

## “CALLING ALL SAINTS”

*“There go the people. I must follow them, because I am their leader.”*

What do you think about this quote?

*“In most churches, 20% of the people do 80% of the work.”*

What about this one?

The lack of leadership has been a problem since the beginning of time. Adam failed to lead his wife properly, in that he allowed her to sin by partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We always seem to think that Eve was by herself that day in the garden, but the Bible says that she “...gave also to her husband with her, and he did eat.” (Genesis 3:6)

Lack of leadership was a problem in Jesus’ day as well. Look at what he said in **MATTHEW 9:35-38:**

**And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.**

**But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.**

**Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**

Jesus lamented the fact that there was no Godly \_\_\_\_\_ for His people. In this passage, He was exhorting his disciples to step up and be those leaders.

Even in the corporate world today, there is a problem with a lack of leadership. There are many managers, but few \_\_\_\_\_!

Why do you think that there is such a void in leadership?

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No matter what area in which you are speaking, secular or in the church, there is something about leadership that causes people to shy away. Jesus said it like this in LUKE 12:48b:

**“...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”**

More is expected of a leader! The greater the \_\_\_\_\_, the higher the leader must rise.

From a church standpoint, the more successful a church wishes to be, and the larger it wishes to grow, then the larger its \_\_\_\_\_ team must be. In order for a church to achieve the highest level of success, then it must have an abundance of leaders.

One person cannot do it all. One Pastor cannot accomplish the mission of the church by himself. That is why the church is referred to as “the body of Christ.” We must all work \_\_\_\_\_ in order for the church to be what God intended it to be.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

1. We are all one \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We are all \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.
3. We all \_\_\_\_\_ each other.
4. We each have our own \_\_\_\_\_ to do.
5. We each need the other to do his/her part.

Romans 12:1-8

1. We all have \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Our gifts differ, according to the way God created us and according to the level of grace at which we allow the Lord to take us.
3. Each of our gifts are therefore \_\_\_\_\_ for the body to be fully functioning.
4. There should be no competition among gifts. You operate in your gift and let everyone else operate in his/her gift. This is how the body should work.

As we learn to operate in our gifts, we therefore become \_\_\_\_\_ in our own ways. All of us were called **to** follow. Yet none of us were called just to be followers.

What is leadership?

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Leadership is often defined as “influence”. Dwight D. Eisenhower once said that “Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because they want to do it.” Ken Blanchard said, “The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority.”

Leadership is not about position. It is not about title. Leadership is about using our influence to help bring about results. It can be good or bad. Everyone is a leader in some sense. If you anyone following you, or looking to you for an example, then you are a leader! Everyone has a sphere of \_\_\_\_\_. Within that sphere of influence, you are a leader. God placed you in that particular sphere of influence with certain gifts and abilities, so you can effect change and help lead people either to Christ or to a deeper relationship with Him.

Therefore, we must learn to identify and operate in our \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the greatest responsibilities of a Pastoral and ministerial team is to encourage people to strive to reach their full potential in Christ. This means helping to identify gifts and then leading to a level of \_\_\_\_\_ at which these gifts can be effectively used to help the body grow.

**Ephesians 4:7-8; 11-16:**

**(7) But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

**(8) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.**

**(11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**

**(12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

**(13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:**

**(14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

**(15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**

**(16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

If I were to ask each of you whether or not you wanted to the church to grow, you would almost all say, "Yes! Of course!" But what if I told you that church growth is two-fold? (1) Numbers (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

As the body grows, each individual part of the body is to grow with it. Otherwise, you have a disproportionate body. Part of the problem with the church is that to many times we have a deformed or defective body, because some part or the other \_\_\_\_\_ to grow.

God is "CALLING ALL SAINTS" to leadership! Therefore, He is "CALLING ALL SAINTS" to maturity. God expects us to grow and develop into mature Christians.

**1 PETER 2:1-2:**

**Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all quile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,**

**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

**2 PETER 3:18:**

**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

God intends us to be leaders, but we must first grow and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord. As we do so, God will begin to use us, and our gifts and talents will begin to flourish as He anoints what we have to offer and we let His Spirit flow through us using our gifts.

There is a phrase going around lately that says, "God is not concerned with your ability; just your availability." I disagree with that statement. I believe that God is concerned with both! Why would He spend 2 whole chapters in the New Testament speaking about gifts, if they were not important? Now, if we rely only on our ability, then we will only be able to go so far. But God created each of us with unique gifts and talents and personalities and abilities. He then places us in the body as He sees fit. He intends us to use those gifts, those talents, and those



The 2 servants who grew their talent and made it available were rewarded with more. The one who buried his talent was rebuked and lost even what he had been given.

Both the principles of maturing and being faithful are played out in this parable. Those who mature and are faithful are the ones who will be rewarded! They are the ones the Lord will use to advance His kingdom!

Moses was faithful: Numbers 12:7

David was faithful: 1 Samuel 22:14

Daniel was faithful: Daniel 6:4

God preserves the faithful...Psalm 31:23

The Lord watches over the faithful...Psalm 101:6

A faithful man will be abundantly blessed...Proverbs 28:20