

The Need for Leadership Development

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2 Timothy 2: 1-2:

1 ¶ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

The grace we have in Christ is more than our emphasis on evangelism, church planting, church health, etc. We need a strong Church that is comprised of pastors, business leaders and others who share the vision to reach every sector of our society with the understanding of biblical leadership. Without developing biblical leaders for every aspect of life the harvest in Africa, Asia, China and other parts of the world would not be sustain for long. We need effective leaders to secure the future of the Church.

Training for the Harvest

Apostle Paul gave Timothy in the passage above the method of developing four-generation of leaders. From Paul to Timothy, and from Timothy to faithful men and women who will be able to teach others. This principle applies to all other aspect of life. There are no human activities in which God is uninterested or uninvolved. The Scripture is clear that, **23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality (Colossians 3.23-25, NKJV)**

I learn more from the presentation, “*Contrasting the Philosophy of Your Two Leadership Choices*” (Marketplace Leadership Training Conference, Nigeria, July 2007), by Ron Porter of thechristianleader.org than I knew about leadership in a business or leading a church ministry. The leaders worldview at all levels of work must be rooted in the Scripture. This will provides direction and opportunity to become the Church God intended us to be. We need Christian men and women in the world of business, commerce, finance, technology, education, medicine, industry, government, law, communication, transportation, the military, agriculture and a hundred other legitimate segments of the society. Men whose calling or vocation in life is in the marketplace.

Like many other participants of the leadership conference, I feel much better equipped to achieved Gods purpose for my life – as a Christian leader in business, at home, in my community, and all spheres of my influence. We need the Christian community to invest more into training men and women to practice the biblical principles IN and OUTSIDE the Church. As a result the gap between the secular and sacred work will be bridge and Christ will would be done in the earth (Matthew 6: 10).

Therefore, the Timothy of today need to as a matter of urgent call to train ***“faithful men who will be able to teach others also”***. Training the next generation of leadership in God’s kingdom is a great privilege. John Maxwell said, “A leader who reproduces followers limits his success to what his direct, personal influence touches...A leader who produces other leaders multiples his influence, and he and his people have a future...” (Maxwell, 1995, 197-198). True success in life and ministry comes only when every generation continues to develop the next generation.

Not only do I have strong conviction in training the next generation of Christian men and women in and outside the Church, for ministry multiplication, through reaching and teaching others—but in passing on the baton of truth and leadership to future generations. I wholeheartedly agree with this saying, “I teach, therefore, I touch the future.”

The Challenges of Today’s Church

The challenges of today’s church are enormous. There was a time in our history of existence as a Church that we succeeded in transforming every sectors of our society with biblical principles. Then a Christian is not only a Christian in the church building but is also a Christian in His work life. We lost it because we fail to develop leaders who are capable, anointed and hungry for the revival and church growth that God has promised in the end-time.

James G. Poitras described the Jesus example of leadership development. “Jesus spent time training others. He left twelve qualified workers to carry on the vital tasks that He had started. Jesus knew that His work would not fail. Why? He had trained the next generation. From the beginning, Jesus told these men that He would not always be with them. He trained the most successful team of all times. As a result, once their Leader departed, they continued to experience revival and growth as they followed His example by effectively training future workers. Their success after Jesus departed is strong evidence of His ability to teach” (Poitras, 2005).

In His Footsteps

Is it not a great honor to be privileged to work in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ as apostle Paul, Timothy and the host of other church fathers have done? As a leader, do you want to be like Him? We should stop shifting the blame of our inactivity to anyone as Adam and Eve did in the garden. It is time for us to take responsibility of doing the right thing according to the principles laid down for us in the Scripture.

The Master in Matthew 28: 19-20 said, ***“19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (NKJV)***

We call this passage the Great Commission. Our generation has succeeded in winning more souls for Christ than any other generation. There is no doubt about this, but we have not

adequately train them as Jesus commanded us ***“to observe all things that I have commanded you”***. We need to intentionally train all Christians to integrate their faith with where they spend the majority of their time interacting with the majority of unsaved people. Is it in the local Church or fellowship centre? No, it is where we spend 60 – 70% of our walking hours.

The primary responsibility of every Christian leader is to reproduce ourselves in faithful men who will be able to reproduce themselves. If we fail in this responsibility, our work we die when we died.

The early Church obeys the Master as ***“they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. (Mark 16: 20, NKJV)***. What is the effect of this? The Gospel message gets to us in Africa, Asia, Europe and all other parts of the world. However, in our generation we are very slack in our responsibility of making more leaders for the future of the Church.

A Pledge Before God and Man

The Church leaders are responsible for the reproduction of quality leaders that will represent Christ at all levels of our society with biblical principles. I have a conviction that the solution to lives problem is in the hand of the Church and her leadership as we teach and apply biblical values into every aspect of life.

Let us therefore pledge before God and the host of His witnesses that has gone ahead of us that we will not fail Him and our generation. Amen.

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