

# BEING A LEADER OF VISION (Part A)

It is so important as pastors and leaders (and for all believers), that we are people of vision and purpose. We only have one lifetime in which to make our lives count for all eternity. We are also the generation, which is responsible for passing the gospel on to the next generation. All great Christian leaders will live for a cause to see others helped and set free to fulfil their own God given destinies. A leader of vision will inspire others to follow God's plan for their life.

Every God given vision is beyond our natural abilities to achieve and is totally dependent on God bringing it to pass as we simply step out by faith to follow His plan for our life and church. Moses when asked by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt knew His great need for God's help. **(Exodus 3:11-12)** As leaders of vision we must put our entire trust in God alone. We must consistently seek God for His wisdom and direction in all that we do. "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it..." **(Psalm 127:1)**

Like King Solomon we need to ask God to give us His wisdom **(1 Kings 3:7-13)** and strategies for fulfilling our God given destiny. This wisdom will also bless and help many others to complete God's plan for their life. **(2 Chronicles 9:7, 22-23)** Great Leaders of vision trust and obey the Lord as they know that God is absolutely faithful and only has plans to prosper them and not to harm them. **(Jeremiah 29:11)** Walking in obedience is a key to seeing God's supernatural provision in our lives and churches.

Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much..." and "if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?" **(Luke 16:10-11)** As we faithfully follow God's best plan for our life He will begin to open up new and greater doors of opportunity and responsibility. **(Isaiah 55:8-9)** **(Ephesians 3:20)** A great leader loves God and has a desire to please the Lord as those who love the Lord will obey His commandments. EVERY GREAT LEADER WILL LIVE FOR OTHERS. Jesus Himself said that He did not come to earth to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. **(Mark 10:45)**

Great leaders will inspire others to see the vision of the church come to pass. Leaders of vision have the ability to encourage people to work together as a team to see the vision for the church become a reality. **(Nehemiah 2:11-12 & 17-18)** As church leaders we need to have a vision to see our villages, cities, states and nation won to Jesus. To see God's Kingdom expanded here on earth. **(Luke 11:2)** As a church we need to have a love for the lost and a passion to see the love of Christ transforming our community.

Every great leader has a clear vision for their life. **(Habakkuk 2:2)** A Pastor or leader should have, or develop the following attributes to become a leader of vision and destiny.

- 1) A person who spends time with God and abides in Christ. **(John 15:4-5)**
  - i) A person of prayer **(Jeremiah 33:3)** **(Nehemiah 1:4-6)**
  - ii) A person of faith (God dependence) **(Psalm 22:4-5)** **(Hebrews 11:6)** **(Mark 9:23)**
  - iii) A person with Godly passion (Which comes from intimacy with God) **(Psalm 37:4)**
  - iv) A leader whose first love is Jesus **(Galatians 2:20)** **(Philippians 3:7-8)** **(Exodus 33:14-15)**
  - v) A leader who is led by the Holy Spirit (Whose steps are ordered by the Lord) **(Exodus 33:13)**

- 2) A leader who follows God's plan for their church or ministry and for their own life
- 3) A leader who is committed to seeing their community / nation won to Jesus (**Neh. 2:2-5**)
- 4) A leader who is committed to helping others to be passionate about their faith
- 5) A person who stays within his own gifting and ministry call (FOCUSED) (**Neh. 6:1-4**)
- 6) A servant leader (Who lays down his life for others)
- 7) A leader who has a heart to empower others for ministry
- 8) A person who has a passion to see mature disciples raised up
- 9) A leader who is able to delegate responsibilities to others as God leads (**Exodus 18:18-23**)
- 10) A leader who has a passion to see the gospel proclaimed (**Ephesians 6:19-20**)
- 11) A person who can communicate a vision to those that he shepherds
- 12) A leader who is able to encourage others to operate in their gifts and callings
  - i) *A good leader encourages others to find out what God has planned for their life*
  - ii) *God gives all of us a God-given desire or passion to make a difference somewhere*
  - iii) *God has created each heart differently. God places in our hearts ministry desires and callings. Our heart draws us to the focus of our ministry. (Psalm 37:4)*
  - iv) *Leaders of vision help people to identify the areas of ministry God has placed on their heart to do*
- 13) A person who has initiative. (A DOER) (**Nehemiah 6:15-16**)
- 14) A Leader who seeks God for strategies and goal setting
- 15) A person who has a pioneer spirit and is not afraid to take on new challenges
- 16) A person who has the courage to stand up for the gospel and Godly values
- 17) A leader who raises up and mentors other leaders
- 18) A leader who is able to maintain unity
  - i) *Has wisdom and discernment*
  - ii) *Has a shepherd's heart (Father of the faith), and who pastors the leadership team*
- 19) A big picture person (Who mobilises others into their ministry callings)
- 20) A leader who acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of others (A key to team unity)
- 21) An Encourager (**Nehemiah 2:19-20**)
- 22) A person who is Kingdom minded (Networks with other leaders / churches), and
- 23) A leader who leads by example

As Christians we are all called to be examples to those in the world and should have leadership qualities as we have been called to reign with Christ here on earth. (**Revelation 5:9-10**) Husbands also have been given the leadership responsibility within the family. However, God also appoints and empowers specific leaders in the church to help equip and to give direction to the Body of Christ to see God's Kingdom advanced here on earth.

All ministry leadership appointments should be ordained of God. It is God who calls and raises up leaders and who puts people into the five-fold ministry.

**(1 Timothy 1:12) (Ephesians 4:11-12) (1 Timothy 1:1) (Exodus 3:7-10) (Deuteronomy 31:1-3 31:7-8 & 34:9) (Joshua 1:1-3)**