

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



*Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful*

## Why People React The Way They Do

### Article # 4

*“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3).*

**The fact that you're reading this article** is an indication that you're interested in spiritual things, and as a Christian, since you're interested in spiritual things there are going to be some things that will bother you as you serve the Lord.

**If you are one who is bothered by compromisers**, then probably your gift is that of a prophet, which is mentioned in Romans 12:6. If you are bothered by the concern to help people with their basic needs, then very likely you are a servant. If you are bothered by people who corrupt the Word of God—it concerns you that they misuse it and take it out of context—perhaps your gift is that of the teacher, which is mentioned in verse seven.

**There is a difference between the prophet and the teacher.** The prophet is going to preach, and the teacher is going to teach. As you go down the list of gifts in Romans 12:6-8, maybe what bothers you is when Christians remain childish; that is, as Paul said, *“I...could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as...unto babes.”* Why don't people grow up spiritually? Does that bother you? Perhaps it's because you are an exhorter.

**Then maybe it's cash that bothers you.** We've got those who are bothered by compromisers, those who are bothered by the lack of concern for people's needs, those who are bothered by those who would corrupt or misuse the Word of God, then those who are upset because Christians remain childish. Maybe your problem has to do with cash. People misuse finances, and that really upsets you. Or maybe your gift is that of the giver, and that is what motivates you in the Christian ministry.

**Perhaps what really upsets you is confusion where there's a lack of organization**—*“We've got to get organized”*—and if that's your basic response when things are disorganized, you may be an administrator, called a ruler in Romans 12:8. Or maybe you are concerned about compassion—*“We just need to prove the sincerity of our love. We need to be compassionate with people”*—then maybe your gift is that of a mercy show-er.

**The first concern that we mentioned is that of a compromiser.** What does it mean to compromise? It means to accept standards that are lower than scripturally correct. Does that really bother you? It should bother everybody, but it's going to be a motivational thing in the life of a prophet. It's going to cause a response in the life of the prophet more, perhaps, than any of those with the other gifts.

What would be the response of the prophet? The response of the prophet would be to

preach. That word “*preach*,” means “*to herald*.” It used to be that a herald would come in on his horse, and he would say, “*Hear ye, hear ye. Thus saith the King.*” He didn’t come to teach the people anything; he came to just tell them what the King said, and his response was to just do what the King said—“*Here, this is what the King said. Now, you better listen.*”

**We said previously that the herald didn’t soft pedal the message in case some people left town and they didn’t get as much in taxes as they used to get.** That happens in our churches all the time —“*I can’t preach that. People might leave, and then we won’t get the tithes and offerings.*” That’s compromise, and that really, really bothers the prophet.

**What would be the response of the teacher?** What is his motivation? To teach —“*We’ve got to sit down here, and we’ve got to teach,*” and the prophet says, “*No, we just preach and let the Holy Spirit do the teaching.*” Who’s right? They’re both right. But when we get to this thing called compromise, the result of compromise is apostasy, so whatever amount of prophets we have in the world today, those that have that gift are really upset because there’s so much compromise going on in the world today.

**In this article, we want to talk about the ruler,** the administrator. The Bible says in verse eight, “*...he that ruleth, with diligence.*” As we look into the Word of God, we want to see if we can determine who was a ruler, who was an administrator in the Word of God. I think there’s little doubt that Nehemiah was an administrator if you study what Nehemiah did. He had the ability to visualize the final results of what he was going to do.

**We read concerning Nehemiah that God’s people were in great affliction.** Nehemiah visualized how to fix that problem. As a matter of fact, a “*problem*” is something that is

simply unwelcome and harmful. But it was more than a problem to Nehemiah; it was a project. A “*project*” is a plan designed to meet a particular aim, and Nehemiah’s aim was, “*They can’t be in great affliction. We have to go and fix this problem,*” and he was organized to do it. An administrator has got the ability to see bite-size, achievable goals rather than the big project. Nehemiah did not focus on that big wall; he organized and focused on ten gates and the parts in between those gates, and he had some bite-size, achievable goals for people to reach. He was well organized in that respect.

**Then an administrator knows what he needs to get the job done.** In chapter two we read he had the timber to make the beams; he had the supplies from the King’s forest that he needed. When he talked to the King, he said, “*This is what we need to get this job done,*” and the King gave it to him. Not only that, but the King gave Nehemiah bodyguards, because there’s going to be some opposition when it comes to the administrator, the ruler as he’s called in Romans 12:8. And in the corresponding verse to the ruler, verse fourteen in Romans 12 says, “*Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*” Nehemiah experienced much persecution as he determined to get that job done.

**Also, Nehemiah had the ability to remove things that would hinder getting the job done.** Nehemiah really didn’t build anything. What he did was keep the way clear for others to do what they needed to do while he was dealing with the opposition. In chapter four, the people were discouraged, so Nehemiah encouraged them. In chapter five, there were some problems concerning finances, and Nehemiah removed the financial problem. Nehemiah organized the workers; he organized the prayer times; he organized the fighting times; and later on when the revival was underway, we don’t see Nehemiah preaching. He’s just the organizer.

Nehemiah was also willing, as we said, to endure any opposition that might come along. There was opposition from without. That included Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem and the Arabians and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites. It says in chapter four and verse eight that they conspired together to hinder Nehemiah from getting the job done.

**Opposition from without is one thing, but opposition from within was a serious problem.** You can read about it in chapter two and verse seventeen. Nehemiah said, *“I was very angry.”* He said that he consulted with himself and rebuked the people that needed rebuking. And then he required an oath of them. In chapter ten you have the names of all the people who signed the oath. He said, *“We need some loyalty here.”* The administrator needs loyalty from his followers. So they all signed an oath. Good idea. Maybe we should get back to that today.

We have seen that the administrator has the ability to wisely delegate responsibilities. Nehemiah hand-picked the crew on every section of the wall and every section of the gate. You can read about that in Nehemiah chapter three. We see in chapter four that Nehemiah encouraged the discouraged workers to finish the job. And then there's a joy that the administrator has in seeing the finished project, if you'll note the organization in chapter seven. Nehemiah united the people in the revival meeting in chapter eight; he organized the details, and as we said earlier, he had people sign a covenant that they were going to do things God's way.

If you're an administrator, it is important to realize that with all these gifts come the weaknesses, and a weakness of an administrator can be viewing people as people who can help with a project rather than people that the project can help.

The administrator needs people to help him, and he might overlook the needs of the people while viewing the project, because he needs people. When using people to accomplish his goals, an

administrator needs to be very careful that the goals that he is setting are goals that God wants set.

And the administrator might reward those who appear to be loyal while ignoring others. While loyalty and dependability are important qualities to the administrator, the administrator needs to learn to help people to learn to be loyal and learn to be dependable. Now, that's where the exhorter comes in. If he's doing his job, he can help out there a lot as well. But the administrator needs to realize that need is there.

And then one of the weaknesses of an administrator can be taking charge of situations that are not his God-given responsibilities. That's a very important word—*“responsibilities”*—to know what they are and to leave those that are not ours alone. It's difficult for the administrator to watch inefficiency in this management.

**The administrator needs to be careful when he delegates work.** He sometimes cannot be sensitive enough to the needs and schedules of the individuals. People have homes of their own; they have families to take care of, and administrators need to be very careful not to delegate too much work to other people just because they're willing to work. The result of that can be a group of resentful people.

Administrators also tend to overlook spiritual deficiencies in people who are good workers. The prophet says, *“Look, there are some standards here we've got to meet if you're going to get in line to work for the Lord.”* Sometimes it can be a weakness of the administrator to overlook those standards because, *“We've got to get the project done and we've got to get it done right, and this fellow has the ability to do it.”* That's a weakness.

Another weakness of administrators might be rejecting suggestions that might be better than the one the administrator planned.

The administrators don't know it all. Someone has said, "Every man is my teacher," and that's how we need to look at life.

made to feel like they are appreciated and not just pawns in the game of the administrator.

The administrator has the ability to withstand a lot of criticism, and sometimes they become closed to people who have good ideas, assuming they're just somebody else finding fault. Also a weakness of the administrator can be the failing to explain things to the workers. Workers need to be

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Prophet



Servant



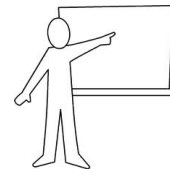
Teacher



Exhorter



Giver



Organize



Mercy

**Christians disappoint me when...**

- a. They compromise.....
- b. Fail to demonstrate genuine Christian concern for others.....
- c. Substitute experience for sound doctrine.....
- d. Christians are not growing to spiritual maturity.....
- e. Christians are not trusting God concerning finances.....
- f. Christians are not accomplishing any major goals.....
- g. Christians are not showing genuine love.....

- a. Prophet.....
- b. Servant.....
- c. Teacher.....
- d. Exhorter.....
- e. Giver.....
- f. Administrator.....
- g. Mercy.....