



WOW: Word Of the Week

Empowerment

May 19, 2021

The principle of empowerment is understood and applied in churches that multiply. Show me a church that is multiplying itself, planting churches that are planting churches, with members constantly bringing more people to Jesus, doubling and tripling every 5-10 years. Show me such a church and I will show you a church that leverages the power of empowerment, leaders who do not teach the priesthood of believers as theory but facilitate the involvement of all in the evangelistic ministry of the church, resulting in fruitfulness and fulfillment.

My goal as a spiritual leader is to empower others. I want others to catch the vision, dream the dream, see the possibilities. I help others learn how, they develop skills, I encourage, I suggest, I facilitate, always recognizing that the power to be unleashed is God's power. God wants to energize and work through disciples. God's eternal purpose in Jesus Christ is accomplished on earth today through faithful disciples of Jesus.

The New Testament says that Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God in preparation for ministry. Intriguing! Enlightening! Overlooked! God empowers ministry today through His Spirit. The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus, the Holy Spirit empowers our testimony about Jesus. An evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit within us is that we are doing what the Holy Spirit does—testimony, convicting people. As a spiritual leader, I make clear the presence of God's Spirit power in the lives of others to release them into Jesus' saving ministry. God says that the role of leaders is to empower others for ministry. Read Eph. 4:11-16.

Spiritual leaders are not the source of spiritual power, but spiritual leaders pass on spiritual power. We are conduits. This principle is seen again and again in Scripture, Moses and the elders in Numbers 11, Moses and Joshua in Numbers 27, Samuel anointing David in 1 Samuel 16.

God's leaders are spiritual people; they are spiritual sharers. They know the Scriptures. They equip and empower with spiritual power for spiritual tasks. The Bible is filled with examples of leaders who taught and empowered others – Jesus and the Twelve, Barnabas and Saul, Paul and Timothy, Barnabas and John Mark, Paul and Titus.

I can easily make a list of those people in my life who have been empowering influences. Or a list of those I have empowered, or a list of those I am presently working to empower. God's leadership plan is multi-generational, spiritual leaders empowering spiritual leaders. Empowerment for God's ministry, fulfilling God's purpose, reaching the multitudes, bringing thousands to Jesus.

Christian Schwarz wrote, "Leaders of growing churches concentrate on empowering other Christians for ministry.... they invert the pyramid of authority so that the leader assists Christians to attain the spiritual potential God has for them."

Leaders, are those you lead reaching the heights of their spiritual potential? I recognize that today's world tends to distract and involve us in a host of activities that do not fulfill our spiritual potential. Our call as leaders is to help those whom we empower use spiritual power for God's spiritual work, to the salvation of multitudes. Understanding and applying the principle of spiritual empowerment will get the church growing again, keep us "on mission," help us remember who we are.