



UNDERSTANDING THE HYPOCRITICAL SINS OF OUR GENERATION

by Dr. Daniel O. C.

The principle of “Follow what I say and not what I do” is nothing but manipulation, yet many choose to lead a life of double standards.

Pretending to be a shining light in public when you are actually darkness in private constitutes an act of wickedness.

Declaring that God is good yet supporting Satan through teaching false doctrines is nothing but absolute deception.

A life of hypocrisy is a life that's NOT worth living.

Isaiah 58:2

Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and did not forsake the ordinance of

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their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching God.

HYPOCRISY DEFINED

- Hypocrisy is putting on an act of virtue/benevolence or religious devotion without sincerity.
- A spiritual hypocrite pretends to be devoted to God or a religion but is not committed or genuine.
- A hypocrite is a deceiver and double dealer who is dishonest and pretentious. He or she engages in vain ritualism.

Beloved saints of the living God, hypocrisy has entered our churches from the pulpit down to the pews. Hypocrisy unchecked will eat through every frame of our spiritual structure. Hypocrites are like lions or tigers in the guise of sheep. They have no qualms about misleading and destroying innocent souls.

Many Christians speak in tongues, dance in the Spirit, prophesy and operate in the gifts of the Spirit BUT they do not have the fruit of the Spirit. They act and speak in an ungodly manner, and do not behave like Christians should.

The foundation that Jesus Christ laid was based upon His love, yet there is little or no love in many churches today. Rather, many believers find fault with one another, throw mud and assassinate other people's character, and gossip. Are you a talebearer, a slanderer, or a gossip? Check your life today!

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God is not interested in how many religious rituals we perform. He is interested in our spending time with Him in sincerity and honesty. He is concerned about how we treat our fellow men. Religious hypocrites have their priorities wrong. They like to boast of their spirituality, and claim to seek God daily.

CEREMONIALISM

Isaiah 58:1-5

- ¹ *"Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.*
- ² *Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.*
- ³ *'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your labourers.*
- ⁴ *Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high.*
- ⁵ *Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD?"*

Many believers frequently say: "I'll pray about it" and "I'll seek the leading of the Holy Spirit." But sadly most believers do not pray nor seek God. Such

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statements become convenient religious slogans that they trot out. It's their indirect way of trying to impress those who share their problems with them.

Check your life. Are you what you present yourself to be? Can people trust you? Are you an imposter who's out to deceive the brethren?

Psalms 78:35-37

- ³⁵ *Then they remembered that God was their rock and the Most High God their Redeemer*
- ³⁶ *Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth and they lied to Him with their tongue*
- ³⁷ *For their heart was not steadfast with Him nor were they faithful in His covenant*

Is this the way you are living? Do you flatter God and tell Him: "O Lord, You are so good. God is so good", yet your heart is far from Him? Today, many people call upon the Lord but not with hearts that are true to Him. They talk about Jesus Christ and His saving grace yet they continue to deceive and steal. They are filled with hatred and bitterness yet they pretend to be full of love.

Proverbs 26:23-25

- ²³ *Fervent lips with a wicked heart are like earthenware covered with silver dross,*
- ²⁴ *He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself;*
- ²⁵ *when he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart.*

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If Jesus comes now, will He find you ready to go with Him? You may have been a Christian for 5, 10 or even 20 years. Are you ready for the Second Coming of the Lord? Will you be taken up in the Rapture or will you be left behind, a victim of your wrong emphasis on ceremonialism instead of genuine Christlikeness?

Stop deceiving yourself and those around you by pretending to be someone who worships the Lord but you have no true relationship with Him, and are just trying to present a 'holy' front. Many churches are packed with programmes but little prayer. There's a lot of talk about love but no real concern for one another.

Sad to say, in some churches nobody cares what happens to you when you're at home and no one takes time to find out what you are going through. However, the day you want to leave, you'll receive a call offering a position in a ministry, and the church leadership will tell you they care for you. This is evil deception! Do not be taken in by such hypocrites who have their eyes on the amount of tithes and offerings they can collect! Has your life been transformed by God? Is the Lord in control of your life, or have you handed control to manipulative hypocrites?

Ezekiel 33:31-32

³¹ So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.

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³² *Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.*

Are you such a person? There are many who attend Christian meetings, seminars, conferences and services in a year, yet their lives show no change. Their 'old man' or carnal self continues to reign. How long will this continue?

Beloved, the bible says in *Romans 8:14* that *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons (and daughters) of God."* Let no man control your life, and that goes for me too. I do not want to control anyone's life, not even those I'm pastoring. Let the Holy Spirit control your life, and let not any man or woman.

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ *"Not everyone who says to Me 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

²² *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name and done many wonders in Your name?'*

²³ *And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practise lawlessness!'"*

Did you see that? Many so-called Christians will be disappointed the day the Lord returns. How long will you continue your hypocritical ways? You claim to be a child of God but you live in sin. You say you follow Christ, but there is no truth in your mouth. You're full of lust, pride and arrogance. My beloved, any heights you have reached is by God's grace! You are what you are not

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because of your own abilities and strengths, but because God made you what you are.

How can you be a true child of God when you are full of anger, you get drunk, and you smoke, gossip and sleep around? Is that how to live? Whatever you do in secret will become known, for the bible states in *Numbers 32:23* that *"your sins shall find you out"* and in *Isaiah 57:21*: *"There is no peace for the wicked!"* Even if you try to hide inside a big church, don't think that nobody sees you. My beloved, I tell you that *God's eyes run to and fro and He will show Himself strong in the midst of His people (2 Chronicles 16:9)*. He sees you wherever you hide. Whether your church has 500 or 20,000 members, God sees you where you are. Salvation is upon each head, and not on an entire group as a whole. Check your life! Embrace the Word of God and be set free! Let the Lord call you His blessed servant rather than a cursed servant.

Mark 7:6-9

- ⁶ *He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honours Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me*
- ⁷ *And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*
- ⁸ *For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."*
- ⁹ *He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition."*

How long will you continue to place traditions over obedience to the Word of God? Some Christians know they are not being taught the unadulterated

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Scriptures by their pastors, yet they choose to remain in their churches because their families have been members for several generations.

LEGALISM

Another form of hypocrisy that is common in this generation is the emphasis on legalism. Many people who are legalistic pretend to delight in knowing God and His ways, but their hearts are not sincere towards Jehovah God. In the Scriptures, the legalistic Pharisees accused Jesus of not honouring the Sabbath.

Luke 6:1-5

- ¹ *Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that He went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands.*
- ² *And some of the Pharisees said to them, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"*
- ³ *But Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read this, what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him;*
- ⁴ *how he went into the house of God, took and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those with him, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat?"*
- ⁵ *and He said to them, "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."*

In verse 9, Jesus asked His accusers: *"I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"* He went

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on to heal a man who had a shrivelled hand, and this angered the legalistic Pharisees and teachers of the law.

Legalistic people like to tell others what to do: 'No, you must not do this, you should do that.' Some Christians criticise those who dance before the Lord. They don't even know that God's Word tells us that King David danced before the Lord, and when his wife murmured against him for doing so, she received divine punishment and became barren.

2 Samuel 6:16-23

- ¹⁶ *And as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.*
- ¹⁷ *So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.*
- ¹⁸ *And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.*
- ¹⁹ *Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.*
- ²⁰ *Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"*

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- ²¹ *So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.*
- ²² *"And I will be even more indignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honour."*
- ²³ *Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.*

No one can stop the power of the Holy Ghost. At my church, Deeper Life Christian Centre, the Lord has blessed His people with the gift of prophecy, to speak out publicly what the Lord has put in their hearts. However, each person who exercises this gift must make sure that he or she is speaking in the Spirit according to God's leading, and not according to the dictates of the flesh.

The Sabbath was created for man; man was not made for the Sabbath. As God's people, let's enjoy what the Lord has created for us. Do not allow human reasoning and preferences to control your life. Check what you're told against the infallible Word of God, and reject all advice and teaching that's not in line with the Bible. May God have mercy on His people. If you say you love God, don't be a 'Sunday Christian'. Take time to attend mid-week services, teaching sessions and prayer meetings. Spend more time with the Lord and show Him that you truly long to be with Him and to know Him more deeply.

Don't be a legalistic person, but be a believer who makes the Lord the all-in-all in your life.

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Some Christians insist on remaining in 'dead' churches because their parents were buried by the leaders of those churches. They know they're not growing in the Lord but they want to carry on doing what they're used to. Their parents were baptised by sprinkling of water, so they reject the notion of immersion water baptism. Their parents did not speak in tongues, so they dare not do so. Read what the Scriptures say about legalism.

Isaiah 29:13-16

¹³ *Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honour Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,*

¹⁴ *Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvellous work among this people a marvellous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden. "*

¹⁵ *Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, and their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?"*

¹⁶ *Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?*

My beloved, whatever you do or say, even in secret, God sees and hears. If the Lord returns today, will you be found pure or filthy? You cannot tell the Lord: 'I was deceived by my pastor, leader and prophet.' He will reply: 'I gave you the Word of God. The Bible is for you and not just for those so-called

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men-of God. You ought to have lived according to My Word, and not by what man told you. You should have searched for the Truth yourself.' Are you ready for Jesus' Second Coming?

God is looking for those who are ready to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Will you tell Him you want to be such a worshipper?

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

Proverbs 3:7

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.

Many people think that they are always right. They run others down and exalt themselves. They strut around with a holier-than-thou attitude.

Isaiah 65:5

For I am holier than you!

Do not say that you are holier than others, and therefore better than them. In some families, the members all claim to be the holiest and most righteous. The Bible makes it clear that our self-righteousness is nothing but filthy rags in the eyes of our Holy Father. Repent of your wrong attitude today!

Do you know why some Christians claim to be better than others? It's because they've chosen to hear what they want to hear, rather than what God wants to say to them. That is why ministers in some churches are preaching 'acceptable' and non-offensive sermons that their congregation want to hear,

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rather than hard-hitting truths from the Word of God. These preachers do not want to loose their members, so they compromise and dilute the Scriptures.

Among the adulterated messages preached in some churches today, one teaches that once you're born again, it's alright for you to continue sinning because your salvation is assured. Beloved, "Once saved, always saved!" is deception that can lead you to hell! Judas Iscariot was saved. He was one of the selected twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, yet after he betrayed the Lord, the bible tells us that he lost his place (*Acts 1:25*). Jesus said in *John 17:12*: "Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition," and that is Judas.

The Word of God makes it clear in *Ezekiel 18:20* that: "The soul who sins shall die," and in *Isaiah 57:21*: "There is no peace for the wicked." Check your beliefs and what you're being taught. Search the Scriptures and judge for yourself. Do not be deceived.

Philippians 2:12

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

A religious spirit is yet another form of hypocrisy. Do you have the Holy Spirit, or a religious spirit? Some people act religious and spiritual, but they lead ungodly lives and do not keep the ordinances of God. They use the same mouth to speak in tongues and utter vulgarities and insults. They praise God one moment, and the next moment they call someone: "Stupid, idiot, useless!"

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If you truly have the Holy Spirit within you, you will speak in a godly manner and not in an evil way. Apostle Paul described some characteristics of those who had religious spirits.

2 Timothy 3:5-7

- ⁵ *having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*
- ⁶ *For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,*
- ⁷ *always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Some believers are proud because they have many degrees in theology, yet as the Bible warns, they 'never come to the knowledge of the truth.' Their PhDs actually stand for - Permanent Head Damage! Beloved, it is not a string of degrees but is the power of God's anointing that you need in your life. All genuine Christians have BAs - not Bachelors of Art, but Born Again status! As for me, I thank God that by His grace, I have my PHD - Preaching, Healing and Deliverance, ministry and that I can praise Him daily!

Beware of Christians who have "a form of godliness but deny its power". They try to attract attention, but they have nothing good to offer. God Himself rejects them.

Isaiah 1:15-17

- ¹⁵ *When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.*

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- ¹⁶ *Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes, cease to do evil.*
- ¹⁷ *Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.*

If you are guilty of having a religious spirit, tell God that you need to be cleansed and set free from hypocrisy. Tell the Lord that you do not want to deceive anyone anymore. Tell Him that you want to stop living a life that does not glorify His name.

If you're a victim of a leader with a religious spirit, God will have mercy on you because you were deceived. If you have suffered losses, He will restore what you've lost.

There are many priests and ministers today who 'sell the Word of God' for their own selfish ends. They abuse God's Word to rob, deceive and oppress others and to practise wickedness.

2 Corinthians 2:17

For we are not, as so many peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

Some Christian ministries charge hundreds and thousands of dollars for short seminars, and sell their CDs and videos and books to the brethren at highly inflated prices. Some church leaders purposely inflate the salaries of their full-time workers so that they themselves can command even fatter pay packages in the region of five figures a month. They hide their excesses under the guise of God's blessings, saying that they serve a big God, so they get huge pay cheques. This is deceit and hypocrisy!

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Beloved, if you want to enter into full-time ministry, make sure you fulfil the following criteria. There are 3 levels to go through before any believer becomes a full-time worker for God.

- 1 Those who are called by God.
- 2 Those who are chosen by God.
- 3 Those who are faithful to God.

Are you faithful, called and chosen? Many are called but few are chosen. Some are chosen, but they're not faithful. Are you someone who deceives others with smooth talk? Check your life. Are you entering into full-time ministry because you think it's the quickest way to make money?

Christian leaders, I encourage you to get hold of recordings of my teaching "Christians and Laziness" and "Christians and Sincerity". Make sure that you are sincere and honest in accounting for every cent that God brings into your ministry. None of the money is yours; it all belongs to God. So you must be faithful in handling finances. Stop selling the Word of God! Don't sin after receiving God's blessings.

Jeremiah 5:7-9

⁷ *How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And sworn by those that are not gods when I had fed them to the full, then they committed adultery and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.*

⁸ *They were like well-fed lusty stallions; every one neighed after his neighbour's wife.*

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⁹ *Shall I not punish them for these things? Says the Lord. And shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?*

Heed the warning in the Bible. After God blesses you, don't start leading unfaithful lives. Do not abuse God's money and err from His call upon your life. If you know that your Pastor is lying and stealing from the Lord or leading an immoral life, do not stay in that church because you may be imparted with such evil spirits and desires. Make up your mind to shine for God and reject unrighteousness and false doctrines and practices! Speak up against ungodliness.

Jeremiah 5:12-14

¹² *They have lied about the Lord, And said, "It is not He, Neither will evil come upon us. Nor shall we see sword or famine.*

¹³ *And the prophets become wind. For the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them."*

¹⁴ *Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: "Because you speak this word, Behold I will make My words in your Mouth fire, And this people wood, And it shall devour them.*

Are you willing to speak the truth like Prophet Jeremiah so that God will make your word like fire that devours evil doers? It is time that ministers who are not living right leave their ministries before God removes them! Stop teaching falsehoods to the people entrusted to you.

Jeremiah 9:3

"And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies. They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil. And they do not know Me," says the Lord.

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God made it clear in *1 Peter 1:16*: “Be holy, for I am holy.” Some pastors approve heavy metal because they don’t want to lose their members who favour these genres of music. They allow sexy attire or careless dressing because they want to retain their congregation at all costs. Hear what Prophet Isaiah has to say!

Isaiah 5: 20-21, 23

²⁰ *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

²¹ *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

²³ *Who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away justice from the righteous man.*

In some churches today, you’ll hear statements like: “Oh, you’re giving a special love offering to the pastor, you’re such a good person!” When you have no offering to give to the leaders, you are ignored! May God have mercy on us all. God does not see as man sees, and He will judge every wicked deed and thought. Check your life and do not harden your heart to God’s warning!

Ezekiel 22: 28-29

²⁸ *Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ when the Lord had not spoken.*

²⁹ *The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.*

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THE
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Some Christians have an over-reliance on prophets, forgetting that they should look to God rather than men. When they want to go somewhere for a meal, they call their self-styled prophet first, and ask whether it is good for them to eat at a particular place. They have lost their faith in God to lead them, and are totally dependent on man. False prophets in turn relay false visions and convey instructions that are not from God but from themselves.

May God have mercy on us! Ask God to give you the gift of discerning so that you can tell the difference between a true prophet and a false one. Don't be deceived any longer. When Jesus returns, many believers will be disappointed because they are being deceived and are leading lives that will disqualify them for the Rapture.

IMPURE HEART

There are people who approach God and His servants without pure hearts. This is another form of hypocrisy. When they go to a minister of God and ask for prayer, they specify the answer that they want. They do not want to hear what God had to say. This is what God has to say to them in *Ezekiel 14:2-4*.

- ² *And the word of the Lord came to me saying,*
³ *Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?*
⁴ *Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into*

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iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols.

As a child of God, why don't you go before the Lord boldly.

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.

Tell your Heavenly Father: "Lord, I want You to speak to me." Many people approach God's servants and say: "I want a word from God." A man or woman of God who produces a word from God at will is speaking out of the flesh. He or she must wait upon the Lord in order to hear from Him. In the same way, you too can wait upon the Lord and seek Him, and He will speak to you. Do I believe in the relevance of prophecy today? Yes, 100%! Do I operate in the gift of prophecy? Totally, 100%! Do I hear what God tells me prophetically? Of course, 100%! However, I make it a point NEVER to control people's lives through the prophetic word.

My beloved, learn to seek God yourself so that no one can control your life but the Holy Spirit. Do not become the puppet of false prophets.

A man asked me "When are you going to conduct another prophetic conference?" I replied: "What have you done about the prophetic word of God that was spoken at the last conference? You have done nothing about it and yet you're seeking more prophecies to place on your shelf!"

Beloved, what matters is the fulfilment of these words spoken by God to you, and not sheer volume that you should be after. Are you willing to be obedient and follow God's Word, no matter what the cost? Many times, when God

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speaks to our hearts we say: "No, this cannot be God" because we don't like what we hear. We want the Lord to tell us things that please our carnal selves, rather than be convicted of wrong-doing.

Love attracts rebuke. God rebukes those whom He loves.

Hebrews 12:6

"For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

God longs to speak to you, but you do not want to seek Him in case He tells you what you do not want to hear. Stop leading hypocritical lives by going to God without pure hearts. Stop complaining that you've prayed but God does not hear you. Remember, that when your prayer is a hypocritical one, Almighty God is not deceived. He sees your heart and your true motives.

IRRESPONSIBLE BELIEVERS

Another group of hypocrites in our generation are the irresponsible believers. They claim to be so busy serving God that they have no time to take care of their own responsibilities at home. Many neglect their aged fathers and mothers, their spouses and children, and claim: "I am called to the ministry and I am sold out for God!" The Bible has harsh words to say to those who do not provide for their households.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

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Do not deceive yourself. If God called you, He will provide all that you need to take care of yourself and your family. Serving God does not and must not prevent you from taking care of your parents, spouse and children. Full-time ministry does not absolve obligations of your family. You must have filial love if you are living for God.

DIVISIVE FORCES

Hypocrites divide and rule. They cause dissension wherever they go. They separate friends and family members. They use their hypocritical tongues to set churches, ministries and home cells on fire with the devil's flames. They cut people down and sow discord.

Look at what the bible says in *Romans 16:17-18* concerning such people.

- ¹⁷ *Now I urge you, brethen, note those who cause divisions and offences, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*
- ¹⁸ *For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*

If these verses describe you, take heed of God's warning. God wants you to have compassion for hurting and dying souls. He wants you to be a labourer to help bring in the harvest, not to hunger for positions and titles such as Apostle Cockroach, Rev Dr Snake, Elder Fly or Deaconess Rat.

Do you have love and compassion for the dying world? Don't thirst for man's recognition. If the Lord has chosen you, He will find you even if you are a

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nobody in the eyes of men. David was not present when Prophet Samuel visited his family to choose the person who would rule Israel. God made the prophet wait for David to be summoned from the fields. Is your passion for titles or for Christ? Are you fishing for compliments or for souls? Do you go to church for entertainment or for edification?

For many, the church has become a place for social gatherings. They expect the worship leader to entertain them! They see Sunday services as a time to catch up with friends. They distribute their business cards to those who dress well. The church becomes like a marketplace to them. They mingle with the elite and the 'haves', and relegate the uneducated and 'have-nots' to the back and the sidelines!

Abundance of religious talk without spiritual reality is death. Check your life. Do you go to church to worship God and humble yourself before Him?

Luke 6:46-49

⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

⁴⁷ "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:"

⁴⁸ "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against the house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock."

⁴⁹ "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

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JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE

The church has become a place where many make harsh judgments. A judgmental attitude is one component of a hypocritical life.

Romans 2:1

Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practise the same things.

Preachers in particular must take heed, because God will hold you accountable for what you preach and teach and condemn.

God will judge you accordingly. Check your life. To preach is easy but to do what God's Word says is very hard. However, where there is sin, you must not be afraid to judge righteously. Call a sin a sin, and do not white-wash ungodliness.

NOT PRACTISING WHAT YOU PREACH

Romans 2: 21-24

- ²¹ *You therefore who teach another do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?*
- ²² *You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?*
- ²³ *You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonour God through breaking the law?*
- ²⁴ *For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you, as it is written.*

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If you call yourself a Christian but you do not live according to God's ways, you are actually blaspheming the name of the Lord before unbelievers. Practise what you preach!

Christian leaders, do not teach and fail to follow your own teaching. Don't ask your listeners to obey the Word of the Lord while you yourself break it. Never break God's Law otherwise God's Law will break you!

Many believers do not belong to any church because they feel that they are spiritually superior to the pastors. Check yourself. Are you really what you claim to be? Does the condition of your heart match the image you present to those around you?

SELFISHNESS

Selfishness is another common sin of hypocrisy.

James 2: 15-17

- ¹⁵ *If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,*
¹⁶ *and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled" but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?*
¹⁷ *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

When you know a Christian brother or sister has a genuine material need, don't just say: "I will pray for you." Do all that you can to meet that need, even if it means you have to give sacrificially. There are Christians who speak in tongues and pray for the person in need for hours without offering any practical blessing or showing true concern.

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The Bible states that in the endtimes, many will become “lovers of self,” people who do not bless others or God and His ministries. When it comes to giving to the Lord, some well-off Christians set aside coins every Sunday and place them at the bottom of the offering bag to avoid making clanging sounds that will reveal the amounts they’re giving. On special occasions, when they decide to give notes, they wave them around for others to see before placing their money into the offering bag! They forget that God sees the heart and not just the act.

DOUBLE-TONGUE

A double-tongued Christian is a hypocritical Christian. Like the snake that has a forked tongue, such Christians engage in manipulation and lies wherever they go. They are inconsistent and unreliable.

James 3:10-11

¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

How can you call yourself a child of God if you have no qualms about deceiving others or distorting the truth?

1 John 2:3-4

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

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CONCLUSION

My beloved people of God, the Lord has shown us the hypocritical sins of our generation. If the Holy Spirit has convicted you, repent and ask God to purge you and cleanse you of all unrighteousness. When Prophet Isaiah recognised his weaknesses, he confessed that he was a man of unclean lips who lived among men of unclean lips. Just as God sent a seraphim to touch Isaiah's lips and cleanse him, He will do the same for you if you repent and confess your shortcomings and sins.

Isaiah 6:5-7

- ⁵ *Then I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."*
- ⁶ *Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.*
- ⁷ *And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."*

You know where you have fallen and what you have done in secret. Stop leading a life of hypocrisy.

Many people are quick to lay blame on others instead of accepting responsibility for their own contributions to their problems, failures and defeats.

Tell the Lord that you want to be led by His Holy Spirit.

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Lord, I blame no man, no woman.
Lord, I blame myself.
I do not want to be a hypocrite any more.
I do not want to be controlled by anyone.
I want to be led by the Spirit of God.

The Bible tells us *"as that many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are sons and daughters of the living God"* (Romans 8:14). Make this your prayer:

God, I come to you.
When I am weak, You are strong.
When I fail, You pick me up.
I have made mistakes. Forgive me, Lord.
I want to be pure,
I do not want to be what I used to be.

Commit your life to God. Pray: "I thank You for the Spirit of conviction. You are not condemning me but You want me to repent from where I have fallen."

This hour, this moment, ask the Lord to take you higher and deeper in your walk with Him.

Step to step
Glory to glory
Grace to grace
Hope to hope
Faith to faith

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY! When God speaks to you, do not harden your heart. Tell Him now:

I want You to speak to my spirit with Your Word.
I want to live right.

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I do not want to live a life of hypocrisy any more.
I put my wrongdoings behind me.
I want to live right from now on!

God will make you a brand new person, a true child of His who lives victoriously in Christ. When you command the devil to 'Stop', he will have to stop! When you say: *"Devil, that's enough! I cast you out"*, Satan will have to flee. You will be full of the Holy Spirit and God's power!

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

May the good Lord bless you as you take heed to His Word in Jesus' Name.
Amen.

Nothing is gained through a hypocritical life. Rather all things are lost.



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