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The Top 7 Ministry Mistakes to Avoid

A Ministry Success Guide
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This e-book was written by Ericka D. Jackson, Evangelist, Author and Kingdom Trainer. Ericka operates in her primary gift of hearing directly from the Throne of God to provide advanced ministry training and development. Visit www.erickajackson.com for more details or to book Ericka for an upcoming speaking engagement.
About Ericka

Ericka grew up in a loving family; however, she endured years of bullying and teasing by her classmates. Learning how to overcome her feelings of deep inadequacy, she started her first business, a leadership and self-esteem enhancement training company, at the age of eighteen.

While working in corporate America, Ericka responded to her true calling. With nothing more than faith, determination to succeed and a big vision, in 2001 she walked away from her job to build a ministry and Christian business training organization, The Convergence Center.

Receiving new revelation from the throne of God, Ericka teaches, delivers, heals and shares her gift of prophecy as she takes Christians beyond tradition to eliminate the walls that have prevailed in the Body of Christ for far too long.

You will find Ericka in front of diverse co-ed audiences offering fresh revelation that brings the scripture into manifestation. Ericka shares the specific process to access the secrets of the rooms in Heaven.

These rooms in Heaven hold all the instruction, revelation and provision we need to operate successfully on the earth (see John 14:2). It is imperative that every Christian Leader understands how to access these rooms in order to lead the building of the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Ericka has more than 20 years of speaking experience and 11 years as a full-time itinerant minister. She is the author of five books, numerous training programs and teaching tools. She is the co-founder of Touch and Agree (TAG) Christian Women’s Business Network and is held accountable by Apostle Elijah Forte Ministries. Her ministry is headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina.
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The Top 7 Ministry Mistakes to Avoid:  
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This special report is a result of what I thought was a private study. It is the result of me literally asking God for the wisdom as I built this ministry so it would prosper and continue to grow beyond my lifetime. The Lord was showing me profound visions of what He desired to bring through this ministry and I began a study so I could learn what dynamics were present that caused other ministries of the past to fail and not endure the test of time.

I had seen so much happen in ministries that get derailed or destroyed by scandal and I became very, very intrigued several years ago with what it is that lead these powerful men and women of God down these paths of destruction. They must certainly have known better and started their ministries off with pure intentions to serve the Lord.

What started me off on this study was praying for the Lord to reveal who He created as my spiritual accountability (tradition calls this a spiritual parent or overseer). He clearly revealed that this person was Apostle Elijah Forte. The very first time I sat in the presence of my pre-ordained Apostle he gave me a prophetic warning about my future ministry. It was so profound. I will never forget it.

He asked me that first night, “Do you know the enemy of your ministry?” I was thinking, “Okay, he can’t be asking me something obvious like Satan as the enemy of my ministry.” I looked at him with a perplexed expression on my face. He then said, “Busyness is the enemy of your ministry.” He began to share about all of these ministries that started off one way and over time morphed into something else that caused their downfall.

He then asked me, “Do you know the enemy of your anointing?” This second question opened up an understanding of some key insights of which I needed to be very mindful every single step of the way to building the Lord’s vision for this ministry. That launched me into a full study of some of the most powerful and miraculous ministries that have ever existed.

I checked out books, I watched DVDs, I researched on the Internet. I embarked on this journey for two years straight and I knew the day it was complete. I studied a lot of the ministers I had heard of, some of them I had never heard of before. These ministries crossed racial and geographic boundaries. Some of them were based in the United States; others were from different countries around the world.

What intrigued me the most about this research wasn’t the personalities at the helm of the ministries but the process they went through as they sustained and grew their ministries. It didn’t take long to notice that the mistakes that repeatedly
led each ministry into their downfall fell into seven different categories. There were probably about 25 of them over the last several years that I’ve studied. I studied ministries from Aimee Semple McPherson, Kathryn Kuhlman, John Alexander Dowie, John Lake, some of today’s more prominent African American Ministers, A. A. Allen, and other ministries traveled and were used as vessels of miraculous healing.

No matter where they were assigned and operated, the same dynamics occurred in all of the ministries. No matter the story of each individual ministry, there were still seven main mistakes that repeatedly derailed the ministries and caused them to lose many of their faithful followers, become ship-wrecked or no longer be in existence.

I am an itinerant or traveling minister which means that I am assigned to the Body of Christ outside of the traditional structure of local church to specifically guide the manifestation of the Kingdom of God upon the earth. The Lord revealed to me that this is being a Kingdom Minister. A Kingdom Minister is assigned to transcend denominations and other barriers that man has erected in the Body of Christ.

These seven mistakes also apply ministers who are called to build a local worship center ministry. Because I am assigned to the Body of Christ outside of the four walls of the church, those are the ministries I studied. Of course, I paid attention to more church building type ministries and noticed that the same set of mistakes still applied.

If you make sure you honor avoiding these seven things you cannot go wrong in ministry and God will continue to bless and increase, grow, and expand your territory and the number of lives that you touch through your ministry.

It doesn’t matter where you are in ministry right now. It doesn’t matter if you’re still prayerful about what your message is but you know God placed a ministry in you, or if you’re an established minister already with an itinerary where you travel around the country or nations; these lessons still apply to you. Although I point out mistakes, they are actually lessons to follow as they point out what to avoid and what not to do in your ministry.

**The Body of Christ and the Kingdom of God**

One of the things you’ll see through this report is because one of my major assignments is to unite and ignite the Kingdom of God. Christians often use the term “Kingdom” or “Kingdom of God” these days but I want to state with clarity that according to the scripture, understanding that being a member or part of the Body of Christ does not automatically give you full access to the Kingdom of God.

According to scripture, there is a process that The Lord expects before He opens up the fullness of His ways to us. His love is not conditional but He is conditional when it comes to granting access to His mysteries of the Heavenly realm. As a result, we’ve got a body of Christians and only a small percentage is actually truly
understanding and inheriting, or accessing in the here and now, the Kingdom of God. You’ll hear that understanding throughout my teaching and that’s why God gave me use of the title of “Kingdom Trainer.”

This will probably be the only time in the call I’ll mention names to them, because the names of the ministries are not that important, what I want us to focus on is what happened in those ministries.

The 7 Top Mistakes To Avoid In Ministry

Wherever you are in the process of heeding your call to ministry mastering these seven areas can guarantee your ministry’s success. Whether you are just getting started or you have been in ministry for years, imagine moving forward in your ministry with no pitfalls or blind spots. You will be able to overcome that old saying (I think it’s tradition in rudiments of man, which are not of Christ) but I often hear, “The higher the level the more devils.”

Avoiding these seven mistakes can keep your ears and eyes open and discerning at all times in your ministry so there are no doors left open to Satan and his devils as you move higher and expand the territory. If you work on mastering these areas you will have ministry success and develop a legacy and will be around for generations. You will not build a ministry that is going to be here for the next five or 10 years and then in 15 years people say, “Wow, it was such a powerful ministry, what happened?”

The 7 mistakes are:

1. Not Taking Good Care of Yourself.
2. Not Spending Increased Time in God’s Presence.
4. Poor Financial Management.
5. Lack of Discernment in Relationships.
6. Binding People Inside the Walls.
7. The Lack of Deliverance of the Unclean.

Mistake #1: Not Taking Good Care of Yourself

These mistakes are not in any particular order but the first one, which is not surprising, is not taking good care of yourself. It sounds so simple but ministry after ministry after ministry has fallen and failed because the person the Lord is using as the vessel and the main minister at the head of the ministry becomes so sought after by the people that their bodies become run down. This always resulted in them literally not having anything left to be a vessel for their own healing. Far
too many men and women of God who carry a mantle of instantaneous healing and vessels for deliverance, and signs, and wonders end up sick on their death bed. And after being used mightily as a vessel for supernatural healing for thousands of people, they end up dying from a sickness that does not get healed.

When you don’t take care of yourself you end up staying so busy that exhaustion and fatigue set in. I saw this over and over again in the ministries I studied. In some of the ministries I studied, this lack of taking care of their health also led to vulnerability and others who did not have the correct intention or pure heart stepping in and taking advantage of the minister.

When you don’t take care of yourself, this creates a need to escape the momentum that’s building in the ministry because people seem desperate and seek you out so intensely with no regard for your well-being. There was story after story about how people who needed healing would find out where the men and women of God lived and literally camp out on their lawns waiting for them to heal them. There were even times when ambulances actually came to the minister’s back doors during all hours of the day and night. This prevented the minister from getting their needed rest and sleep.

As a minister you must be aware of your boundaries between your ministry and the necessary time you need to refuel and your need for some private time. You may already be experiencing this. This is one of the biggest mistakes because often times when God is using us you, it is not easy to say, “No,” until it may be too late.

I really encourage you to pay attention to your body temple. I think now more than ever we’re more conscious of it just because the world in general is becoming more health conscious, but pay attention to your need for downtime, rest and sleep. Pay close attention to the time you need to recover and stay rejuvenated.

Make sure you take at least one day to Sabbath. Truly “Sabbathing” means to completely stop working. This means not answering any phone calls, responding to even one email, turning on your computer, folding a single piece of laundry, or fixing anything. This means not lift a hand or a single finger to do anything that even resembles requiring effort. Make sure you are Sabbathing on a weekly basis. With Saturday or Sunday being a day of ministerial service, you must create another day in the week as your Sabbath and use this one day to rest and rejuvenate – even if you don’t feel run down.

In addition to honoring Sabbath, when you are traveling for speaking engagements, schedule your calendar in a way that gives you at least two down days after every road trip and at least one down day after teaching and preaching engagements. This means being very deliberate about letting all calls go to voicemail, delegating action items to your to handle or just letting thing wait until the next day.

I found only very few ministers who actually died of old age and not sickness resulting in not taking care of their health appropriately. In each of these cases, at the end of their life their entire ministries were questioned in the press because
here they were being vessels for signs, wonders, and healing miracles. Yet at the end of their life they ended up sick and dying.

This is so critical because you are called to be a living testament to the word of God. You are to become the manifested scripture and when you are ill in your body as a minister something is terribly off because sickness is not of light or Jesus. Honoring this lesson can literally will save your life.

If you are already feeling tired from the day-to-day expectations of your life, when you add ministry to it, your tiredness is a warning signal that you must change your ways and add more sleep, rest, rejuvenation, and exercise to your daily lifestyle, which is not easy because ministry demands all of who you are.

Remember that when you are in ministry, it is not up to anyone else, not even your assistant or Armor Bearer, to guard your time against these thing for you. When you do not rest and take time away on a weekly basis you are also actually doing those who follow your teaching a disservice because they begin to come to you instead of learning how to access the power of Jesus within them through His Holy Spirit.

This also means taking vacations and not forsaking quality time with your family for the ministry. The most powerful teaching I have ever seen in this came from Dr. Frederick K.C. Price. He was sharing with a room of Pastors and church leaders that he takes several vacations a year and because he has properly empowered his leadership team, he is able to go away without even thinking of ministry business and can truly and deeply enjoy his family. He also mentioned that every night he turns off his phone ringer. This has allowed His congregation to turn to the Lord instead of putting him on a pedestal that only Jesus should occupy.

Get into your regimen of taking better care of yourself now. This may mean praying for the support team you need to come forth to help assist your ministry. It breaks my heart every time I hear a story of a minister being sick because as true believers we should not ever have sickness in our body temples. This is so important.

This is more important now more than ever. God is raising up a new crop of ministers and we must learn from the mistakes of the past. You’ve got to begin to learn from the mistakes and pitfalls of ministries that have fallen before you so you can move forward and complete and fulfill the work of The Father and Jesus as you are called to do.

Mistake #2: Not Spending Increased Time in the Presence of the Lord.

The second top mistake made by ministries that have brought far too many ministries down is not spending increased time in God’s presence. I use the word *increased* very intentionally because the longer you’re in ministry, the more time you should spend sitting in God’s presence in prayer and meditation. When you lose
sight of sitting in God’s presence for increased amounts of time your ministry suffers.

The people you are called to impact also suffer because lack of time in His presence causes your hearing of the Holy Spirit to dull. This disconnects and dulls you from being a vessel for the full power to work signs, wonders, and miracles. When this happens you are left to attempt to oversee your organization with ego-based (which is not of Jesus) decisions, teachings and choices.

When you do not spend more and more time in the presence of Jesus in the Heavenly realm through meditation, it limits your gifting and the anointing of the Lord. Through the Holy Spirit you are called to operate in any aspect of the five-fold ministry as a situation dictates. You may be called to operate as an Apostle, Pastor, Evangelist, Teacher or Prophet.

Through His Holy Spirit, you have the measures of those gifts and offices of The Spirit inside of you. When you cease or diminish spending *increased* time in God’s presence, your gifts become pigeon-holed and the Holy Spirit is not able to use you as mightily as He could or did in the past.

For instance, if your primary gift is to operate in the office of a Prophet and you are so busy working on the ministry that you’re not spending increased time in God’s presence then your gift becomes pigeon-holed and people begin to show up to your ministry events and always expecting the Lord to flow through you only in the prophetic. Yet, the Lord may desire to express His teaching gift through you for that particular engagement.

When you have spent the necessary time in His presence you walk in oneness with Him and you have access to all of the gifts of The Spirit God may choose to manifest through you. This suffers when you do not take time to sit in His presence on a daily basis.

When you do not spend increased time in his presence it becomes a glaring problem on so many levels. You are probably saying, “Yes, yes!” When you allow the external demands of ministry to overtake your time in His presence it affects every area of your day-to-day life. It affects your ability to be fully led and guided by His voice and will leave you operating outside of His righteousness, or the pre-ordained order of the Kingdom of Heaven as dictated by the Holy Spirit. When you miss that time, it just doesn't feel the same.

This sounds so simple, but as you know, when the demands and obligations of ministry increase this becomes very difficult and this sacred time is often the first thing that is eliminated from our daily routine. It is all-too-easy to just think that tuning into the Lord throughout your daily life will sustain you. This leaves you relying on the anointing of the Holy Spirit with little balance.

This is dangerous because while the anointing will carry you through exhaustion or a lack of time in His presence in the short term, it will not carry you through for the
long term demands of ministry that is about to come upon the Body of Christ in the
days to come. I believe that if you are not spending time increasingly on a daily
basis in the presence of the Lord at some point the people are going to begin to
suffer.

Ideally you should be spending time in the Lord’s presence first thing in the
morning just after you wake up and last thing before you lay down to sleep at
night. This is critical for you as a minister of God to stay clean, fresh, ready and
keep your ears poised towards the voice of God. Remember, being a minister is not
about you, it is for the people God has assigned to you. The time in His presence is
for the intercession of the Heavenly realm in your ministry and going to the throne
of God on behalf of His people. But you’ve got to have time to be still and listen to
the voice of God not just speak to him through prayer.

Let me be clear about what I mean by spending time in His presence. I’m not
talking about your praise and worship time. I’m not talking about your study time.
I’m not talking about your devotional time and I’m not talking about your prayer
time. Nor am I talking about your intercessory time. I’m actually talking about the
time you spend in meditation on the Word of God to hear His voice and direct
instruction. This is your time of actually hearing His voice and having Him impart
specific instruction and revelation to you.

Spending this time in His presence also thickens His glory in and on your life and
ministry. His glory is the tangible, manifesting presence of Jesus. Spending this
time in His presence takes you inside of Jesus to become more and more like Him
and that means increasing your capacity to carry His presence. When you give God
more of your meditation time He will literally take you inside the scripture and
reveal more and more revelation and mysteries of the gospel to you.

It is not enough to have intellectually studied scripture. It is not enough to have a
large repertoire of memorized scripture. It is not enough to deliver good sermons
that entertain people. You must have is revelation directly from the throne of God.
And this only comes from logged hours in His presence.

This is the time in the Body of Christ that you must have revelation. It is time-out
for ministry as usual. We are in unprecedented times in the Body of Christ. It
doesn’t take much to look around and see that man’s kingdom is falling. That tells
us that God’s Kingdom is coming to pass and manifesting which means He is
bringing revelation of His scripture that has never been unlocked before upon the
earth.

In order to be a true Kingdom Minister, you must access His mysteries from the
Kingdom of Heaven directly from Jesus. If you initially hear revelation through
another man, remember to always take it to God’s throne in your meditation time
to let him confirm His word. This makes meditation time in His presence so critically
important. As a minister of God it is absolutely imperative.
This sounds like an oxymoron because the larger your ministry grows the more responsibility it requires and the more people pull on you. Do whatever it takes to delegate whatever you need to so you can free yourself up to sit in His presence. The busier you get the more important this becomes. Your most important role as a minister is to hear from God on behalf of the people.

**Mistake #3: Squelching the Spirit**

The third top mistake that ministries make is squelching, holding back or limiting the Spirit. This third one is really amazing to me because even with all of the ministries that have had some scandal or a leader broke off and started their own church - I don’t mean they were equipped with a church plan - I mean they broke off due to some disagreement or division – squelching the spirit ranks at the top of the top mistakes ministries make.

The squelching of The Spirit happens when the leader(s) of a ministry are not secure in their personalities and their spiritual gifting. This occurs as a result of following traditions of man and rudiments of the world instead of being Spirit-led. There are several forms of squelching The Spirit that, unfortunately, often far too often in ministries. Some examples of squelching The Spirit are:

- Keeping gifted people in your congregation sitting too long with no training or ministry opportunities
- Not having a true training and equipping program to continually raise up leaders and ministers for the Lord
- Not recognizing, utilizing and growing the gifts in the congregation because of being too self-centered as a leader
- Overshadowing other’s gifts by your charismatic leadership
- Not allowing gifted leaders to minister in front of the congregation due to insecurity
- Not empowering others to carry on your ministry on a daily basis
- Not properly equipping and training the congregation in their dominion, power and authority in operating in the works of Jesus
- Not providing opportunities for those in your congregation to respond to the Holy Spirit to serve on ministry teams
- Not teaching the entire congregation in how to be vessels for the works of Jesus in healing, deliverance and the works of Jesus
- Trying to duplicate what other ministers or churches are doing when it is not led by the Holy Spirit
- Looking backward to determine how to move forward
- Getting so stuck in the Roman Empire man-made created hierarchical model of ministry where only a handful of people are allowed to minister
- Not training up successors so the ministry can continue without you for generations to come
- Leadership being threatened by other gifted people in the congregation and shutting down people and their gifts
- Allowing people to put you on a pedestal before Jesus
- Going through religious practices and protocols that squelch the move of the Holy Spirit
- Being uncomfortable allowing people to openly express the move of the Holy Spirit

These forms of squelching The Spirit are usually a result of the lead minister failing to spend increased time in the presence of the Lord and therefore not hearing His voice or not following the instruction of the Lord in obedience. They are symptoms of larger problems of uncleanness in the leadership that manifests as insecurity, egotism and a lack of the order of the Lord – righteousness (I go into more detail on this mistake later in this report).

There are two potential orders that can be operating in any church. These orders cannot co-exist. One is the righteousness or order of The Kingdom of Heaven as led by His Holy Spirit, the other one is tradition of men and rudiments of the world, or man’s order, which is not of Christ (see Colossians 2:8). A church or ministry cannot serve both orders.

Man’s order is the order or rules that man has created that serve ego, pride and arrogance. Unfortunately, this is the order that is prevailing in today’s churches throughout the Body of Christ. As ministers we must make the transition from man’s order into God’s order and lead those people the Lord has entrusted to us to do the same. The issue is that we have not been properly taught how to distinguish one order from the other so we can line up to the order of the Kingdom of Heaven and reflect it in the Kingdom of God upon the earth. It is when we allow a room, an arena, or a church full of people to be led by The Spirit when miracles happen.

I almost cried the other day when I heard the most incredible story. One of my best friends, Toni, from Seattle has always had a healing gift. The power of fire would manifest in her hands to powerfully that it became an inside joke to us. She would always say, “Girl, my hands are getting hot!” But because she had seen such hypocrites come out of the Christian church and the fact that she had never been trained to operate in her gift, she was hesitant about the Jesus that the church portrayed.

In spite of her disappointment with the church, she followed the leading of The Holy Spirit when a friend invited her to attend church with her. As she shared the story with me she said, “Oh my God! Ericka it was so incredible!”

This was a church that had become all about getting people in and out, collecting as much money as possible and keeping the congregation entertained while the Pastor...
was in the pulpit. They had three services every Sunday and were so driven by the clock that they had no regard for the move of the Holy Spirit and focused on getting people in and out for the next service to begin.

The Lord began to deal with this Pastor and in the middle of service He sat down on the steps that led up to the pulpit, hung his head and said that the Lord rebuked him about the way he had been leading the congregation. The Lord said to him, “You are not giving my spirit enough time to move.” He humbled himself obediently and shifted the entire church service schedule. He told the congregation, “Okay, we’re going to do a 10AM and a 3PM and let Heaven come do its work.”

He then said, “If there’s anybody out there with hot hands right now raise your hands.” Hands went up throughout the crowd, including the hand of my friend, Toni. He said, “Those of you who need healing find the nearest person with their hot hands and have them lay them on you.” Do you know that hundreds of people were healed that night because he didn’t squelch the spirit?

As a minister you must get to a place where you line up your ministry to follow the things of The Holy Spirit. Every person that is in the congregation has access to the same healing power of Jesus and can be used for the miraculous healing of someone sitting next to them who are carrying sickness or paralysis. I have lost track of how many stories I’ve heard that pastors and ministry leaders have rebuked the men and women of God for bringing messages of the Lord and being vessels of healing to one another in the congregation.

Squelching the spirit also can look in ministry leadership like listening to the people. I came out of the AME church years ago and they are notorious for not tuning into the congregation. You were hard-pressed to find a move of the spirit because everything was so governed by man, by this board, that commission, and that committee that they’re not even hearing or honoring scripture.

The most recent statistic I have heard is that a million people a month are leaving Christianity because they’re not seeing any power in it. They are not seeing evidence of the very things that are being taught and preached. They are not seeing the manifestation of scripture and are not being equipped to be an impact. They are not being empowered to operate in the things of the spirit because man is squelching the spirit.

Do not make the mistake of squelching The Spirit. Do not rebuke people who are spirit led in your congregation or in your meetings. Your ministry gatherings are not yours to control, they belong to Jesus.

When you squelch the spirit, you inevitably come to a place where you can fail to recognize the presence of Satan in the group to whom you are ministering. It will get to a point where you don’t even recognize whether something is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit or a satanic manifestation. You must allow The Spirit must lead at all times. Ministry after ministry has derailed and gone down from this squelching.
In my study I came across many ministers whose ministries became so successful that they would literally self proclaim themselves as the Messiah or the second coming of Christ because they lost sight of being led by The Spirit and they begin to believe that the people really came to see them instead of seeing the power of Jesus operating through them.

**Mistake #4: Poor Financial Oversight and Management**

I am very passionate about this next mistake whereby so many ministries have derailed and been destroyed in the past. You’ve seen the path of devastation is leaves in ministries and the lives of those who seed into those ministries. Poor financial oversight and management has brought down some of the greatest ministries of the past and must be guarded against.

Remember the tele-evangelists of the 1980’s and 90’s who ended up imprisoned not because they necessarily did something wrong but because they had poor financial oversight of their ministry and things were happening financially that they were not aware of. Yet, as the founder of a ministry, you are solely responsible for the financial oversight and operation of your ministry. Even if it is not your gift and you bring someone else in to manage the finances, you must – I repeat – MUST become versed enough in financial management that you clearly understand all that is happening with the finances of your ministry.

I encourage you to always have multiple checks and balances in place. This can be a challenge for ministers because we are such heart people. Our gift is very rarely in the area of finances. Yet the daily accounting and bookkeeping of your ministry numbers is imperative to your ministry success.

An example of this occurred at my previous church in Seattle, WA. The woman who was over counting the money every Sunday for years began to become very evil, defensive, and protective, and would bully and kick all of the other board treasurers out of the church’s treasury room and insist that she was the only one in the room to count the money. The leadership of the church did not step in to stop this and there were not enough checks and balances in place.

After several years of this, a new pastor came to lead the church and he immediately noticed that tithes and offerings were not where they should be for a church of that size. The first thing he did was to override her bullying and make sure others were in the treasury room at the time of the counting of the church funds. It did not take long for it to come out that she had embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars over a three-year period.

How many times have you heard of lawsuits, financial scandals, embezzlements, misuse of funds and the many other forms of greed happening from within the Body of Christ?

Get this aspect of your ministry handled early on. I actually took a course on 501(c)(3) organizations and there is such error in the church. Did you know that a
minister is never supposed to accept money that is above and beyond their salary directly? Yet I have seen people placing money in the hands of pastors most of my Christian experience in the church.

There are all types of financial things that ministries are getting away with. If so many ministries were audited they could see there is a lot of room for improvement. If you need help in this area, you should have a third party who is not attached to your ministry to take a look at your finances and help you get them in order.

I recently had to fire myself as my own accountant and bookkeeper. I just had to get real with myself and realize that I just didn’t have the time to give the nitty gritty aspects of my personal and ministry finances the attention that it needs. I am much more powerful in an oversight position. I finally said, “Okay, enough. I’m firing myself.” I hired a bookkeeper and the Lord actually led me to a bookkeeper that who does not consider herself Christian. He actually said, “She’ll be transformed in the process.” She is a master with the funds and keeping on top of things so I can make sure that my checks and balances are in place as I grow the ministry.

One of the ministries I studied and was very intrigued with was Billy Graham’s ministry. I studied it because over an unprecedented 50 year span of time it was one of the few ministries that never fell because of scandal. This is very rare in the world of ministry. Upon closer examination, this was very deliberate and they set up specific safeguards to avoid any type of scandal in their years of ministry.

Early on in his ministry after a Billy Graham tent revival event, the newspaper printed a picture that changed the way they operated in their ministry. On the front of the newspaper the following morning after the crusade on one side of the picture was Billy Graham getting into a town-car-type limousine waving to the people with a large smile on his face. Adjacent to that picture was another image of the ushers from the event holding up the money bag in front of the camera as if to say, “We got them, we got them!”

Graham and his ministerial team had a meeting after the newspaper story came out and they made a conscious decision not to allow any scandals to come near the ministry as it would be a detriment to all involved as well as those who were in attendance.

They set up some key agreements. One of those agreements was that they would set up a separate organization to manage the finances of the ministry. This became the creation of The Billy Graham Evangelical Association came from. They decided that no matter how much money their crusades brought in, they would go on salaries equivalent to what a local pastor would earn. They also put people in place for the necessary checks and balances. They made up another rule that was that as
married men they would never be in a room with another single woman without another man present.

The next decision that made that day was that they were never going to talk about the pastors of the cities that we go into. The last rule was that they would never publicly estimate the number of people that were present at an event. They were going to leave the numbers to God and allow the local journalists to make public statements about how many people attended their ministry events.

Those were their four agreements that served them for more than 50 years without a single scandal. That is amazing considering that they ministered together all over the world.

My research revealed ministry after ministry in which the main ministers were betrayed, served lawsuits as more and more money that came into their hands. There were all kinds of financial issues that Katherine Kuhlman, Aimee Semple McPherson and many others really struggled with behind the scenes. There were several scenarios where the lead ministers were actually conspired against to gain control of their fortunes.

**Mistake #5: Lack of Discernment in Relationships**

Would you believe that several of the ministers I studied were actually kidnapped and taken against their will so they can access the power of Jesus within them? Others toward the end of their lives were taken with no notice by dishonest or questionable Christians who coveted their gifts and ministry success.

There was another well-known minister who was taken after he collapsed after a revival by a fellow minister who, without informing anyone, put him on a train before anyone had time to understand that he was gone. I should say they didn’t know where he was for a while. She kept him sequestered for months and did not allow anyone else to speak, visit or communicate with him. Each of these extreme betrayals came from people close to their ministries.

This really comes down to making sure that you do not get so busy in ministry that you’re not taking time to hear from the Lord and prophetically discern the relationships that are showing up in your space. This becomes more and more critical the more well-known you and your ministry become. Take each and every person who approaches you to help with the work of the ministry into prayer and do not bring them on board, even as a volunteer, without hearing directly from the Lord about their role in the Kingdom of God, their character and issues and whether or not they are healed and purified in their heart and spirit and ready to truly take on the work of your ministry with no envy or ill intentions.

It is also easy to be overwhelmed as you build your ministry and give anyone a role that comes along and says they want to help you. When you see that they need deliverance, when you see that there is still stuff and issues in their heart, you must deal with it before you allow them to put their hands on your ministry.
After learning so much about this area, I now pray to God to only send those people who are assigned to the vision He gave me. I mean your staff, your team, your helpers, your servants, your co-laborers. You must vet anyone who comes in contact with your ministry before the Holy Spirit.

If your ministry does not yet have the cash flow to hire people but you need help, this is a great time in ministry because it allows you to more easily discern who is truly ordained and called for your ministry and who is just there for a paycheck. One day during my meditation, the Lord actually said to me, “Daughter, I’m actually going to hold back some resources so you can see people’s true essence.” You have to be clear whether or not your potential ministry team is trying to work alongside you because they desire to truly serve Jesus or because they think they’re going to get a paycheck.

I absolutely believe in compensating people in ministry. I have just learned that there is a period of time that is ideal to do a closer examination of those who are showing up to assist you. It is so easy when the resources begin to come to bring on the wrong person or someone who is not assigned to the vision the Lord has given you.

If you make a bad decision due to lack of discernment about relationships, it can potentially derail your ministry and there is too much at stake at this time in the Body of Christ to risk that. I would actually suggest having a ministry training program that walks all who desire to work with your ministry through emotional healing and deliverance so they work on your ministry team as pure as possible.

If you take time to slow down and sit in the Lord’s presence about people, you usually know in your spirit when you have a bad feeling about someone. Anytime you have not listened to this knowing that the Holy Spirit sends you, you always end up saying, “I had a feeling something wasn’t right.” This takes you back to avoiding mistake number two and making sure you are taking the time to spend increased time in the presence of the Lord.

Another thing that I saw a lot of in my research, particularly with woman ministers, is that they entered into unequally yoked relationships and marriages. It is common for me to meet these powerful woman ministers who are being held back, intimidated, sometimes even verbally and physically abused inside the walls of their home yet are being used powerfully for the work of the Lord. If you are still single in ministry, take your time in allowing the Lord’s timing and selection in choosing the person you marry.

One time as I was asking the Lord why I was still single, He said to me, “I had to make sure you knew and were operating in the fullness of your Kingdom assignment before I brought your husband.” But unfortunately, many ministers becoming emotionally attached and not listening to the Lord and get into an unequally yoked marriage.
This can also show up in friendships among your “church family.” Remember that Jesus came to create variance or separation (see Matthew 10:34 – 35). All of this unification and coming together as a church family can sometimes hold people back because of emotional ties that are developed yet God may be trying to send someone out into the Body of Christ and they may be resisting because of leaving church family. You have to understand when Jesus is separating or calling you out because he is serious about separating the wheat from the tare. He separates those who say they believe from the true believers.

Ask the Lord to better understand who people are from their heavenly position. Not based on what their words are saying, what their experience say but ask The Father, “Who are they God? Show me what’s off what do need to work on. What do they need training on?” This is the ministry that has your name attached to it and you are fully responsible for every aspect of it.

**Mistake #6: Binding People Inside of the Walls**

I began to talk about being called outside of the walls of the local church in the previous mistake to avoid, but it deserves further exploration. The sixth ministry mistake to avoid is binding people inside of the walls of the church building.

This is actually something I see much more in brick and mortar building ministries or what we know as the church. I often see pastors who are so concerned about growing their membership instead of equipping the people do the works of Jesus to make a real impact in the community for those who really need it.

I am from Seattle, Washington, and I was blown away when the Lord moved me to Raleigh, North Carolina, by how people literally defined part of who they were by their pastor and which church they attend. I just couldn’t believe that people allowed themselves to be defined by what a sign outside of their church building said. Instead of people asking what you do, I quickly found out that the first question people ask here is, “What church do you go to?” Then I quickly learned that their concept of being a vessel for the works of Jesus often only consisted of extending an invitation to come to their church as a guest as if they had no ability to be ministers of the gospel.

It was as if they hadn’t been told or read the truth of scripture to understand that the full power of Jesus resides inside of them where ever they were and that the power of Jesus is not limited to the inside of the walls of the church. So many Christians are not consciously aware that the same Jesus operates in them at all times and they are not limited to experiencing Jesus in church. This results in people being disempowered and taught to run to the church house to experience the power of Jesus when they should be equipped and demonstrating the power of God outside of the four walls.
This phenomenon happens only in church-based ministries and not in itinerate ministries, but it is definitely a ministry mistake you want to avoid. The success of a church should be measured by how powerful the presence of the Holy Spirit is and how many lives were healed, delivered and set free when they come to church. This is the place where the congregation should be trained to operate in the power of Jesus and how to walk in their oneness with him at all times.

What it all-too-easy to forget is that the more the Holy Spirit manifests in the congregation, the more it will draw people to attend that church or meeting in which the works of the Lord manifested. As a minister, you should begin to count not just the membership or financial offering numbers, you should also track how many people were healed, how many mute begin to speak, how many deaf could hear, how many blind eyes were opened, how many came in a wheelchairs and left walking, how many were delivered, how many eyes were replaced, how many limbs were grown out, how many people came into and accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is time to change how we measure the success of what is happening inside of the churches of the Lord.

This is one of the greatest downfalls of the church. People are not being equipped, they are frustrated and they’re leaving. Many groups are starting home bible studies and just plain not going to church any longer because in so many ways the church has become a fellowship center or social gathering place and not a training ground.

It is the time for the scripture when we bring Mark 16:17 – 18 into manifestation. As true believers, according to the scripture, every Christian is to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover and cast out devils. Every single person in your church should be skilled in operating in the things of Jesus. We are entering into the times of the greater works coming upon the earth (see John 14:12) and the people of God are not equipped in their Kingdom dominion, power and authority. This is not reserved for those in the Body of Christ with titles, this is for all Christians.

**Mistake #7: Lack of Deliverance of the Unclean**

The last mistake that was revealed in my research is the lack of deliverance of the unclean. There are 14 main unclean stronghold spirits in scripture and they are running even more rampant in today’s Body of Christ than they were in the ministries of the past that I studied.

I see haughtiness, which produces pride, ego, arrogance, running rampant. There is perverse spirit that manifests as adultery, homosexuality among other sexual sins running rampant in the Body of Christ. Then there is the fear that has 98% of the Body of Christ paralyzed from moving forward in their callings and purpose. And this fear, which is an unclean spirit, shows up in ministry leadership in many forms including a fear of people leaving the congregation, fear of not having enough funding and resources and fear of God’s provision for the very ministries He has called to operate. And then there is jealousy trying to bind and covet peoples’ gifts with envy.
It did not take looking beyond the Kingdom Minister’s whom I train and equip to find my research about the immense church hurt that those who carry great gifting but are sitting idle in congregations experience from ministry leaders on a regular basis. Some people called to ministry never fully recover from the church hurts they have experienced.

Whether it is church hurt or insecurity, each of these unclean manifestations are a result of spiritual darkness in Christians and anything of darkness is of Satan. This spiritual darkness is also running rampant in the Body of Christ. One of the things God told me when I began my beyond fearless work is the understanding and revelation of what true deliverance is and how to recognize from which unclean spirits ministers and others need to be delivered. I cover this in great detail in my book Beyond Fearless How to Remove Every Hindrance from your Life.

When the Lord first revealed this to me I asked him, “God, how bad is it?” He responded, “98% of the body of Christ - from the pulpit down - is oppressed with unclean spirits and is completely unaware of it.” We have a crisis of a lack of deliverance in the Body of Christ and when people come to your ministry you've got to be able to identify the unclean fruits that they are carrying because those fruits are a result of the presence of an unclean spirit. It is easy for forget that all spirits produce fruit just as the presence of the Holy Spirit produces specific fruits. In all truth, those who are carrying or manifesting unclean spirits should not be able to proceed in your ministry until they receive more spiritual cleaning and training.

I don’t mean sitting them down, that is a form of squelching the spirit. I mean giving them the training and equipping to be fully honest about what they’re dealing with so they move beyond the flesh and overcome the world and get to a place where they’re actually clean and pure. I pray to God that we as a body of Christ as ministerial leaders become pure in our hearts and souls so we can truly do the work of God upon the earth with no hindrances. It would be awesome!

Here is a list of the main unclean spirits that are manifesting in the today’s Body of Christ. They include:

- **Spirit of haughtiness.** Haughtiness is the spirit that results in pride, arrogance, ego, judgment and control. That’s the spirit of haughtiness.
- **Perverse spirit.** Perverse spirit also includes – it’s not just fornication, adultery, homosexuality and flirting. Beyond sexual and lust-oriented perversion, but also the perversion the word of God. This perversion may be holding back the truth of the scripture or teaching only what you heard another man teach, but did not seek or confirm directly with the Holy Spirit in your meditation time.
- **Spirit of fear.** The spirit of fear is the gateway spirit that has the Body of Christ absolutely bound.
• Spirit of bondage. The spirit of bondage manifests in financial and time lack, addictions, and being bound by the circumstances of the past.

• Spirit of jealousy. The spirit of jealousy manifests as envy, coveting material possessions and spiritual gifts of others, competition among ministries and people, along with gossip and back-biting.

• Spirit of whoredoms. The last major unclean spirit that is seen manifesting in major ways in today’s ministries and ministries of the past is the spirit of whoredoms. This is an unclean spirit that results in insecurity, inadequacy, unworthiness and self-rejection.

While there are more strongholds that manifest often, these are the main ones that are poisoning the Body of Christ.

I was doing a ministry leadership training at a church one day and when we got to the part in the training where we had to start dealing with what was really creating division in their leadership team, as I was standing at the front of the training room, the Lord just showed me in The Spirit that members the leadership team were sleeping with members of the leadership team. I also noticed that the pastor was very touchy-feely with me and that his wife was shut down and quietly angry. This perverse spirit that was present at the top of their leadership organization was showing up in the entire leadership team. This also means that it was prevalent inside of the congregation.

I didn’t call them on it as much as the spirit showed me, but I mentioned it. It was as if a wall came down and people just shut off because they’d been hiding behind their leadership roles. You deal with it lovingly of course, because it seems to be something that’s running rampant in the church environment. Needless to say, the room got very quiet when I mentioned what I was seeing in The Spirit. But, no one denied it.

The last thing I want to mention about this mistake is that is also results in not bringing people the pure truth. It can look like watering down the word or adding our interpretation without hearing word directly from God as to what He meant when He had the scripture written. As I study scripture, my prayer is always, “God show me what you meant when you had the scripture written.”

I pray that you are now clear about the seven mistakes that ministries, great ministries and small ministries of the past and present have made, how to recognize them and that you should avoid them as often as possible. And it is possible to avoid each and every one of them by the humble leading of the Holy Spirit.

I know this report is hard-hitting, but it is in done from a place of love and obedience to what the Lord instructed me to say and release to you. It is my prayer that you are able to use this report as a guide to move forward in your ministry in a
way that will ensure that you build a ministry organization that lives beyond you and continues to impact, transform and free lives for generations to come.

In Him,

[Signature]

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Books

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