

# LETTER TO LEADERS

BY

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Dear Friends:

From time to time the Lord lays it on my heart to send a short note of encouragement to leaders and others for which I have Email addresses. If you have as little time to read Emails as I do, then you may want to reply and ask me to remove you from the listing.

## **DIVINE INFLUENCE**

Today I would briefly share with you the idea that basic leadership is influence into the lives around us. In the world it can take the form of control. But Jesus cautioned against this very firmly in Matthew 20. Among God's children leadership is "divine influence". We all have divine influence upon others, whether we are "leaders" in the official sense of the world or not.

## **BY THE SPIRIT**

Divine influence is by the spirit, or preferably by the Holy Spirit. Therefore it is a thing of faith. People seldom run up to us and say, "Oh, you have been such a spiritual influence in my life." They will thank us for prayers of healing, or an encouraging sermon, or a new revelation in teaching. There is spiritual influence as we pray, preach and teach. But there is spiritual influence outside of these ministries as well.

## **BY FAITH –**

This "Divine Influence" outside of traditional ministry activity is therefore very subtle. Therefore, we do not always realize how we have been influenced. We are not aware of how much we have had divine influence on others. Therefore faith is an essential element in our "divine influence" life. We must encourage ourselves, since "divine influence" is so subtle, people seldom recognize it and respond to it.

## **WHO WE ARE**

This "divine influence" therefore is imparted more by how we live than by what we say. It is released more by attitude than by precept. That is why personal character is God's qualification for leadership. Thus we find these "character qualifications" in Paul's letters to Timothy.

## **THROUGH PRAYER**

Prayer is therefore our primary instrument of leadership; prayer for ourselves and for others.

## **MAKING DISCIPLES**

The Bible calls this “divine influence” discipleship. I do not use it in this note to you because we all have personal interpretations of Biblical discipleship, some of which may not be accurate. Some take Biblical discipleship to an extreme into control. This extreme doctrine of discipleship split the body of Christ about 30 years ago. This is not what God has in mind. God has called us to “divine influence” to love and encourage each other, and once in a great while to correct or chastise them.

## **TO BE LIKE HIM**

A friend of mine was having lunch with his young son. Out of the blue, his son said,-“Daddy, when I grow up I want to be just like you.” Do people want to be like you? More importantly, do you inspire them to be like Jesus? This is leadership. This is divine influence.

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