

Thursday July 10th, 2008 Short Admonition

Will You Survive In Your Ministry/Congregation

STAYING POWER

Probably not! Shocked? Unless you enact some basic principles and safeguards. Your leadership is constantly being challenged by your spouse, children members, s.a.tan and perhaps many outsiders. Even YHWH often challenges our wisdom and decision making desiring to refine it for His glory and purposes.

So you are going to have to be strong in yourself and in YHWH not man! The key is to find staying power, so that “he that endures to the end of their calling will be saved and will be found faithful to have finished their race.” Many are waiting to trip you up and then ridicule you when you fall. Will you fall and let them mock you? Will you quit when your enemies’ are more than your friends? Will you quit when challenges outnumber solutions? Will you quit when your self esteem and confidence is at an all time low? If you do YOU WILL NEVER HEAR THE WORDS WAITING FOR THE FAITHFUL WARRIORS AT THE FINISH LINE, WHERE YAHSHUA HOLDS THE CHECKERED FLAG, and ALONG WITH THE VICTOR’S CROWN, HAS THE WINNING WORDS. WELL DONE TOV AND FAITHFULL SERVANT. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER!

- Prayer. You must have a prayer group that meets regularly, or within no time your ministry will be attacked from within, or perhaps from without and will not be prepared to survive. I made this mistake and won't make it again. To assure prayer is done right, consider being present at all regularly scheduled prayer meetings.
- Do not lay hands on any man suddenly. This can be the biggest mistake you'll ever make, or avoid making and may determine your survival. Raising up the wrong leadership can cause splits and division that can become your downfall and an unmitigated nightmare. Ready for a shock. Since you don't know the future and those who may turn out to be the “wrong leadership” always pre ASSUME someone working under you will one day really rebel and or cause you trouble! This may sound negative, but it's learned from 24 years of leadership and working with leaders. I would avoid title and positions all together and just work with servants of the kingdom. Only allow others to teach if you have done so prayerfully. If you let others teach too much you may find that rather than these folks helping you, that they are actually sowing thoughts of dissent among immature believers who may like their style, or substance more than yours.
- Avoid language groups in your congregation. Meaning no services in other languages. Let YHWH raise up other congregations in other languages. You stick to your native tongue. This closes the door on the enemy for “babel” to be used against you.
- Consider doing “invitation only” ministry, as opposed to open door ministry. Explain the difference. Explain the benefits of this kind of set up.
- Write your vision and always keep it before you and your people. Let them know where you're going so they will allow you to take them there. A leader gives permission by his actions to take the people places where they cannot see and will not go without their visible permission (i.e. seeing you in action). Always refine and update your vision.
- Write your vision in ink, but write you plans in pencil, because the bad news or good news is that most likely YHWH will change them, whether you allow Him to or not!
- Do less not more. Delegate, delegate, delegate. 3 rules of congregational ministry.
- See betrayal as a cost of doing kingdom business. If you don't have a Judas Iscariot assigned to you to betray you at some point, you're not a threat to the devil. Yahshua had one Judas and you will have many. Explain.
- Take frequent breaks. The levim served only about 3-4 weeks a year, so they would not burn out. We serve our flocks 52 weeks a year. Do you think that's following Torah, or a church western paradigm? Try and get away for a few days MONTHLY!!!! This may be key to your survival to avoid burnout. It's not a matter of money; you can

camp in a park for free a few days a month. PS leave your laptop, cell phone, I phone and blackberry at home where it belongs, or your break will become “a breaking.”

- If you leave town or take a weekend off, DO NOT LEAVE OTHERS IN CHARGE OF THE ASSEMBLY, hoping or trusting that all we be fine when you return. I would not have shared this a year ago, but we found out the hard way, that if you leave others in charge when you are not there, the congregation you see today may be seen no more tomorrow. It's better in my view to shut down for a week or two and let everyone renew and refresh and MISS the great camaraderie seen weekly, rather than have someone you trust betray you through pride. I can tell you this from firsthand experience.
- If and when a split or major division occurs employ a general principle that Abraham employed. Do not fight to keep your people, territory building, or anything else. Let the dividers and plotters have it as a gift and you pick up and move on to a land that they do not choose, to see who moves on with you. Your moving out of the combat zone will manifest exactly who is with you and who is with the rebellion, and will allow you the shalom you need to stay in the ministry, rather than quit from the many battles that s.a.tan has prepared for you in your current situation which has become a battle zone. In other words, it's easier to move to another area and start in afresh place, then stay in a battle somewhere for the next 3 years; you'll be fighting with the rebels or the rebellious breakaway group over sheep, possessions, money, authority and other such things. Plus how can YHWH bring you a new change, if you're stuck in the same in the same land and the same battles.
- Your home is YOUR home not another place for the congregation to congregate, or hang out, unless of course your home is where the shul meets. But even then, I would not allow visitors at just any old time, but only by appointment, or at the time of meetings. Do not allow people to show up announced without calling beforehand. Define boundaries that people know recognize and respect. This will you give the space you need to survive and have staying power.
- Use new projects, new territories of operation and new relationships to keep you focused and excited. Some change is always healthy and keep both you and your people refreshed. What is it that you always wanted to do for YHWH but never have, or felt as if you never could? Full time ministry? More of a faith walk? Go oversees to start a work? Do it now! That's keeps you engaged, fresh and challenged, so that your staying power increases. Increase your staying power by starting new things, all the while maintaining the basis and foundation of things you've already started. In other words, maintain and start new challenges; don't only go into a “maintain hold on for dear life mode” which guarantees boredom, familiar spirits and despondency. Launch out into the deep for a new catch! More on this tonight in the evening talk entitled Using New Projects To Overcome Current Failures.