

A portrait of a man with dark, wavy hair, shown in profile facing left. He has a thoughtful expression, looking upwards and to the left. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a golden glow on his face and neck. He is wearing a dark, high-collared coat over a white shirt.

# THE DANGERS OF HIGHMINDEDNESS IN THE APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

*A Call to Humility*

ELDER KEITH J. WALKER



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*Written by*  
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## Introduction

In the Apostolic Pentecostal tradition, the Fivefold ministry plays a crucial role in the edification of the church and the advancement of the Gospel. However, as ministers, we must be vigilant against the dangers of high-mindedness and spiritual pride. The Apostle Paul instructs us in Romans 12:3, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” This booklet explores the importance of humility in ministry, the dangers of pride, and the biblical understanding of being “sober-minded” and humble.

### The Call to Sobriety

#### Understanding “Soberly”

The Hebrew word that conveys the essence of thinking “soberly” can be derived from several terms that emphasize clarity of mind and self-awareness:

1.      נָחוֹן (nachon) - Meaning “established,” “firm,” or “steadfast,” this word implies a balanced and clear perspective.

2.      יָשָׁר (yashar) - Meaning “upright” or “straight,” this term reflects moral integrity and

clarity of thought.

3. תַּבּוּן (tavun) - Meaning “understanding” or “insight,” this word emphasizes discernment and wisdom.

In the context of ministry, thinking soberly means recognizing our limitations and understanding that any gifts or callings we possess are by the grace of God.

### The Dangers of Highmindedness

High-mindedness, or an inflated view of oneself, can lead to several detrimental outcomes for ministers:

1. Loss of Connection with God: When a minister becomes high-minded, they may begin to rely on their own understanding and abilities rather than seeking God’s guidance. This can lead to spiritual dryness and a lack of divine revelation.

2. Division in the Church: High-mindedness can foster an environment of competition and division among church leaders and members. It can create a hierarchy where some feel superior, leading to disunity within the body of Christ.

3. Inability to Serve: A high-minded minister may struggle to serve others effectively. True leadership in the church is rooted in servanthood, and pride can hinder a minister’s ability to lead with

love and compassion.

4. Spiritual Blindness: When ministers think too highly of themselves, they may become blind to their own faults and shortcomings. This can prevent personal growth and hinder the effectiveness of their ministry.

5. Cultural Influences: The modern-day denominational churches and Trinitarian preachers often reflect a mindset that prioritizes size, influence, and worldly success over spiritual integrity. When the tent is pitched toward Sodom and Gomorrah, the values of pride and self-promotion can seep into the Oneness Apostolic Pentecostal brethren, leading to a dangerous alignment with cultural trends rather than biblical truths and we have Fivefold ministers Among us have fallen into the trap of highmindedness and Spiritual Pride Have casuded many of our Apostolic Pentecostals Fivefold ministers to fall into the trap that because the size of there chuch and success they have had puts them in a superior attitude and that there above the man that has a small church is very dangerous .

6. The Praise of Men: Ministers must guard against the allure of being praised by others. While recognition can be encouraging, it can also lead to spiritual pride and a sense of superiority. The danger lies in allowing the accolades of men to inflate our egos and divert our focus from God's purpose for our lives.

7. The Dangers of Success: Success in ministry, whether through growth in numbers, financial prosperity, or the manifestation of spiritual gifts, can be a double-edged sword. It can lead to a sense of self-sufficiency and high-mindedness if we are not careful. We must remember that any success is ultimately a result of God's grace and not our own efforts.

### The Importance of Humility

#### Understanding “Humility”

The Hebrew word that encapsulates the concept of humility is:

1. **עַמְּדָה** (anav) - This word means “humble” or “meek.” It conveys a sense of lowliness and an acknowledgment of one’s dependence on God.

Humility is not about self-deprecation but rather about recognizing our place in God’s plan and understanding that our worth comes from Him alone.

#### The Role of Humility in the Fivefold Ministry

1. Servant Leadership: Humility allows ministers to adopt a servant leadership model, following the example of Christ, who came not to be

served but to serve (Mark 10:45).

2. Openness to Correction: A humble minister is open to feedback and correction, recognizing that growth often comes through the input of others. We must have elders in our lives who can provide wisdom and guidance, helping us stay grounded in our faith and ministry.

3. Empathy and Compassion: Humility fosters empathy, allowing ministers to connect with the struggles of their congregants and offer genuine support.

4. Unity in the Body of Christ: When ministers operate from a place of humility, they contribute to unity within the church, promoting collaboration and mutual respect among leaders and members.

5. Avoiding the Pitfalls of Pride: Recognizing the dangers of high-mindedness is crucial, especially in an era where megachurches and prominent leaders often set the tone for ministry culture. We must not allow the size of our congregations or buildings to inflate our egos or lead us away from the foundational principles of humility and service.

6. Submission to Authority: As Fivefold ministers, we must remain under authority and submission to those whom God has placed in our lives. This submission is vital for accountability and spiritual growth.

## Examples of Shipwreck in Ministry

The Bible provides several examples of individuals who experienced shipwreck in their ministries due to an inability to accept correction or rebuke:

1. Hymenaeus and Alexander: In 1 Timothy 1:19-20, Paul mentions Hymenaeus and Alexander, who had made shipwreck of their faith. Their refusal to heed sound doctrine and correction led to their downfall.
2. Demas: In 2 Timothy 4:10, Paul laments that Demas has forsaken him, having loved this present world. His love for worldly things led him away from the faith.
3. King Saul: In the Old Testament, King Saul's pride and refusal to accept God's correction ultimately led to his rejection by God (1 Samuel 15).
4. Uzziah: In 2 Chronicles 26, King Uzziah was a successful king who became prideful and attempted to offer incense in the temple, which was not his role. His pride led to leprosy and isolation.

## Conclusion

The call to humility is paramount for those in the Fivefold ministry. By guarding against high-mindedness and embracing a sober-minded perspective, ministers can effectively serve their

congregations and fulfill their God-given callings. True greatness in the Kingdom of God is found in humility, and we must continually seek to align our hearts and minds with this principle.

Let us heed the words of the Apostle Paul and strive to think soberly, recognizing our dependence on God and the importance of humility in our ministry. As we do, we will foster a spirit of unity, love, and effective service in the body of Christ. We must remain vigilant against the cultural influences that seek to draw us into pride and high-mindedness, ensuring that our focus remains on serving God and His people with humility and grace.

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