Matt. 9:20-22 states, "And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."

The woman with the issue of blood was healed by touching Jesus' garment because some folks celebrated Jesus. Some people were walking the streets giving praise to the man, Christ Jesus. They didn’t know He was the Son of God. But they built the quality of faith that would work miracles within the minds of others by praising the works of the man.

Don’t let the word “praise” mess you up mentally! The Bible says “Give honor to whom honor is due.” Therefore, you’ve got to celebrate your mentor...not only for your sake, but for the sake of igniting the faith of others that they may come and draw from your mentor’s wisdom, also!

Someone should be assigned to praise the pastor to the people. Pastors, make sure that this individual is someone that truly loves you. Make sure they're not a “Gehazi,” nurturing their own agenda and waiting for their opportunity to shine. Make sure they’re in their season of sowing; actively serving and building your name in the ears of the people.
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God will bring them into their land in their due season and at the appointed time.

The widow at Zarephath received Elijah as a prophet of God. Her expectation and faith was built upon Elijah's reputation as a man of God. In order for miracles to take place in the lives of people, someone is going to have to be able to receive you in order to get their blessing.

Never make an apology to your people whenever you are having economic struggle, strain or lack. Don't ever attempt to take an offering from the people by explaining your needs to them. They don't care about your needs; they have needs of their own.

Elijah went to Zarephath and approached the widow. But he never told his distress to the woman at Zarephath. He never said, "Here's my newsletter, it needs to be published" or, "My brook dried up," or "My raven's dead," or "This is what I looked like before the famine, and if you don't give into this ministry, I'm going to die."

Elijah never said any of those things because he knew that the woman at Zarephath was in a place of extremity herself. She was starving and so was her son. That woman could care less that this itinerant preacher's brook dried up! If you start telling people about your need, they're going to start telling you about theirs. People want to know "What are you going to do for me?" The moment you start explaining your need during an offering, with statements like, "Now church, we won't be able to pay the mortgage unless you give us such and so," you kill the offering. You'll kill their inspiration to give.
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The people do not care about your mortgage when their own life is at stake. As a matter of fact, when they hear that your economic situation is that shaky, they will lose faith in your ability to lead and will consider you to be a bad investment. Let me ask you this. If a company was failing and about to go out of business, would you put stock in it? Would you invest your life savings in a business that was about to go under?

Don’t underestimate the intelligence of the people! If you make your offering time a platform to expose your neediness, the people will ask themselves, “So? Why should I sow into you? You’re in worse shape than I am!”

Here’s a vital principle. Wealth begets wealth. The queen of Sheba gave to Solomon because of what Solomon had. It’s the law of Genesis; everything comes after its own kind. Therefore, it is important for you to be wealthy in order for you to attract wealth. The rich do not give to the poor. They will throw something in their direction, but will not give them any real substance.

Notice that when a homeless person enters a restaurant, they tell them to leave. They may give them a morsel of bread, but they will not serve them as they would a paying customer. Yet, if a wealthy man of great reputation enters a pizza shop and is recognized, they’ll say, “It’s on the house! It’s free!” The fact is that wealth begets wealth. So pastors, if you want to receive large offerings in your church, your people have got to see you first as a giver and secondly, they must see you as wealthy.
When I was about twenty-seven years old, certain mentors took me under their wings and shared their wisdom with me. One particular bishop said, “Son, I’m going to get you out on the field. I’m going to open the door, but it’s up to you to keep it open.” I answered, “Fine. Just give me a crack!” He took me on the road with him and taught me about this particular phase of ministry. But there was something he did to me first before he took me on the road that made me real angry. He took me to a particular region of stores and said, “This is where you’re going to shop for suits, and this is the type of luggage that you will buy.

Now, the luggage cost more than anything I had ever been exposed to, and I thought he was crazy. He said, “You’re going to buy this.” And I retorted, “I’m not spending that kind of money. Its all I can do to buy two suits with one hundred bucks! I’m not spending that kind of money on this kind of stuff.” And the kindly, wise bishop said “Buy it, because your luggage is the first thing people will handle when you get off the plane. And your honorarium will be greatly influenced by your packaging; it will be based upon the quality of your appearance and the quality of the luggage that you carry.”

You’ve got to package yourself for where you’re going and not for where you have been. You’ve got to fake it until you make it! I wore a fake Rolex for years until the real one came into my life. I had to replace the fake one every eight to twelve weeks to keep up the appearance, but it did the job!

As you continue in ministry, you’re going to find that
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there are certain laws and keys of success that God has instilled within the universe. And these laws and keys must be obeyed in order for you to experience God's blessings and God's favor. God is watching how you treat His prophets. When a prophet is honored, God releases honor and favor, but if a prophet is dishonored, God will take up for His prophets, for to dishonor or mistreat a prophet is to be dealt with by God Himself. This is why He said, “Touch not My anointed and do My prophets no harm.”

It is important for leaders to understand God’s ways. When God gives you a vision, that is not the time to sit down, fold your hands and think that God is going to drop all your provision out of the sky. There's a whole science to the application of the Word of God. Don't become apprehensive about the word, “science.” It just means “the knowledge of.” The Bible lets us know that Daniel had all understanding of all sciences. He had knowledge of different things.

There is a science to putting on a conference. There is a science to putting on a revival. Some people have sponsored revivals, but they were operating in zeal with no knowledge. They’ve allowed preachers to come in their churches that could not raise any money, and they were left in debt for two months afterwards, struggling to pay for this glorious “revival.”

"All too many pastors have become victimized by this mindset, and they continue to bring in so-called evangelists that don't empower your people, don't build loyalty in them towards your leadership, and fail to bring souls into the church. They never had a true revival. All they had was a time
where people came together and had a good time and left them holding a bill.

Any guest minister should build the pastor of the church they are visiting. Whenever I come to your local church, I'm there to build you in the eyes of the people, and not to tear you down.

The prophet that comes in the spirit and power of Elijah will turn the heart of the father towards the children and the hearts of the children towards their father, lest God smites the earth with a curse. As a prophet, my job is to turn your hearts towards your spiritual leader and to turn the heart of your spiritual leader towards you. A prophet is called to ignite a better relationship between the leader and his flock.

Pastors, you must be celebrated by your people. At Zoe Ministries, you'll notice that they make a big thing about my birthday celebration. Now, I'm going to tell you why. From the time Zoe Ministries was founded, when my birthday rolled around, they would give me a cake and candles and sing “Happy Birthday” to their pastor and I would sit there and blow the candles out.

But in 1987, I had a rude awakening. The same ritual occurred for my birthday, and I went home very disturbed. I was disturbed enough to go to God for an answer. And the Lord said, “That's your fault, because you have not taught your people how to celebrate you.”

After sharing the succinct Word of the Lord with certain staff members, they began the new tradition of tackling every member of our church. They will compel them to give spe-
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Prophetic Principle

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If you do not sow into your leader, your heart is not with your leader.

Specific amounts. They will not let them do “as the spirit leads,” because everyone is not obedient; nor are they led by the Spirit of God.

The team will establish the minimum amount that the Spirit of God will work from. You, as the pastor and leader of the people, must let people sow into you. And those of you who are not senior pastors are charged to build the loyalty and faith of the congregation so that they may encourage the leader and say, “Let us sow into you.”

The Bible says wherever a person’s treasure is, that’s where their heart is. If you do not sow into your leader, your heart is not with your leader. I tell folks that they really can’t pray for me until they sow into me. Your heart can’t really be for the church until you sow into it. Your heart and your treasure are connected.

The Scripture shows us that one woman worked with her lack, and another worked out of her substance. In 1 Kings 17, that woman worked out of her lack, but in II Kings 4, the woman who was a great woman worked out of her substance. They were blessed—not because of who they were, but they were blessed because of how they received the man of God.

What you do will determine what you will come into. Who you sustain will determine how you are maintained. The prophets produce prosperity. Saul understood prophetic empowerment. Saul got into the company of the prophets and it turned him into another man. Saul got into the company of the prophets and he went from chasing jackasses and became a king.