

Apostolic Studies Series- "Release Your Leader!"

The Benefits and Blessings of Spiritual Leadership-

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The Purpose of Leadership- Why do we have leaders in the church?

"Where purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable." –Myles Munroe

Ephesians 4:11-15- Ministers are GIFTS to the Body

11: And he gave some, **apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;***

12: **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

**Contrary to popular belief, there are no "titles" in the church- only functions and job descriptions. Spiritual leadership is not a matter of doing, but being.*

-Leadership in the church is not positional, but relational.

Ques: Why is it necessary to "release your leader?"

Ans.: Because when you "unlock" the gift in your leader, you empower him/her to "unlock" the gift in you.

Receiving the leader according to his or her office "unlocks" the gift in the leader.

Matthew 10:41- "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward."

Ques: What is a "prophet's reward?"

Ans: The benefit of the prophet's (or leader's) ministry, or whatever is needed at that moment from God through the prophet's (or leader's) ministry.

Conversly, unbelief prevents the "unlocking" of the gift of God in the leader.

Matthew 13:54-58-

54: And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55: Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56: And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

57: And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

58: And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Jesus was received in his home town as a teacher, but they could not bear his prophetic ministry. Their familiarity with Him “bred contempt.” Therefore, they missed the opportunity to experience the full benefits of the gift of God in Him. Signs and wonders should follow the word, but their lack of faith became a hindrance, not to Jesus, but to the people of Nazareth.

2 Kings 4: 8-10- The Shunamite Woman’s Relationship with Spiritual Leadership

8: And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

9: And she said unto her husband, Behold now, **I perceive** that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10: Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a **bed**, and a **table**, and a **stool**, and a **candlestick**: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

The Shunamite woman teaches us three things that we must do in order to benefit from spiritual leadership:

Vs. 9- **Perceive** the ministry of the leader

Vs. 10- **Receive** the leader

Vs. 10- **Prepare** a place for the leader

This set the stage for the later miracles and manifestations of God’s power that we read of later in the chapter (vs. 11-37).

- She needed a child, and was barren (vs. 14-17)
- Her son died (vs. 18-37)

Paul’s defense of his apostolic call was partly because of his desire to bless God’s people and to see them come to maturity.

Romans 1:11- “For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye **may be established;**”

Galatians 4:19- “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you...*the apostolic passion,*

It is to our benefit to receive spiritual leadership:

Heb:13:17- “**Obey (NIV- “Have confidence in your leaders”)** them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”