



7. 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
3. Servant hearted & sacrificial
4. Empowering not controlling
5. Pioneering not maintaining
6. Modelling leadership well

7. Generous - giving finance, people and resources

This characteristic of generosity of spirit is absolutely crucial to walking as an apostolic leader

Paul literally described his life like this:

Philippians 2:17 (NIV)

17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

Paul gave his everything to this ministry just like Jesus did

- All his **energy** - he said he worked harder than any of them
- All his **time** - 'free time' seemed to be prayer time for Paul
- All his **emotions** - carrying the weight of the churches and their well-being
- All his **money** - he literally worked with his hands to support his team so that he could preach for free
- His **life** - he was eventually martyred for his faith

This sense of generosity of spirit is at the heart of apostolic leadership

- Jesus didn't come to receive but to give

Another great example is the apostolic hearted church of Philippi:

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (NIV)

1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

They had caught this heart of generosity and started walking in it. Paul thanked the church and wrote this back to them:

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

They had caught the revelation of The Apostolic Blessing which is traced all the way back to Abraham:

Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

*2 "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;*

*I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.*

*3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."*

This is financial but goes beyond finances to:

- **People** - will you sow your best leaders?
- **Resources** - would you rather give than sell?
- **Time** - willing to leave home base church to help others
- **Emotions** - will you open your heart to truly love deeply

BIG IDEA: To be an apostolic leader is costly! That's why generosity of spirit is so crucial

QUESTIONS:

1. Are you as a church and individual sowing generously?
2. What areas of generosity (finance, time, people, resources etc.) do you struggle with most to be generous?
3. Have you seen the faithfulness of God in His response to your generosity?

ANSWERS:

1. As a church we have always made it a rule to give away at least ten percent but generally twenty percent to apostolic ministry and the poor. What I have found to be challenging is not just being generous as a church but as an individual. Tithing is a non-negotiable but should be the starting point not the destination. Living to give is a most beautiful expression of godliness.
2. The area that I have struggled with most personally is in being more generous with time. As an introvert I have always guarded alone time to recharge and yet continue to discover that giving people your time fills the tank more than watching sport on TV! As a church the area of generosity I have struggled with most is sowing leaders - I have realised that I have been holding on to our leaders thinking we wouldn't manage without them. I have been challenged to trust the Lord and encourage them to go.
3. Our testimony as a church over 23 years has absolutely been that God is faithful and that apostolic giving is great seed that produces a great harvest. We spend ridiculous amounts of money on apostolic giving and ministry and yet God continues to reward it.