

Preachers' Pen Points

The Turn-Around from Decline to Growth

Leaders Needed



Having discussed some general attitude changes that assist a church in reversing decline and achieving new growth, it is imperative that we also see the importance of leadership in the process of renewal.

Leaders Needed

It is obvious that no working organization can succeed without leadership. This is why God provided for the leadership of His people all through the ages. God used Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. He used Joshua to lead them in conquering Canaan. In the NT God used the apostles to establish NT congregations and elders to watch over the newly-formed churches. And so today every congregation needs leaders, “pastors and teachers” who will “equip the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-13).

(Even if a church does not possess men qualified to serve as elders according to 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1, it still must rely upon the spiritual leadership of those closest to God’s standard, learning from them and working with them.)

The Kind of Leaders Needed

When we take a broad view at the leaders God selected for His people, we see common threads running through their character. They were:

- Men who loved God and were devoted to His cause.
- Men who loved people and sought to guide their spiritual growth.
- Men of prayer who depended upon the Lord for success.

- Men of sacrifice who would give more to others than they would take from others.

The Kind of Leadership Needed

Churches tend to be influenced by the dominant leadership styles that are currently the norm for other organizations in society. Instead, we need to look carefully at the principles that have governed the way God’s chosen leaders led His people. Consider, for example, the leadership of Nehemiah in leading God’s people to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls. From this we can learn that a good leader:

- Has a vision of what God seeks for His people (Neh. 1:3).
- Prays for the opportunity to serve God in carrying out the vision (Neh. 1:4-11).
- Does his homework before casting the vision before others (Neh. 2:11-16).
- Seeks the involvement of all people working together as a team (Neh. 2:17-18; 3:1-32).
- Provides encouragement to keep the work going (Neh. 4:14, 19-20).
- Helps overcome obstacles and solve problems that arise in implementing the vision (Neh. 4:1-6:14).
- Gives God the glory for all accomplished (Neh. 6:15-16).

Pray for Leaders

Pray that God will raise such leaders among us! We need them now! Who will accept the challenge?

—Johnny Felker