member think it is not their responsibility to tithe? Money must be given to build the work of the ministry, therefore members must believe in tithing. Listen to what the scripture says in **2 Corinthians 8:12**, "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have." Every church member that has a job can give ten percent of their gross earnings. You have it because you have a job. The problem with a church member who don't tithe, is that their mind is not willing. What has to change is their mentality toward God. When you read **2 Corinthians 9:7**, believe what it says, that God loves a cheerful giver. Every believer should be happy about giving based on the words, God loves. That means His focus is on how you give to the church. If you are cheerful, then God loves your actions. A good example is in **Genesis 4:4-7**. Abel had a willing mind and Cain didn't. See the difference about God's thoughts between the two brothers. The Lord accepted Abel's offering because he was cheerful in his giving. However, the Lord did

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not receive Cain's offering based on his mentality. Cain was not a cheerful giver. He was always apprehensive about giving to God. When members don't give to please God, sin stands at the door. Allow God to be delightful about your heart towards giving. If you are struggling in giving, change your mentality in this area for ministry, and watch how financially balanced you become.

6. Intercessory Prayer- As a member of a church, do you have a mind to pray consistently? Prayer is essential for every member and the church to grow in Christ. When praying, we are actually talking to God about our conditions and needs. There are many scriptures in the Bible about prayer. There is one scripture I would like to bring to your attention in **James 5:13**, "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray..." Notice the scripture says let him pray. Meaning you are responsible to get before God and talk to Him about your problems. The word of God is not telling you to go to another person and talk about your sufferings, but to go to God. One of the main problems with the mentality of church members is that they complain and depend on each other for solutions, than praying to God. **Hebrews 4:16** says, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." What is God saying to us? Don't be fearful to come before me, but be courageous and don't hesitate to obtain mercy and find grace from Me. My throne is to help you in your time of need. God's throne means He has sovereign power and authority to make changes for you. A good example of this is in **Acts 12:1-19**. It shows God's sovereign power and authority through prayer to save Peter's life while held in prison by King Herod. The saints of God came boldly to the throne of grace and obtained mercy for Peter through prayer. Now just think how powerful this could be if members of the church come together and pray for their pastor's challenges for the ministry instead of complaining. In **Luke 6:12-16**, Jesus gave Himself to prayer all night to make a decision on naming His apostles. How much time do you give to prayer before making a decision? **Philippians 4:6-7** tells us to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. The mentality of some members in a church is not to pray first, but to anxiously make decisions that pull them out of the will of God. It is the will of God that you financially position yourself to support the church. Members of a church are

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suppose to commit to church fellowship and grow to live for the Kingdom of God. As born again Christians, we give our life to Christ, and we live to build His kingdom. There is a pattern amongst Christians, that you can tell when they have a prayer life verses an anxious life. A praying Christian waits on God, but an anxious Christian make bad decisions. As a pastor, I have seen Christians get anxious and marry the wrong person. Bought a car too soon, over charged their credit cards for items, and buy a home they can't afford. Because of anxiousness, there are Christians that had to get a second job for extra money to get out of debt. Instead of coming to church, they can't because they have to work that second job to cover their debts. When we make bad decisions to satisfy ourselves first and not God, it can take us out of fellowship with Christ. Instead of the peace of God surpassing all your understanding and guarding your heart, you are in bondage, frustrated, and complaining about time and money for the church. All as a result of not praying first. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** tells us to pray without ceasing. Meaning we should always have a conscience to pray as Christians. **Luke 4:18**, men should always pray and not lose heart. The greatest prayer I've ever heard and read was in **John 17:1-26**. Jesus knew He was going to die, but He interceded on behalf of His disciples and every church member in the history of the church age. Thank you Jesus that according to **Hebrews 4:15**, we have a Savior and High Priest that see and understand our weaknesses and sympathize for us before God the Father. That in **Hebrews 7:25**, Jesus lives to make intercession for us. When church members use their mentality to pray and intercede for others, the Holy Spirit can drive people to come where deliverance is. Church growth is for those who want to be saved. Let's use our minds to pray that saints will have a hunger according to **Acts 2:46-47**, that through this mentality, God will add to the church.

7. **Obedience**- There are too many members that attend churches with the mentality to disobey God and the instructions of the Pastor. When there are goals for the church to meet, and members respond in disobedience, it hinders the growth of the church. **Hebrews 13:17** tells members of a church or Christian organization to obey those who rule over you. Pastors really need church members to be submissive for ministry and building a church. A pastor is accountable for the souls of the congregation, and that should be understood in the mentality of membership. Even though pastors experience

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constant warfare, the members of the church should work hard to present joy and not grief. Pastoring a church with a bunch of disobedient members brings grief instead of joy. It puts the ministry in a unprofitable position. The church must be profitable to souls not unprofitable. Therefore obedience is a word that must manifest in church membership in order for the church to grow and produce the will of God. Focusing on obedience will change your life for God. You will become strong and unmovable as a pillar for the church. In the book of Acts chapter 10, you will see obedience from two people that God gave instructions, and the powerful results. God used Peter to minister salvation to an Italian Centurion soldier by the name of Cornelius. He was in charge of the Roman Italian Regiment of soldiers. Focus on verse 4 (**Acts 10:4**) and see how God paid attention to the obedience of Cornelius in prayer and giving. His life of prayer and giving came up before God as a memorial. Cornelius served people with a conscience of prayer and giving to help people in need. He was a devout man that feared God. This means Cornelius worshipped God as a religious man, and not a born again Christian of the Holy Spirit. This man was more obedient to God as a sinner, than some saints as members of a church. There are members who come to church, don't have a prayer life or live to give to the kingdom of God. God took the time to look at a devout man, who was a religious sinner, and said you are important to Me. I love your prayer life and the way you give to help people and support My kingdom. Therefore, I want to save Cornelius, his family, and all the people around him, because his praying and giving are a memorial to Me. This delighted God so much, that God said Peter, go get this man! I want him in my Kingdom, and to serve me the rest of his life. God wanted Cornelius to be filled with the gift He promised to give man, the Holy Spirit. Read the excitement of verses 44-46. (**Acts 10:44-46**). Cornelius is now a man destined for eternal life. Do you see what obedience can do? Reading **Acts chapter 10** should change the mentality of every church member that walk in a life of disobedience. There are many scriptures in the bible that teach us about obedience, but here are a few scriptures I would like to see church members focus on:

- a. **John 14:23**- The mentality of a saint should be to always obey God's word.

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- b. Philemon 1:21- The mentality of a saint should always have confidence in their obedience unto God. You should always know that obedience moves God towards you.
- c. **Hebrews 5:8**- Every born-again Christian should learn obedience from the things they have suffered in life. It's when mentality don't change people suffer from disobedience.
- d. **Galatians 5:1**- The law of liberty is freedom produced by Christ for the mind of a Christian, that is not a forgetful hearer of God's word, to be a doer of the work of ministry. The mentality should always be to continue in the liberty they have learned from the obedience of hearing God's word not to get entangled in bondage.
- e. **1 Peter 1:22-23** - Born again Christians live to be doers of the word of God and not hearers only. When church members position themselves to have a mentality to obey God's word and do what it says, the faith of the church grows to believe all things are possible with God.
- f. **Revelations 22:14**- The Lord says we are blessed when we do His commandments. This mind for obedience cause saints in the future the right to the Tree of Life and enter the gates of the city. Praise the Lord for those who have a mind to obey to enter through the gates of God's city prepared for me.

Are you ready to change your mentality as a Christian not to hinder the growth of the church? Only you can change your mentality to produce for God. As a church member, you are a very important part to manifest the will of God through your life. Because of you, someone in your family, a close friend, or a co-worker on your job will get saved and come to your church. Don't you want them to have eternal life, grow from a pastor who teaches the will of God, and see that your confession is true about Christ and your church? Then you must be a member that focus on being productive in the church with obedience. It must start with you first. You are the example for the power of God to be seen in your church. Cornelius is not the only one God was paying attention to because of his obedience. He's also paying attention to you so you can join the list of the hall of fame heroes that God called and they obeyed. Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Job, Moses,

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Elijah, David, Joseph and Mary, the disciples, Apostle Paul and the names can go on and on, but now is the time for your name to be added to the list.

Jesus had the mentality as our Savior to obey God the Father unto His death. Now it's our time to have the mentality to obey our Lord and King until the day we die, and be made perfect with Him.

8. Fruit of the Spirit- When a Christian does not operate in the Fruit of the Spirit, they will definitely hurt themselves and the church. where there is no fruit, there is no character of god. Every Christian should know the Holy spirit produces the character of God in us. The manifestation of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control identifies us as walking in His character. There is no law of the flesh that can conquer a Christian when they live to walk in the Fruit of the Spirit, **Galatians 5:22-23**. The more fruitful you become, the more you mortify the flesh. Often I will tell some Christians, it's not your faith this lacking, it's your fruit! You must also balance your walk in Christ with fruit as you do faith. In **2 Peter 1:5-9**, it teaches Christians they must add to their faith to be complete so you will not be barren and unfruitful. There are too many church members hurting the growth of their ministry because they will not grow in the Fruit of the Spirit. The nine manifestations of the Fruit of the Spirit produce the power God when attacks come. **John 15:1-8,16** informs us of how important bearing fruit is to God. Members of a church should realize that when God does not see Himself in you characteristically, He cannot move through you to bless spiritually. Practicing an unfruitful life means God will cut you off. Jesus said, "every branch in me that does bear fruit, He takes away." Your fruit also positions God the Father to give you what you may ask in the name of Jesus. Bearing fruit and your fruit remaining to bring forth much has a lot to do with you receiving from God. So many Christians overlook bearing Fruit of the Spirit as the character of God for their lives. Their focus is not always to operate in it. you must always operate in the Fruit of the Spirit to be effective in Christ as an individual, and church member. Always remember your Pastor is counting on you as a church member to live a life full of the Spirit and depend on nine (9) manifestations of fruit to operate through you. With a church member bearing fruit, the anointing of God will fill the church.

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May the Lord bless you with a mentality that will not hinder the church. Grow in the power of the Holy spirit and allow the Spirit of God to have control of your mind. Once the Holy Spirit is the leader in your decision making, there will be a mental rest in your walk of life.