



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

- BY BRENT BRADING



2. Apostolic Leaders

7 KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LEADERSHIP STYLE OF APOSTOLIC CHURCHES

Definition: Apostolic leaders are followers of Jesus with a passion to go and not stay, pioneer and not settle, and to send and not just gather.

The 7 characteristics so far...

1. Passionate love for Jesus

2. Courageous - bold faith

So many people think that leaders don't feel fear

- Nothing could be further from the truth!
- The only difference is that leaders have chosen not to be controlled by fear
- They face their fears head on!
- Just as faith comes from hearing God, so fear comes from hearing the whispers of doubt, the flesh and the devil.

Overcoming fear is critical for apostolic leaders

- Imagine what it was like for Abraham leaving his country, his culture, his family and everything that was secure to walk into the unknown in obedience to God.
- Imagine what it was like for Paul as he set off on his first apostolic journey into the unknown, not knowing what to expect.

But for me the best example is Peter:

Eg. Peter - he struggled with real fear. Put on a bold bravado on the outside but soon realised how afraid he was. Yet was transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit

Mark 14:31 (NIV)

31 But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

Peter really thought he was brave!

- Then a few hours later denied even knowing Jesus three times!
- So clearly he was not brave enough for what God had called him to
- He needed a supernatural level of courage
- And that only comes from the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:13 (NIV)

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:31 (NIV)

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Apostolic leaders need to take steps of faith into the unknown

- But standing in front of all of us are the speed bumps of fear!
- Faith is not the absence of fear. Faith just needs to be bigger than fear.
- Eg. David must have been afraid. But he had a faith that was bigger than the giant!
- Praying for supernatural courage has become one of my most prayed prayers!

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the biggest fears you face in terms of the call of God on your life?
2. What testimonies do you have of overcoming fears in the past?
3. If you had no fears, how would your leadership be different? So is fear controlling you?

MY ANSWERS:

1. Fear of failure and fear of rejection are probably the biggest fears that I wrestle with.
2. I remember having to settle the issue of failure before planting the church that we now lead. Would I be ok with the church plant failing? Took me quite a while to wrestle through and lay down before the Lord. Faced the same fear during our building projects as well - but saw each time how faithful God is to his promises. Feel the fear every time I get up to preach that it is going to be a complete disaster and yet God always carries me through.
3. If I had no fear of failure or rejection I would definitely want to share my faith with strangers more. And want to lay hands on more sick or paralysed people and trust for healing. So yes, in many ways I recognise that fear is still limiting me walking in the fullness of what God has called me to.