

# CHIEF

## MINISTRIES

March 2025

Greetings, welcome to Spring,

This is my second favorite season, Fall being my first. This month is a time of new beginnings, trees, flowers, and plants start blooming. Waking up from the winter season where all is dormant. Along with the new beginnings of spring, there is also an opportunity to start our own blooming and blossoming for the Kingdom. Although we are called to serve every day, Spring seems to bring new light and direction, maybe because the fruit (in nature) is more tangible. But some characteristics improve and promote our fruit-bearing in the spirit. It is our character! A person with godly character will make choices and live their life utilizing kingdom values and walk in ways that are pleasing to the Lord. But how do we do that? Does our environment influence our walk? Well absolutely, and in prison that makes it much more difficult. But remember Paul, he spent most of his life in prison, and in there he wrote much of the Bible and was a witness to those around him. If he can do it, so can you!

To develop the characteristics needed to walk in kingdom life and change your life, you've got to have people in your life who tell you the truth. You're not going to change on your own. You're going to need support. You're going to need someone or a small group of people, you see, change requires honest community. Yes, you can even have that in prison, iron sharpens iron, and the deep calls to the deep. Find a like-minded believer and commit to each other to that change, it is a two-way street.

The things in your life you're never going to be able to change on your own are typically the things that are the most difficult in your life. They're also often the things you don't want anybody else to know about. You're never going to get over those things until you share them with someone. You don't have to tell everybody. You just need to find at least one person who will trust you and whom you trust - someone who will be confidential, love you unconditionally, not be judgmental, to pray with and for you. You'll find that revealing your feelings and struggles is the beginning of healing. Some or many of you may have that person on the outside, if so, that is awesome, and if you have a person on the outside who may not be there anymore, know that God is in the restoration and reconciliation business. Whether you forge new friends or maintain the previous one(s), everyone must have at least one.

This does not mean a small group where you get together on a superficial level and everyone is "fine" or "doing great." You have to get to the level of maturity in your small group where you can say, "I had a tough week. Life is really hard right now. Here's what happened."

Ephesians 4:25 says, *"So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body"* (NLT).

If you're a believer, you're also a believer (not sure if this is even a word, but it fits). You belong in God's family, and every other believer belongs to you. "You cannot become until you belong." You can't become what God wants you to be until you belong in a group that's going to have and be that gut-level, honest community.

So put away falsehood. Talk to your neighbor. Tell your friend the truth, because we belong to each other. If you are serious about changing the deepest hang-ups and defects in your life, you're going to have to face the fear of being honest. You've got to stop faking it. You've got to be real. I sense some of you saying, "But Ms. G, you don't understand that that type of honesty/vulnerability is not accepted in here and is seen as a weakness." I say to you, "If God be for you, then WHO can be against you?" Romans 8:31 says that this verse means that no person is a threat to the purpose God has for someone. Others say that the verse is a reminder that God is fighting for us against our

enemies. You can apply the verse in your life and use it as a source of reassurance when facing problems or spiritual warfare. Further, the word says that if one can put a thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand to flight (Deuteronomy 32:30). This verse is a reminder of God's active role in the battles of Israel. Having that one extra person exponentially increases your effectiveness against the enemy and his goal to keep you from reaching your potential and bringing God's plan for you to fruition. God never intended us to go through life alone, we are a PART of the body of Christ, and we are made for community, even in prison. So, let's look at this closer!

You can go through life one of two ways: pretending like you've got it all together or getting it all together. But you'll never get it all together as long as you pretend you've got it all together. Think about this for a minute! I'm sure you have heard the cliché, "I'll fake it till I make it!" Well, yes you can, BUT GOD!

God uses little things to test your integrity. It's not just the big things that count—even though that's what the world wants you to focus on. But the Bible tells us that God is looking at the smallest details of our lives to see if we are faithful to him. Are you? What does He see, not your neighbor, or cellie, what does God see? And what if you are in leadership? Well?

This is true in every area of life, including leadership. We often think it's the big things in life that create a leader. No! The big crises in life reveal leadership, but leadership is not built in the big things of life. It's built in the details of life. That's where integrity shows up—in the stuff that nobody sees, in the stuff behind the scenes, in the small, unseen, unspectacular choices of life where you do the right thing, even though nobody's ever going to see it.

Faithfulness requires integrity, and God tests your integrity in the little things. Jesus said, "Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones" (Luke 16:10 GNT). He's saying your public blessing is determined by your private integrity. Think on that!

Every time a politician has a scandal, you can always count on that person's defenders to come out and say, "It really shouldn't matter what their private life is like." Have you ever heard that one? "It really shouldn't matter what a person does in their private life. It doesn't have anything to do with them as leaders."

It has everything to do with them as leaders! Why? Because if a man lies to his wife, he'll lie to his constituents. If a woman lies to her best friend, to whom she said, "Till death do us part," she will cheat on you, voter! Count on it! Let's get a little more personal...if she or he cheats with you, they will cheat on you! Remember God sees ALL things!

So, what does this have to do with the spiritual fruit we produce (besides it being Spring)? Matthew 21:18-22 (Jesus Curses the Fig Tree). This passage describes an event where Jesus, feeling hungry, approaches a fig tree but finds no fruit—only leaves. He then curses the tree, and it withers immediately. The disciples are amazed at this, and Jesus uses that moment to teach about faith and prayer. Hint only healthy trees produce good healthy fruit!

### Context and Symbolism

#### 1. Timing – Passover Season

- The event occurs during **Passover**, which is in the spring. During this time, fig trees would normally be producing small, edible buds before full fruit later in the year. If a fig tree had leaves but no buds, it was barren and unfruitful.

#### 2. Symbolic Meaning of the Fig Tree

- The **fig tree** often represents **Israel** in the Bible (Jeremiah 8:13, Hosea 9:10). Just like the fig tree had the appearance of fruitfulness but was barren, Israel had a religious appearance but lacked true spiritual fruit (faith, obedience, righteousness).
- Jesus' cursing of the fig tree is a prophetic sign of **judgment** against religious hypocrisy, particularly of the Jewish leaders who outwardly followed religious customs but lacked genuine faith and righteousness.

#### 3. Faith and Prayer

- After the tree withers, Jesus tells His disciples that if they have faith, they can move mountains. This highlights the power of true faith in God and the importance of believing prayer.

## Application to Present-Day Life

### 1. Beware of Empty Religion

- The fig tree had **leaves but no fruit**—it looked healthy from the outside but was barren. This is a warning against having an outward appearance of faith (going to church, following rituals) without true inward transformation (love, obedience, humility).
- Today, many people may appear religious but lack a real relationship with God. Jesus calls us to bear **real fruit**—love, kindness, faithfulness (Galatians 5:22-23).

### 2. The Danger of Hypocrisy

- Just as Israel failed to bear fruit despite being chosen by God, Christians must ensure their faith is not just words but actions. Jesus expects believers to be **genuine** in their walk with Him, not just pretending to be spiritual while lacking real commitment.

### 3. Faith that Moves Mountains

- Jesus uses this event to emphasize faith. When believers pray with **genuine faith**, God can do the impossible.
- Application: In daily life, whether facing struggles, doubts, or challenges, true faith in God can overcome obstacles that seem insurmountable.

### 4. Judgment for Unfruitfulness

- Just as the fig tree was judged for its barrenness, people and institutions that fail to bear fruit for God's kingdom may face judgment. This reminds us that **God desires growth and transformation in our lives**.

### 5. Prayer and Trust in God's Power

- Jesus tells His disciples that through **faithful prayer**, they can do amazing things. This challenges believers today to trust God, pray with confidence, and believe that He is able to work in every situation.

The cursing of the fig tree is not just about a tree - it's a powerful lesson on faith, hypocrisy, and spiritual fruitfulness. Jesus calls us to live **authentic, faith-filled lives** that produce real results in obedience and love. It challenges us to **move beyond surface-level faith** and truly trust in God to bring transformation.

Are we just showing leaves (outward religion), or are we bearing real fruit (genuine faith and good works)?

In God's family, we belong to each other. So, be honest with each other and help each other make the changes that bring health and healing to bear fruit.

- How would you describe your small group's level of transparency? Are you "real" with each other?
- What has been the result of pretending like you have it all together? How do you feel?
- Think of how many times you tell people in one day, "I'm fine." In what relationships do you need to be more honest about yourself and what you are struggling with?
- With what small thing has God entrusted you to complete or manage with integrity?
- How do you treat the "small things" and "large things" differently? How does God want you to treat them?
- How do you feel about serving without recognition? What does it say about your motivation?

Let this be our cry: "My public blessing as a leader comes because of private integrity that nobody ever sees. Your public blessing as a person comes from your private integrity that nobody will ever see. God uses little things to test our integrity. And faithfulness in the small things will lead to blessings (fruit) in ways only God can provide."

Blessings to each of you and let's start bearing good fruit for the Kingdom,

***Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)***

***If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com)***

***Christ's Heart In Every Felon***



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