

The mark of a mature believer is a refusal to be “tossed to and fro...with every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:14). Such believers cannot be manipulated by any teacher. They do not need to run around, because they are feasting in green pastures, growing up in Christ. They have learned Christ. They will not be captivated by music, friends, personalities or miracles, but by a hunger for the pure Word.

David Wilkerson

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Prayer Study # 326

POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF MINISTRY

We, at First Love Ministries, believe in the priesthood of all believers. In other word, everyone who calls himself a Christian is call to minister to others in some way. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit only enhances this call and empowers believers in their ministry efforts. However, because the enemy hates real ministry, ministers are always under the potential of an attack from the enemy. Years ago I read the following taken from High Point Church in Macon’s *Scepter* publication:

The longer I am in the ministry, the more I realize how vulnerable and how prone we are to falling, and how it is only by the grace of a faithful God that we can keep faithful and finish well. Ministry is an incredible and awesome privilege. It is also an incredible and awesome responsibility. Our trust must be in the Lord and not in ourselves if we are to be faithful to the finish line.

It is possible to finish well. I am so thankful for the example of those who keep faithful to the end. They are setting a pattern for us. Their lives preach even more powerfully than their preaching. On the other hand, I’ve seen many servants of the Lord, who ran the race well, become disqualified. Today they are out of His service.

We have an incredibly active enemy, Satan, who is always attempting to cause God’s servants to stumble. I want to share with you what for me personally have been nine of probably the greatest potential pitfalls in my service to the Lord, although the list is not exhaustive. There are recurring areas of vulnerability.

Losing the Wonder

Neglecting Our Personal Relationship with the Lord

Proclaiming Truth We Are Not Living

Relying on the Natural

Leaving the Pathway of Humility

Settling for the Status Quo

Serving Without Love

Losing Perspective

Seeking Comfort and Convenience

HYMN BY JOHN WESLEY

(shared by Ricky Johnson)

1 COME, Holy Ghost, all quickening fire! Come, and my hallowed heart inspire, Sprinkled with the atoning blood; Now to my soul thyself reveal, Thy mighty working let me feel, And know that I am born of God.

2 Thy witness with my spirit bear, That God, my God, inhabits there; Thou, with the Father, and the Son, Eternal light's co-eval beam; Be Christ in me, and I in him, Till perfect we are made in one.

3 When wilt thou my whole heart subdue? Come, Lord, and form my soul anew, Emptied of pride, and wrath, and hell: Less than the least of all thy store Of mercies, I myself

abhor; All, all my vileness may I feel.

4 Humble, and teachable, and mild, O may I, as a little child, My lowly Master's steps pursue! Be anger to my soul unknown, Hate, envy, jealousy, be gone; In love create thou all things new.

5 Let earth no more my heart divide, With Christ may I be crucified, To thee with my whole soul aspire; Dead to the world and all its toys, Its idle pomp, and fading joys, Be thou alone my one desire!

6 Be thou my joy, be thou my dread; In battle cover thou my head, Nor earth nor hell I then shall fear; I then shall turn my steady face, Want, pain defy, enjoy disgrace, Glory in dissolution near.

7 My will be swallowed up in thee; Light in thy light still may I see, Beholding thee with open face; Called the full power of faith to prove, Let all my hallowed heart be love, And all my spotless life be praise.

8 Come, Holy Ghost, all quickening fire! My consecrated heart inspire, Sprinkled with the atoning blood; Still to my soul thyself reveal, Thy mighty working may I feel, And know that I am one with God.
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