



The Role of a Minister

By Reverend Sola Adesope

Outline

- An Apostolic Faith Minister
- Sermon Structure
- Basic Do's and Don'ts When Preaching
- Prayer Life of a Minister
- Church Attendance
- Advice for Pastors
- The Importance of Unity

Scriptural Foundation

- **John 15:16**

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.”

- **1 Timothy 4:6**

“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.”

- **1 Timothy 4:12**

“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.”

An Apostolic Faith Minister

- We are **called by God** to be ministers in the Apostolic Faith Church (John 15:16).
- This calling is a privilege but also a great responsibility.
- We must pass on the torch as brightly as it was given to us.
- Preaching and life outside the pulpit:
 - Ministry is not just about preaching—it's about how we live.
 - Our lives outside the pulpit affect what we can preach and teach.
 - They are separate yet one—we cannot separate our character from our message.

An Apostolic Faith Minister

- Is a friend of the Bible—reads the Bible and prays
- Knows our church history, doctrines, and traditions or practices
- Mostly learns vicariously
- Lessons from experience
 - Wisdom was passed down from older ministers and learned over time.
 - Basics matter.
 - Staying grounded in foundational principles ensures effective ministry and leadership.

Sermon Structure

- Read Scripture First
- Keep Sermons Concise
- Encourage
- Purposeful Opening and Closing
- Engage the Audience
- Stay within Your Role
- Altar Calls Matter



Sermon Structure

Read Scripture First

- Always start with reading the Scripture passage.
- Three rules of starting sermons:
 1. Read Your Text!
 2. Read Your Text!!
 3. Read Your Text!!!
- If you are a guest minister, you can deliver greetings from your home church—very quickly.
- Announce and repeat the texts clearly so everyone can follow.

Sermon Structure

Keep Sermons Concise

- Short is better than too long.
 - In the United States, we typically suggest:
 - ~30 minutes for a morning devotional service
 - ~20 minutes for an evening evangelistic service
- It is better to leave the congregation wanting more than wishing the sermon were over earlier.
- Listen to feedback (e.g., from a spouse, friend, or fellow ministers).
- Avoid rambling or filler content.

Sermon Structure

Encourage, Don't Discourage

- Preach messages of hope and encouragement.
 - You can preach a message about hell positively.
 - “The Lord is . . . longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” **2 Peter 3:9**
- “Lift up, and not a beat down gospel.”
- The saints have been beaten down all week—they want to be encouraged and lifted up when they show up in church.

Sermon Structure

Purposeful Opening and Closing

- Most people will remember how we open and close our sermons.
- Illustrations can be useful for opening and closing sermons.
- The closing should be intentional and aligned with the sermon's theme.
- Extend an invitation to both sinners and saints.
- The closing is a crucial part of the sermon—don't neglect it.

Sermon Structure

Engage the Audience, Avoid Distractions

- Don't go too long.
- Avoid preaching about specific individuals' problems from the pulpit.
- If several inspirations come late in the sermon, save them for next time.
- Don't take all the fishes from the ocean in one day or else . . .

Stay within Your Role

Altar Calls Matter

Basic Do's and Don'ts When Preaching



Basic Do's When Preaching

Preach the Gospel, Not Personal Convictions

- Stick to Scripture, not personal opinions or preferences.
- “No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” **2 Peter 1:20**

Take the Shortcut to Calvary

- Make sure you take the people to Calvary.
- Leave the flock at Calvary—don't take them away.

Watch the Clock

- Keep track of time and avoid overly long sermons.
- Preach a 20-minute sermon in about 20 minutes.
- Don't preach a 20-minute sermon in 40 minutes.

Basic Do's When Preaching

Be Mindful of Speech Habits

- Avoid repetitive phrases or filler words that distract.

Stay Focused on Your Message

- Avoid getting stuck on a single topic (hobby-horse preaching).

Basic Don'ts When Preaching

Don't Preach Personal Convictions as Doctrine

- Avoid pushing personal opinions on non-essential matters.

Don't Put Hands in Pockets or Cross Your Legs

- These habits can be casual and/or distracting.
- Break these habits if necessary.

Avoid Excessive Use of "I"

- The focus should be on God and His Word, not self.

Don't Criticize other Bible Versions or Churches

- Focus on our ministry, not tearing down others.

Basic Don'ts When Preaching

Avoid Political Issues

- Preach the Gospel, not politics.

Be Cautious with Prophecy

- Avoid setting dates or making speculative claims.

Don't Rely on Questionable Sources

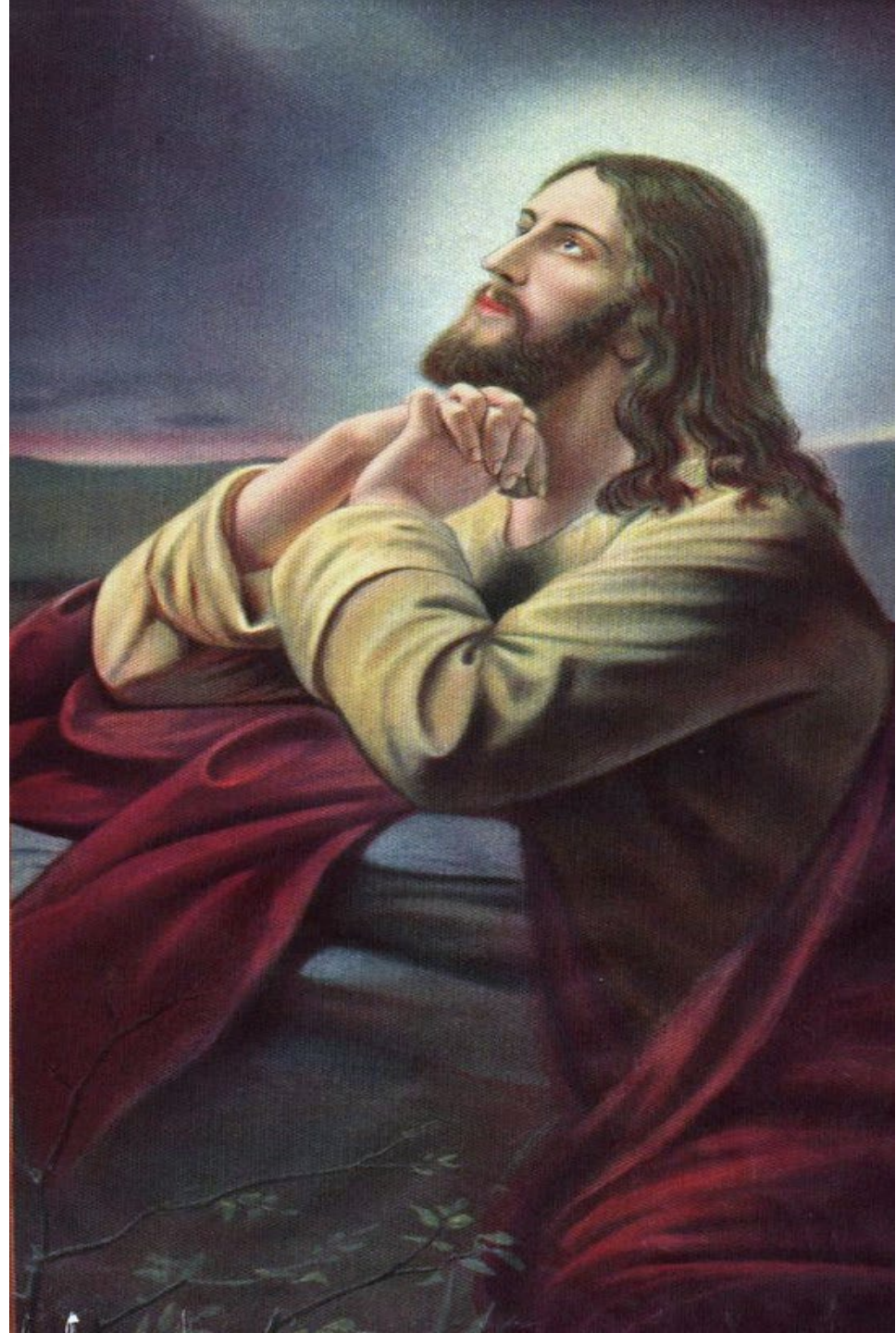
- Avoid quoting radio talk shows, celebrities, viral emails, or unverified claims.

Our Purpose Is to Lift Up Jesus

- We do not want people to exclaim, “Oh, what a preacher!” but, “Oh, what a God!”

Prayer Life of a Minister

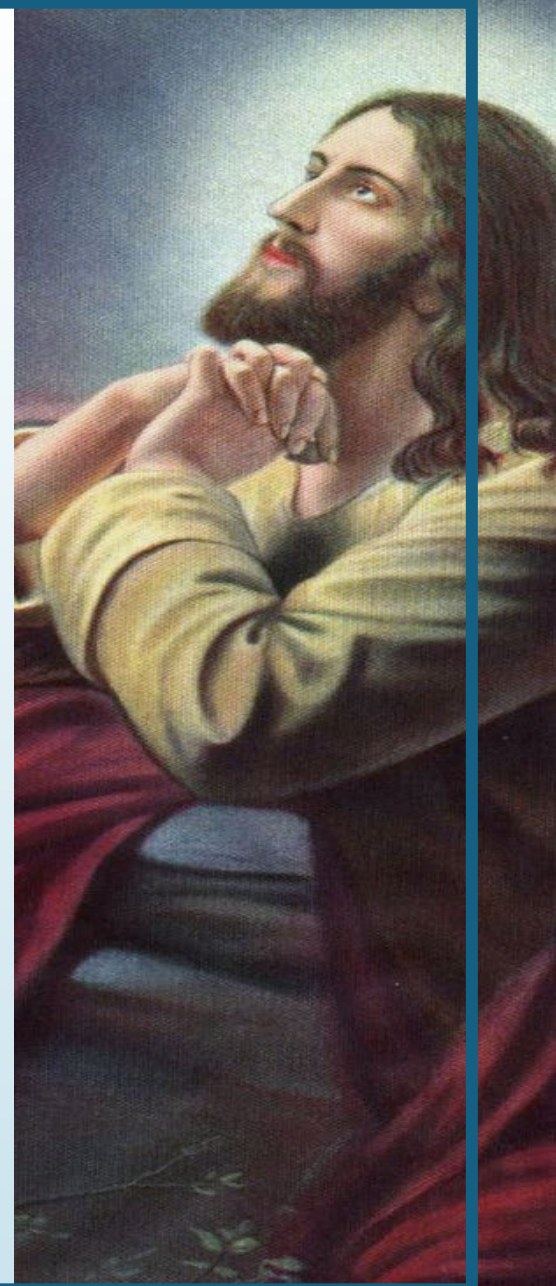
- The Importance of Prayer
- Prayer in Personal Life
- Prayer Habits for Ministers
- Praying Publicly



Prayer Life of a Minister

The Importance of Prayer

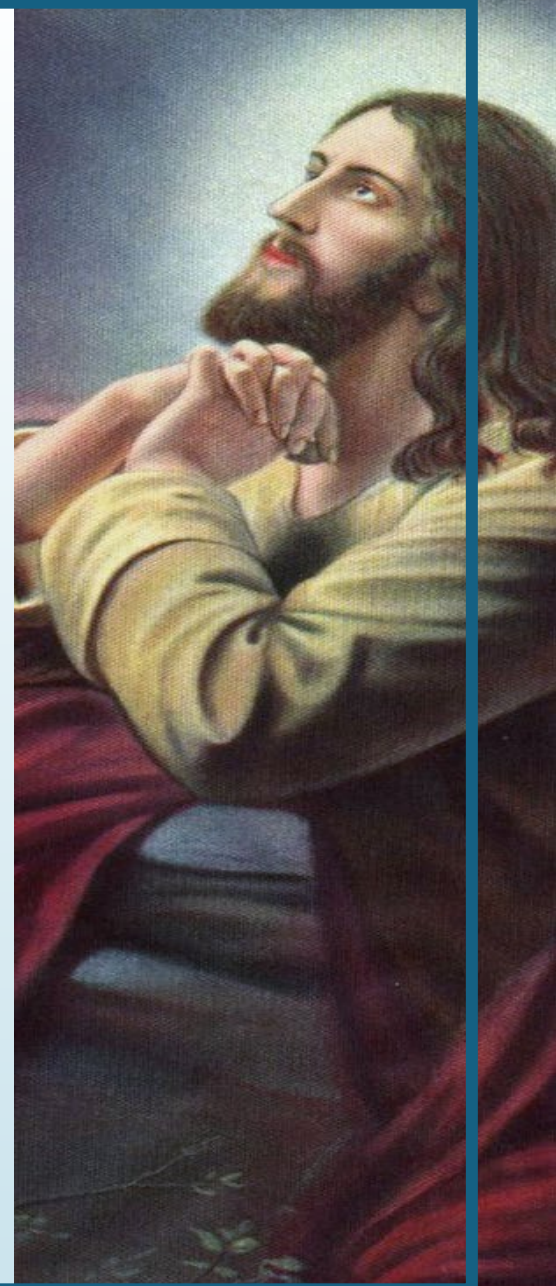
- Prayer strengthens preaching
 - Our preaching is only as strong as our prayer life.
 - Without prayer, our sermon is just words lacking the Holy Spirit's power.
- Leading by example
 - We must earn the right to preach on prayer by being a person of prayer.



Prayer Life of a Minister

Prayer in Personal Life

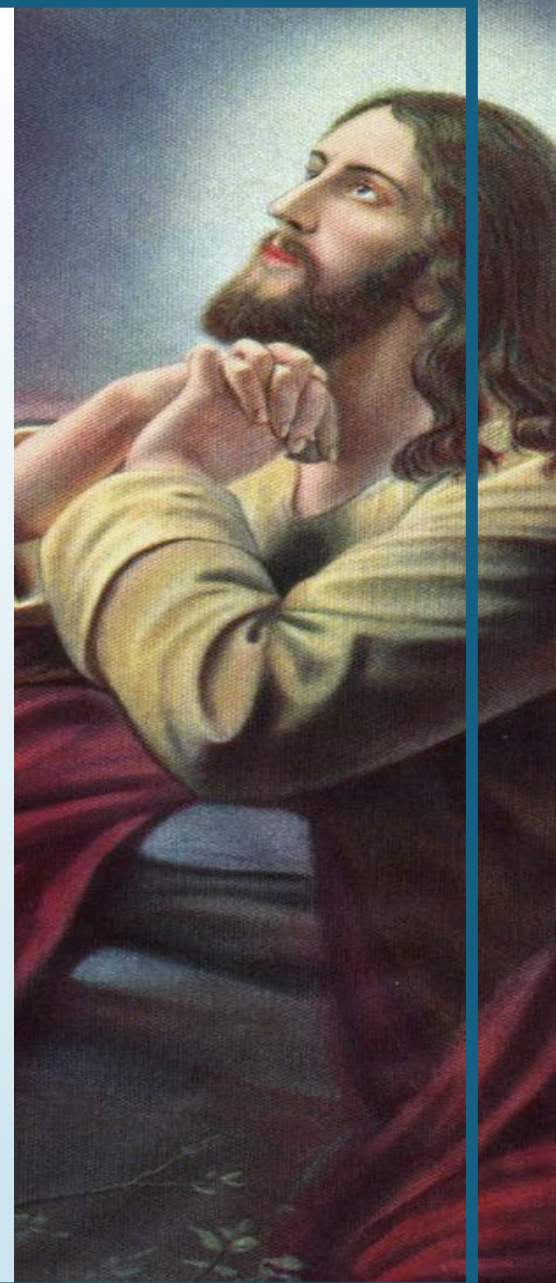
- Make time for prayer at home with family, your spouse, or alone if you are single.
- A consistent prayer life will be evident in your preaching.
- Pray because it's in your heart, not just because people are watching.



Prayer Life of a Minister

Prayer Habits for Ministers

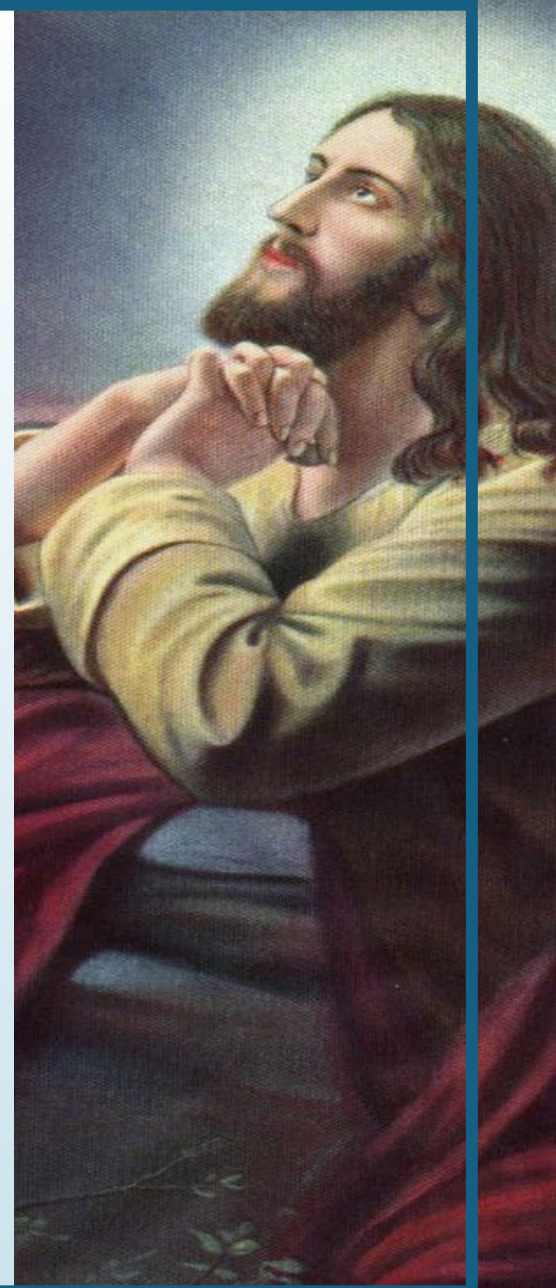
- Be in the prayer room about 30 minutes before meetings.
- If ministers do not prioritize prayer, the congregation won't either.
- After every meeting, spend time at the altar in prayer, including helping seekers.
 - A good minister is a good altar worker.
- Pray out loud to encourage others.
 - We don't want to pray to be seen, but we want to be seen and heard praying out.



Prayer Life of a Minister

Praying Publicly

- When closing in prayer, don't preach another sermon—keep it focused and brief.
- Encourage sinners and backsliders, but avoid long-winded prayers.
- In mid-service congregational prayers, leave room for the preacher's message.
 - Don't say everything.
 - Don't preach when asked to give congregational prayer



Ministerial Practices

- Praying for the Sick
- Setting and Respecting Boundaries
- Handling Conflicts
- Church Attendance
- Advice for Pastors
- Importance of Unity



Ministerial Practices

Praying for the Sick

- Pray for the sick with humility.
- Use proper hand placement.
 - We do not put our hands on ladies' shoulders or anywhere except their heads when praying for them.
 - Put your hands lightly on people's heads when they ask to be prayed for.
- Respect personal boundaries.
- Faith, not force.
- Don't go to pray for ladies in a private setting all by yourself—go with other ministers, elders, or your spouse.

Ministerial Practices

Praying for
the Sick



Ministerial Practices

Setting and Respecting Boundaries

- Boundaries can show our integrity.
- Boundaries are needed for dealing with everyone, especially those of the opposite gender.
- Don't counsel with closed doors.
- Don't be a hugger to everyone.
- Keep your hands to yourself as much as possible.
- Be careful of holding a lady's hand if she is not your wife, daughter, or family.
- It is better to sit with your spouse or family members.

Ministerial Practices

Handling Conflicts

- Remember to follow Biblical principles
- Don't compromise unity
- Ministers should not gang up against the pastor
- Pastors should not gang up against a fellow pastor
- It is better to report a deviant pastor to the leader or headquarters than gang up with other pastors
- Pastors should welcome constructive feedback

Ministerial Practices

Church Attendance

- Lead by example
 - Attend all church meetings and activities; people notice commitment.
- Support all events
 - Engage in services, potlucks, youth meetings, and concerts.
- Be active in worship
 - Sit up front, pray upon arrival, say “Amen” with sincerity.
- Testify and participate
 - Don’t just observe; share your testimony and contribute.
- Encourage the faithful
 - Avoid rebuking the dedicated attendees for others’ absence

Ministerial Practices

Advice for Pastors

- The church belongs to the people
 - It's built by their tithes, labor, and dedication.
- Lead with love
 - Win the love of the saints, especially children, as love strengthens our ministry.
- Don't rush change
 - Respect traditions; only make changes when necessary and after giving it much time and prayer.
- Don't make the church about you or your family
 - Don't close the church down because you and your spouse/family are on vacation. Ask for visiting ministers to step in if necessary.

Ministerial Practices

Advice for Pastors

- Build trust
 - Keep confidences; once trust is broken, the problem spreads quickly.
- Obtain leadership approval
 - Seek necessary approval from your leader, district superintendent, or director before appointing ministers.
 - Check with your leader before inviting guest ministers for special meetings—they may have information that you don't.
- Stay positive
 - Avoid portraying pastoral life as a sacrifice; it's a privilege and blessing.

Ministerial Practices

The Importance of Unity

- Unity brings God's blessing
 - “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” **Ephesians 4:3**
 - Psalm 133:1-3 emphasizes the power of dwelling together in unity.
- True blessing comes from oneness
- Biblical examples
- Stand together as ministers
 - The church's strength is in its unity.



Ministerial Practices

The Importance of Unity

- Humility fosters unity
 - Sometimes, unity means admitting mistakes and saying, “I’m sorry.”
- Pray for each other
 - Ministers should lift each other up in prayer.
- Prioritize fellowship
 - Encourage attendance at camp meetings, special meetings, and combined gatherings.
- Pass on the torch of unity
 - Keep the spirit of oneness strong for future generations.

Closing Thoughts

“We must not be satisfied with the easy street. We must say, ‘**God, send a revival.**’ And let’s pray that God will do it tonight, and tomorrow night, and every time in our churches everywhere. There have been some signs of that. There has been some moving. God has been working.”

Rev. Loyce Carver
March 9, 1989
Ministers’ Meeting



Thank You!

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God Bless!