

PIONEERING LEADERSHIP

“And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, ‘What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish – stones that are burned?’” — Nehemiah 4:2

When you are truly entering into a transforming work of God, you will encounter many enemies. Part of the testing for you as a leader is to stand against the critical spirit and man’s opinions. We need to stand now, so that we will be able to stand in the days to come. Many of us have been a part of what we thought were successful ministries, and they fell apart. God is drawing this remnant and many others to rebuild the ruins. Intimacy with God is a major priority as He prepares us for what He has prepared for us — always moving forward in God’s plan and destiny for our lives.

To some degree, in our lives we are all called to lead. We must always seek first the kingdom of God, learn what it means to rest in the move of God, allow our calling to emerge, and begin to walk in it with fervency. If we start doing this, the critical spirit will not have an effect on us. We will begin moving away from the things we are in bondage to. Although we can expect to encounter jealousy and critics of the work, we must always respond with love and humility; interceding for the church and crying out for divine interruptions and divine encounters. We are living stones of brokenness. By being broken, we are prime candidates for a move of God. We need to see ourselves as forerunners or pioneers. Those who are settlers do not always like pioneers. Settlers like to settle into a position, or become passive. Pioneers are always on the move and settlers can become very critical of anyone stirring the waters. The Lord is asking all of us to die to our flash and not enter into any gossip or slander. If we do not learn this, we will be hindered from walking in our destiny. It’s going to take every bit of faith to endure. Like those in the book of Nehemiah, we must build with one hand and keep a sword in the other. Attacks will come and we must be ready. Refuse to let criticism or opposition hinder you. Many people who love Jesus will be critical of you. They are wounded or blinded people. As you pursue healing, you will experience more freedom, and the easier the building will be (Romans 12:1-2).

As we seek the manifest presence of God, and as He begins to dwell within us, we will be able to endure anything because the manifest presence of the Lord is with us. We must resist the fear of man. We need to position ourselves in Jesus and emulate Him so that when people see us, they see Him through us. We are all in the process of being pruned. If we are to be of any spiritual significance in our region, the pruning must take place. The greatest answer to any criticism will be a complete work.

As leaders, we know that God is changing the way we “do church.” He is raising up a church that is led by the Holy Spirit — a prophetic church. We are going to be led by His spirit, not by men or women. Do not trust anything in man, except the Spirit of the Lord that you see operating in them. The new move will reflect rest. It will take a people who will no longer try to make anything happen. It may look chaotic on the surface, but God is in complete control. If you are not leaders that rest now, you will need to learn to rest in the things of the Lord. Many of us are in the process of growth and renewal. Although I am all for structure and organization, in this new wine skin, the organization must be of low priority. Traditionally, we have taken from Babylon (the world), and tried to apply that structure to the church.

Your methodology must be intimacy with Jesus. Our bylaws are these two: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. When we get those two right then we will start on some more. We should be free-moving spiritual beings — not locked into a system, but a Kingdom. Most leaders are actively or productively oriented. Without it, they are at a loss. The Kingdom of God should be a supernatural movement. Will we be prepared when all hell breaks loose in the region? If we do not enter in the rest of God and know that He is in control, we will begin to move in selfish ambition.

Organization and structure are good, but it can stay above the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit. Many principles that are used in traditional church are from the business world, and they cannot be applied to the supernatural work of God. The church needs to be a supernatural body.

We are so honored to be part of this end-time movement. One goal of this movement of God is to teach everyone, including ourselves, to hear the voice of God, to be a voice for God, and to be led by the Holy Spirit. We do not want to be led by unrenewed thinking. We are asking for a lifestyle that radically walks out this mandate. God is asking more of us now than ever before. It is a priority that we must maintain unity at all cost, to be part of one accord, and to be equipped and released into the ministry. We want to be so close to Jesus that we are an example of who He is wherever we go. Evangelism will be easy when we are reflecting the Son of God. A second goal is that we will be friends and will have accountability and depth as a team. A third goal is that we walk in healing and salvation and use our gifts wherever we go. When we do this, we will begin to give the enemy problems and become dangerous to the kingdom of darkness.

Real pioneers and forerunners do not criticize other pioneers and forerunners because they know how hard it is to get to that place — they’ve been there! We must be about building and not destroying.

The new wine skin is coming. There are obstacles to a new wine skin. It is a different environment than what we know. It is a different spiritual culture than what we are familiar with. We must believe for God's power and anointing. We are not headed for a casual encounter, but a shaking and trembling that comes from the fear of the Lord. Get your house in order, God is purifying all of us. The fear of the Lord is coming! The fear of the Lord is coming! The enemy will try to frustrate us, and he is good at that. Don't enter into personal judgments of others or you will be judged. This new movement will anger the world and the religious system. We must get ready for it. Will we give in, or stand firmly? We are not meant to be an institution of convenience. Our gatherings are not held for peoples convenience, but for God's purposes. God did not call us to casual Christianity; He called us to move the Kingdom forward through spiritual violence. We must maintain the radical edge for Jesus and carry our authority lightly (in humility). We do not have to make anything happen, and it may take time to go through the process. When we know it's God's work, then we work the work that God has directed us to do. We cannot go where we need to go unless we are fully engaged and working as a team. We do not want to be grounded in the natural, but in the supernatural. Remember, we are taking burnt stones to build the temple.

Some of what we have experienced in church leadership has been out of insecurity and a lack of renewal of the mind. We need safe and secure leadership who find their identity in Him and Him alone! This is an uncivilized Christianity, moving in the paradox of bold leadership, overflowing in love and humility — “the Lion and the Lamb” and “a steel fist with a velvet glove.”

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