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Daily Devotional

1 message

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Hello Friends - Greetings from Botswana!

You received this email because your are on my master email list. Each Monday - Friday I try to email out a brief but very Biblical daily devotional that I write personally. Yesterday and Today's devotional is written below as a sample. It takes about two minutes to read each one. We also send it out using WhatsApp the Smart phone App.

If you would like to receive it simply respond to this email with the word: SUBSCRIBE and we'll add you to the mailing list. If you use WhatsApp please email me with your WhatsApp number and we'll add you to that list.

If you do not want to receive it then do NOTHING and we will not add you to any list of recipients.

I know that there is a lot "out there" that we can subscribe to. I can't read everything that comes to me but sometimes God directs me to something particular that really helps me on a given day and that is what I hope this will do for you. It is meant to be a blessing, not another burden to a busy schedule.

God bless you! Please pray for us today and for the work here in Botswana.

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Pastor Mike Haley
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THE LOVE OF A LEADER– Part One
Monday – March 18, 2019

This week's focus: LEADERSHIP

Galatians 4:19: My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.

One of the greatest gifts that God gives to us are the LEADERS in our life. God gives us parents, pastors, teachers, coaches, heads of state, supervisors at work - there are all kinds of leaders in our life. A GOOD leader will inspire us, instruct us, and hold us accountable. A good leader will have a vision of what we can be if we're willing to reach our potential. A good leader will lead by example and will lead when it's easy to lead and when it's hard. A good leader will sacrifice for the benefit of those whom he or she leads. A good leader will stay strong in the face of adversity and opposition. The good leader will lead when the leadership is appreciated and lead when the leadership is questioned. Amongst men, sometimes even the best of leaders fail but we must never fail to appreciate the value of their influence in our lives and we must recognize that GOD leads us through the leadership of others (Read II Thessalonians 3: 6-9).

A GODLY LEADER WILL LEAD OUT OF LOVE! Some leaders are PAID to lead and will only lead if they get PAID to do it (for example – your boss at work). But a GODLY leader leads out of the PASSION in their heart. They love to lead and they lead from love. The GODLY leaders care, concern, and coaching emanates from his love for God and his love for those he leads. A pastor is a servant leader. Just as Jesus laid down his life for the sheep so the Pastor leads the flock of God out of love (I Peter 5: 2-4).

Paul loved the Galatian church and through the leadership of his ministry they had been delivered from great bondage and the entanglements of legalism (thinking that they were made righteous through the strict observance of religious ritual, routine, and tradition). But things were changing. They were beginning to question and resist his leadership. In Galatians 3:1 he writes: O FOOLISH Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Some false teaching was taking root amongst them and they were trying to turn back to the old ways and as a result they were starting to turn against Paul and question his leadership.

In Galatians 4:15-16 we read: Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Sin in us creates a natural tendency to resist and rebel against leadership in our lives and oft times we resist the ones who love us the most. Any parent knows this is true. Every pastor has to deal with this in his ministry. The ultimate example is the Lord Jesus himself who “laid down his life for us” and yet He is “despised and rejected.”

The benefit and blessing of recognizing and responding to GODLY leadership cannot be overstated. Take time today to thank the Lord for the love of the Godly leaders he has given to you.

We'll look at this verse again tomorrow and see: THE RELATIONSHIP – THE REPETITION – and – THE DESIRED RESULT of Paul's leadership.

THE LOVE OF A LEADER– Part Two
Tuesday – March 19, 2019

This week's focus: LEADERSHIP

Galatians 4:19: My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.

Today we want to take note of THE RELATIONSHIP – THE REPETITION – and – THE DESIRED RESULT of GODLY leadership.

A GODLY LEADER leads out of a LOVE RELATIONSHIP and this brings an abundance of benefit and blessings to the person that is an object of that love. For example a child is nurtured by its Godly parents. A Godly husband protects and provides for his wife and she is a help meet to him. A growing Christian can learn so much from a loving Pastor willing to lead by example. We must never fail to appreciate the blessedness of the relationships that God has given us.

Paul referenced his relationship to the Galatian believers as, “My little children.” Watch closely! Paul's love for these people was a personal (MY), precious (LITTLE), and parental (CHILDREN) love! It is that kind of love that God puts in the heart of a GODLY leader for the people he or she leads. The Bible says that a fool despises the love of a faithful and wise parent (Proverbs 23: 22-25) and how foolish we are and what folly it brings when we resist and rebel against leadership that is designed for nothing but our good. But this love that Paul had for them – this love relationship – was even more than the NATURAL love that a parent has for a child. Not all parents love their children. Some children are aborted before they ever come into this world. Some are abandoned or neglected. Some are despised and abused! No, Paul's love was a SUPERNATURAL love that God put in his heart. He loved the people he was leading with a Christ-like love, a love that never fails – sacrifices itself – and constantly seeks the welfare of the LOVED one.

To illustrate THE REPETITION of Godly leadership Paul uses the analogy of a woman travailing as she gives birth. He said, “...I travail in birth AGAIN... - We call it labor pains. It's not easy to be a Godly leader and at times it is painful.

Sometimes we sinners bring great heartache and heartbreak to the people who are trying to help us. But just as a mother must “PUSH! PUSH! PUSH!” through the contraction pains till the baby is born so a GODLY leader will CONTINUE to lead people even during times of adversity or opposition. LOVE DOES NOT QUIT! LOVE KEEPS ON DOING THE SAME THINGS over and over and over and over again till the pain is past and the precious child is born.

That brings us to the DESIRED RESULT of Godly leadership. Paul said, “until Christ is formed in you.” The word “formed” here is from a Greek word that means to “shape or mold. Galatians 4:19 is the only place where the word (in the Greek) is used and it describes a little child who needs to mature until his character and conduct project the very image of Christ. A good parent has a “dream” of what his child can be. A good teacher wants every student to pass the test. A good coach wants to make winners out of his athletes. A good boss wants his employees to be productive and profitable. These are all noble ambitions but the NOBLEST and the most important goal is that of the GODLY leader. He, whether a pastor, a parent, a spouse, a teacher, a mentor, whatever position of leadership he represents to those he leads – his desire is to see CHRIST FORMED in our life.

The Godly leader will labor, tirelessly and patiently, again and again, motivated by his love for Christ and Christ’s love for you, till you become the person God wants you to be.