

## ESTABLISHING THE LEADER AND HIS SUPPORT TEAM

(1990 - EKB)

### Establishing the Support Team

**In any work of God the Holy Spirit, He raises up men and women to support and enable the called leader to fulfil the vision.** The Holy Spirit calls supporters alongside the leader. They are drawn to the leader who has a vision from God. (Someone who sees something in God and is reaching out for it with determination, zeal, purpose, confidence and effectiveness.) The believers are encouraged and energised when they sense that their leader has vision and purpose and an ongoing ministry. When God calls a man as a leader, the Lord will give him continual leadership ability and inspiration so that he can lead on with confidence in the purposes of God.  
*Ex 17:10-12, Jud 7:10, Mk 3:14, 2Sam 23: 8-17, Ac 16:1-5, Ex 31:1-6.*

**Growth and development** of those called to support the leader in the fulfilment of the vision **depends upon commitment, *Ru 1:16,17.* (Commitment that is mutual.) It is commitment by the leader to the supporter and by the supporters to the leader.** This is a pledge of loyalty to support and uphold the other at all times and in all circumstances, *2Sam 23:13-17.* It holds during disagreements, upsets and difficulties, and always seeks the highest good of the other, *Jn 6:68.* Here there is loyal honesty that does not betray confidences to outsiders, a heart attitude of humility and denial of self will, which expresses itself outwardly as service towards the other, *Gal 5:13.*

**Before commitment** can be established in a relationship it is necessary to have a **secure self-identity in Christ.** (To know who we are in Christ and where we stand.) Jesus knew who He was, *Jn 5:19-47, Phil 2:5-6,* and was therefore **secure in Himself and able to take the form of a servant** and come in the likeness of men. Because of this He lost nothing in choosing to take a servant's role. *Lk 22:27, Phil 2:7, Jn 13:1-15, Mat 20:28.* John knew his own identity too, *Jn 1:19-28.* Paul, in *Ac 26:15-20* was sure of His place in God. He was not threatened by others and what they did. If we are able to stand secure through test and trial by faith we are able to accept situations of commitment.

**Development of commitment comes through growing relationship.** Commitment can not be legislated or demanded **it can only be developed through the establishment of trust, as a leader shares his life, and his life in God, with those God draws alongside him** in a support role. Jesus chose twelve out of a large group of disciples that followed Him, *Lk 6:13,* so that He could do this. He chose twelve that they might be with Him, and of those twelve He then chose three to be especially close to Him. *Mk 3:14,15, Lk 8:51, Mat 17:1, Mat 26:37.* **The commitment** of the twelve, and the three apostles to Jesus, **developed out of the relationship** Jesus established with them.

The leader needs to be a **close friend to those he is training for leadership**, sharing his life with them, that together they might bring to pass the vision and purpose of God and the increase of His Kingdom. The development of relationship, and hence commitment, comes from being available. It requires sacrifice of time, generous giving of self to others, involving the supporters in the work of the ministry with tasks that require taking responsibility, helpfulness, encouragement, loyalty, keeping confidences, enthusiasm, boldness in God, vision, anointing and single mindedness, *Jn 2:17*. Jesus chose those who were to be His close disciples after much prayer, *Lk 6:12-13*. Actually it was all night prayer. Practically speaking, the leader needs to meet weekly with a small group of potential leaders and share his heart and life with them, in a definite plan of training them to take leadership responsibility.

(Pastors' Notes No 20, "Helpful Points on Leadership", pages 5&6 which give some suggestions on how this may be done without causing others to feel left out).

Each week the leader needs to seek for some aspect of leadership to share with those who come:

- e.g. personal relationship with God
- the leader and his family
- authority and servanthood
- practical standards of behaviour
- preparing the ministry of the Word
- counselling
- praying for the sick
- use of money
- dress
- cleanliness
- reliability
- making appeals