

# A Letter from An Elder

*Following is an actual letter that was received by church staff members from their head elder. All wish to remain anonymous, but would like to share this bit of encouragement with others who are working diligently in the church.*

*Dear Church Staff,*

*I would like to remind each of you how important you and your work are to God's kingdom. I realize that there are many daily challenges you face with your ministries at church. While I know you have servant hearts and only seek what God wants for His church, there are times of frustration, disappointment and, if you are like me, probably feelings of failure. However, I, an elder, a friend, and a brother in Christ extend my appreciation for all that you do.*

*God has given each of you gifts that you share even during times of discouragement when God's creativity within you seems suppressed. Your gifts are a blessing to others. God gave them to you because of His love for you and, may I add, at an incredible price. God's desire is not to have you filled with frustration and continual battles with discouragement. He wants you to have his strength in those times. He will use those opportunities to strengthen your faith, rather than allow Satan to weaken it.*

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:1-4 (NRSV)*

*God's people are looking for blessings in their lives. Each of you is a vessel of God sent to earth to reach his people with his blessings. You are the temple of the living God. Continue to fight the good fight in his Name and let his light shine through you.*

*In times of discouragement or frustration that suppress your spirit, always keep in mind that what you are doing is pleasing to the Lord.*

*"Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us. God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating." Colossians 1:9-14 (The Message)*

*Remember, at all times, the joy it brings to the Father when you are doing his work. Imagine the smile it brings to the face of Christ when you serve in love as he did.*

*Love,*

*Your Head Elder*