

Suffering and It's Role in Leadership Development

When I received the download for my article "APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP - Crushed but not Destroyed" I was encouraged to receive in my email inbox immediately on completion of that document, an article called "Rights Versus Responsibility" (Subtitled: "Suffer Rights/Gain Responsibility") by Clay Sikes. This totally confirmed what I had just been given by the Spirit.

Here are a few quotes from the article. (Highlighting is mine)

"Modern day Christian belief leaves little room for the possibility that any suffering to include inconvenience, embarrassment, financial problems, in-law problems, children problems, car problems, preacher problems, teacher problems, job problems, supervisor problems...you name it, may be God-orchestrated; the resulting attitude being A DEFENSE against anything that opposes or robs us of our supposed "blessing". While I cannot tell you that in twenty years of Christian life that there have not been times in which we have put the devil on the run, I can say that more often than not we simply became frustrated and confused as to why the power of God did not seem to work through us. After all, countless WOF teachers taught us that the power was ours – the frustration was "it wasn't working". When we inquired we were told we did not have enough faith, or there might be hidden sin."

"By now you are probably thinking, "Well, where does the suffering come in?" The suffering comes in losing one's own rights and personal agenda in any given situation. The surrender, if you will, is the suffering required, the willingness to subject ourselves to the press, "the Gethsemane" from which the life of God emanates. Interestingly, Gethsemane quite literally means "a press through which the life of God flows". Geth means press and semane means semen that produces life."

"God will see to it that our "ORDERED STEPS" include a few stops in the garden. Gethsemane is a place of exchange – your life for his. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone, but if it die it brings forth much fruit" (John 12:24). Two truths to grab here – NO DEATH NO GOD; NO DEATH NO FRUIT. Be willing to die at your next "garden party" and see the life of God come forth in your life. Resist those first tendencies to seek "your rights" and submit yourself under the mighty hand of God. Watch as the mighty life of God begins to flow from you – it is an encouraging supernatural experience!"

"We too often want to strike the rock as opposed to simply speaking to it, and in the process, lose the promise. This great Bible truth was included in the word and attributed to one of God's greatest men as a lesson to us, a type and a shadow of what we would face – applying a rote methodology instead of hearing and obeying God for the problems and challenges we face. As verse two of Jeremiah 21 above states, "Perhaps the Lord will perform wonders for us as in time past..." In modern language, "this worked for us in the past, perhaps it will work for us again!" How often we Christians take the supposed short cut, "Oh, I know how to do this, or, I know what it says in the bible about that". God is speaking loudly to us Church; He wants to be in charge all the time!"¹

It is best that you read Clay's article by clicking this link: [Suffer Rights/Gain Responsibility](#)

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