

Leaders for Such a Time as This

The role of spiritual leadership is not one which an individual chooses for himself. God chooses His leaders. In the scriptures, God is frequently represented as searching for a man of a certain type. Not men, but a man. Not a group, but an individual.

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”
Ezekiel 22:30

Often we find that those who were chosen did not feel worthy or others did not feel they were worthy, but God had already done the preparation. Moses felt inadequate:

“And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.”
Exodus 3:11-12

“And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.” Exodus 4:10-12

In essence what was Moses saying to God? God send somebody else, I am not able. God was displeased with him but agreed to use Aaron as his mouthpiece.

Jeremiah felt that he was too young and could not speak [Jeremiah 1:4-9]. For those who have been chosen by God, the challenge has never been greater than that which this present time demands. We are the generation upon whom the end of the world has fallen. This time demands leaders that will leave the ordinary and get into the extraordinary or supernatural realm. It is time to come out of self and get into God. Auxiliary leaders need to pray and invite God to take control of their auxiliaries so that we can have anointed services.

Today in The Church of God there is a great need for spiritual leaders who do not just “*know how*” but will “*show how*.” People will follow you if you seem to know the way. Sometimes I am driving behind a car on the road and I can instinctively tell when the driver is lost or does not know where they are going. They drive slower than the traffic around them in a hesitant and erratic manner. We tend not to get too close because they are liable to stop abruptly or make sudden changes in direction. Their passengers or those following do not have much confidence in them.

There is a great need for leaders who are following the leading of the Holy Ghost. We can then say like the Apostle Paul, “*...follow me as I follow Christ*.” Leaders must have an understanding of the times.

Sometimes if we are not careful people who are fearful and do not understand God's leading will sap your courage and get you discouraged too. The devil will use them without them even realising, to discourage you like Sanballat and Tobiah tried with Nehemiah.

I remember going on a long car journey with family members a few years ago. Everyone started out in a good spirit, laughing and talking but when the passengers thought, "*we should have reached by now*" and they did not like the look of the surroundings you could sense the uncertainty in the air. There was no more laughing and talking. The concern could be seen on the faces. Although no one said anything, you could almost hear the questions: "I wanda if him laas?" ("I wonder if he is lost?") "But a wey Philip tekking us?" ("Where is Philip taking us?")

Although others were uncertain, I had directions that I was following. I had to trust that the one who gave me the directions knew the way. Leaders, we need to have faith in the Author of this road map (the Bible) even when we may get concerned too. As we go along we will recognise some landmarks to reassure us that we are on the right road.

When Christopher Columbus went on his journey of discovery, there was near mutiny aboard his ships. The men had been at sea for a long time and expected to have reached land already. They said, "*Columbus let's turn back*" but he said "*Sail on.*"

Church of God, we may be in uncharted waters but we cannot turn back now. We have to sail on.

During Paul's journey to Rome, he warned the seamen not to sail but as he was not a sailor they took the advice of the ship's owner instead. It was not long before the ship was enveloped in a great storm and there was no sight of the sun or the stars for many days. The account is given in Acts 27. Due to Paul's confidence in God's deliverance, the two hundred and seventy six men on board were saved. As leaders we need to display this same confidence in God in our times. God is searching for leaders for such a time as this.

Bishop Philip Bennett