

# YOUR LIFE IN THE **RED ZONE**

## **PASTOR – YOUR OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

### **REPLAY**

"Hey, Mack, what's up?" asks your offensive coordinator. Since you joined the team, you've noticed how he looks a lot like the head coach. Sometimes, it's a little freaky. Most times, it's comforting.

"Well, Coach sent me here to work on some moves. I just can't seem to get them right."

"I'd be glad to help you, Mack. You know, I asked Coach to send you to me. I've seen the moves you're missing but knew you wouldn't come to me on your own. Now, let's get to work."

Your head coach knows how much you need someone closer to your situation. Even though He knows your situation better than anyone, you don't always see how His answer helps your situation. After all, He's planning the long-term strategy for the whole team, you worry most about your little corner of the line. On the other hand, the coordinator works with you all practice every day.

### **GAME BOOK**

If the Head Coach is God, then the offensive coordinator is your local pastor. This is the man or woman who takes care of your spiritual needs regularly. As he prays for you regularly and has the obligation from God to lead you, you need to listen to him. Hebrews 13:17 says "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."

Obviously, we are to imitate them in the good ways. Hopefully, the pastor will be living the life God has called him to live. While no one can live perfectly, the pastor is called to walk very closely with God. God is not speaking of blind obedience here, for elsewhere we are taught that we must use discernment (1 John 4:1) and are accountable to God before all others (Romans 14:12). If your pastor tells you to do something contrary to the will of God, your duty is to refuse and correct him or her.

These instructions are also a call to humility for the pastor. As there will be people who prefer blind obedience, the pastor must be on guard that he is following God properly. The pastor must not assume that just because he has an idea it is from God.

The Bible has strict qualifications for who can be a pastor. Not everyone can be

one, a pastor must be gifted to it (Ephesians 4:11). One who leads a church must live an exemplary life, free of greed and addictions, slow tempered, avoid useless arguments, and humble (Titus 1:7). The next verses tell that the leader must love what is good, be just, sensible, and self-controlled, welcoming, and able to encourage those in the right and refute those in the wrong (Titus 1:8,9).

When a pastor lives up to those qualifications, it is much easier for the congregation to follow as they should.

### **TAKE-AWAY**

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Your pastor will lead you to where God wants the church to go. There will be times when you don't understand why he says what he says. In those times, seek Scripture to know the truth. God will not fault you for it, and neither will a godly pastor. Just like God does, the pastor wants what is best for you. You must trust him or her just as he or she trusts God.