

APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP: Crushed but not Destroyed

In this seasonal period of the Last Days, our King is raising up a different type of leader – a genuine apostolic leader. These have come under the hand of the Lord¹ to mould and shape them into suitable vessels for his end-time service. These are different to the current mega leaders and high-profile leaders of church organisations. They are recognisable by different traits, with highly successful ventures and big ‘ministries’ not being their hallmark.

To raise them up, the Lord is breaking them through failures and relationship breakdowns until they are totally crushed and desperate for him to work through them. All pride in their abilities and prowess are gone – they decrease (vanish) and he increases (dominates)². Only his strength and his working in them enables them to do what they have to do for him. This change in ‘driver’ is coupled with a familial desire to be about Father’s business and to only ever do or say what the Spirit shows them – nothing else is appropriate for them.

These leaders have been broken and crushed, but not destroyed.³ They have discovered – mostly unwittingly – that strength and authority are produced in the weakness of humility and rejection. They have discovered the Kingdom truths of ‘strength in weakness’ so that these are realities deep inside them rather than superficial biblical clichés:

Hebrews 11:34 (ISV) – *...put out raging fires, escaped death by the sword⁴, found strength in weakness, became powerful in battle, and routed foreign armies.*

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ISV) – *but he has told me, “My grace is all you need, because my power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore, I will most happily boast about my weaknesses, so that the Messiah’s power may rest on me.*

When people come into the presence of these leaders they ‘feel’ the humility and the brokenness that’s in them, as well as the love and tenderness that flows from them. They also ‘feel’ the strength that emanates from them and they automatically detect and acknowledge the apostolic mantle they carry. These leaders are self-evident – no one needs to introduce them or describe their Kingdom operational status of apostleship.

To reach this goal of apostolic leadership, a person must be totally crushed so that they cry out to the Lord to work through them. They must reject and die to any innate skills and abilities, so that like Gideon, their victories are unexpected and awesome, with all the glory going to the Lord. They must embrace emptiness, incapacity, rejection and loneliness in their life while allowing their Beloved to meet all their physical, spiritual, mental and emotional needs. They are completely content and satisfied in him, not in people – even their families.

A person will know when they have been broken and crushed enough for the Lord to raise them up and commission them into this type of leadership. Other apostolic leaders can sense this also. It will not be able to be forced to occur, and there is no ‘queue-jumping’ or short-cuts which produces pseudo apostolic leaders. The person must go the full course, otherwise they will not be commissioned by the King himself.

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1 – 1 Peter 5:6

2 – John 3:30

3 – 2 Corinthians 4:8

4 – Literally: *by the edge of the sword*