

LETTERS TO LEADERS

BY

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As you know the new move of the Holy Spirit is on. In this new move, the Holy Spirit is first of all speaking to the leadership to prepare them for this revival. You know this is true because he has been speaking to your heart as a pastor, teacher or evangelist.

From over 30 years of leadership experience, pasturing, teaching and evangelizing, I have seen and learned some things I would like to pass on to you from time to time. Many things may simply confirm what you already know. Some things may challenge or help you. Others you may not understand or agree with. If that is the case, I would like to hear from you so that we might learn and grow together.

THOUGHTS ON AUTHORITY

In previous "Letter to Leaders" I have pointed out that our relationship with people is to be servants. Spiritually this is true. Practically, it is not so simple.

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY - Any person who is the head of a group is responsible to make decisions for that group. That authority is given to them first by God. That "God given" authority is confirmed by the people who follow, conceding the need for "the leader" to have certain authority to make decisions. That "conceded authority" may be implied or expressed. Nevertheless, it is inherent to leadership.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS - Problems arise in this area from both the "leaders" and "followers" perspective.

LEADER PRIDE - Leaders sometimes think they have a right to make decisions whether the followers agree with it or not. This attitude may reveal a lack of love for God's people.

FOLLOWER REBELLION - It may reveal a rebellion from the people toward leaders and therefore toward God.

ANSWER – RESPECT - There must be a mutual love or respect between leaders and followers for this group dynamic to work the way God intended. Without this respect there will be strife and "every evil work".

RESPECT EVERYONES CALLING – All who are born again are called of God. Some are called to serve God's people. We call this the "five-fold ministry"; Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. Others are called to bring forth fruit in building the kingdom of God. However, all of God's people are called.

TRADITIONS TRAP – Tradition implies that only the five-fold ministry people are called. This leaves the door

open for the five-fold ministry to think they are a special group of “better” or “more spiritual” Christians. As a result, called ministers forget they are called to live a life of righteousness (holiness) to confirm their moral authority to lead and make decisions. When leaders fall morally, the followers lose respect for their leaders and therefore do not follow their decisions. Followers sometime justify their immorality by pointing out that their leader is also was immoral.

TODAYS PROBLEMS – This is what is happening today, socially, politically and religiously. Leaders in every realm have thought they were privileged to live without restraint (the restraint of the law or even morality). Therefore, the people feel that they also have a right to live without restraint.

SOLUTION – The solution to this “breach of trust” between people and leaders is the re-establishment of respect or trust toward one another. This will not come by legislation, or by doctrine, but by a move of God by the Holy Spirit through the church to the world. When we leaders abandon our fear of losing the people by preaching holiness, then we will once again be available for God to speak to the church and to the world about righteous living to glorify Him. It is time for righteous men and women, in and out of the pulpit to call sin, sin, and righteousness, righteousness, so that God might reveal himself to the world through the church.

Sincerely

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