



Inspirations
(February 18, 2014)

THE RHYTHM OF LEADERSHIP

I woke up on January 22, 2014 and recorded this:

Following a leader is about learning to adapt and adjust to their needs rather than expecting them to adapt and adjust to yours. That's what submission looks like, and it includes never letting your leader get blindsided.

Being a leader is about seeing the needs of those you lead and responding accordingly. It means servant hood and recognizing that person's efforts to follow where you lead while not getting frustrated with them when they fall short, but instead seeking to help provide them what they need to fill the gap between where they are and where they are trying to go, so they can do the things you ask them to do.

The rhythm of leadership can be summed up as submission to your leader and servant hood to those you lead—both of you seeking the best interest and protection of the other.

This is what Paul describes between the husband and the wife and what the relationship between Christ and His followers should look like.

The ability of the wife to submit and servant hood by the husband comes from the knowledge that submission and servant hood frees both of you to put off the old man and put on the new so you can become one flesh with each other.

Submission in the body to our leaders allows the Holy Spirit to reveal those areas in our heart that still need to be submitted to God's leadership as He seeks to serve us by recognizing the gaps that exist between where we are with putting off the old man and putting on the new, so we can abide in Christ and He in us.

As I sit here today reading back over what I captured, I know God is growing me both in how to be good follower and a good leader, for the best leaders first learned how to follow other leaders. As a result, I am in a season of learning how to follow my husband's leadership rather than getting aggravated when he corrects me or suggest I do something different than what I want. My guiding verse is James 1:19, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (NKJV).

I find this verse very helpful in learning how to follow AND how to lead. The more I listen to my husband without getting aggravated, the more wisdom I gain from what God shares through him. And, the more I listen to those I mentor, the more I hear their needs, which changes how I pray for them. Rather than pray my will over them, I can go before the throne of grace on their behalf and ask the Father to meet their needs through the blood of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

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Even though this journey of learning how to follow so I can truly learn how to lead is very much in its infancy, I can honestly say, today, it feels brands new all over again. Today, I realize I don't need to remember a lot of different things in this journey. All I really need to remember is James 1:19: be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, because my anger WILL NOT produce God's righteousness. And, if I want to wear the breastplate of righteousness, it has to be fashioned from God's righteousness and not my own, for my righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).

Father, may every soul that reads this newsletter be encouraged to see beyond how the world defines following and leadership to how You define them. Let us turn to Your Word and truly learn the difference in the world's wisdom and Your wisdom, for Your Word tells us, "Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18 NKJV). Father, by the power in the name of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, may we be peacemakers in the earth to bring glory, honor, and praise to Your name. Amen.

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