

HOW TO CHOOSE APOSTOLIC TEAM MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to choose an Apostolic Team. Three things are absolutely necessary: prayer • care • time.

- A mistake in this area can destroy a life-time of ministry.
- Proverbs 16:2 (Amp.)

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits (the thoughts and intents of the heart).

- I Corinthians 4:5 (NIV)

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

PROPOSITION

Four criteria for choosing an Apostolic Team:

I. PRAYER

- A. First and foremost, we must hear the voice of God in our choice.
 - 1. Only God can see clearly the inner heart, motives, and intentions of men.
 - a. I Samuel 16:7 “. . . man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”
 - b. John 2:25, “(Jesus) needed not that any should testify of man: for He knew what was in man.”

2. I Corinthians 4:5 tells us to “judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, Who will bring to light hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the hearts . . .”

- Prayer is a time for leaders to wait on God to reveal the motives and intentions of people.

B. Jesus Prayed.

1. Luke 6:12-13 (NLT)

One day . . . Jesus went to a mountain to pray, and He prayed to God all night. At daybreak He called together all His disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles.

2. Jesus was never in haste in His choice.

- Jesus chose His apostolic team in Matthew 10:1-5.

¹And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James [the son] of Zebedee, and John his brother;

³Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James [the son] of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

⁴Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into [any] city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

“Commanded” is diatasso and it means:

- “to set in order thoroughly;
- “to prepare carefully and completely.”

- In Matthew 11:1, we see just how important this was to Jesus.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding His twelve disciples, (then) He departed thence to teach and preach in their cities.

- He set His apostolic team in order thoroughly before He set out for ministry!!!

A. Jesus chose people by the Spirit, not by the flesh.

1. It was not based on looks, money, skin color or anything fleshly.
2. His choice came from prayer and seeking the mind of God.
3. Three key things happen when we fast and pray.
 - a. Our minds are clear and free of prejudice.
 - b. Our hearts are assured that God is in this.
 - c. Our dependence is on God and not just ourself.

II. CHOOSE BY THE SPIRIT AND NOT IN A TIME OF STRESS.

A. I Chronicles 12:16-18

¹⁶And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David.
¹⁷And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it.
¹⁸Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

B. Compare Moses' choice of his 70 elders.

Numbers 11:14-17

¹⁴I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.
¹⁵And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.
¹⁶And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.
¹⁷And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put [it] upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

1. Moses was stressed out over the bickering of the people when he chose his leadership team.
 - a. He simply gathered the 70 that the people designated as elders and put them forth. They were not people he knew who were committed to him and had his heart!!!
 - b. See Numbers 11:24

And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.

2. On the other hand, David questioned those who came to him and got a commitment from them.
 - They recognized the gift of God in David.
 - They confessed a supernatural connection to David—not just to his vision or ministry.
 - They laid aside their desires, motives, and ambitions to uplift the leader and the vision of the team!!!

- C. Eventually, David’s “600 Mighty Men” brought him into his full destiny and helped to keep him there all his life.
- You will never go farther than your staff can take you!
- D. Moses’ “70 Elders,” however, all died in the wilderness and kept Moses from his “promised land” by their murmuring and disloyalty.
- Moses chose the “70” himself at a bad time of stress in his life.
 - David received those God sent to him after discerning their hearts and motives.

III. KNOW YOUR APOSTOLIC TEAM MEMBERS.

- A. Numbers 11:16 (Amp.)

And the Lord said to Moses, Gather for Me seventy men of the elders of Israel whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; and bring them to the Tent of Meeting and let them stand there with you.

I Thessalonians 5:12a,

And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you . . .

- B. Know—have a relationship with those on your Apostolic Team.
1. Never bring someone onto your team whom you do not know and are not comfortable with as a partner in ministry.
 2. Paul needed someone to partner with him in Philippi—his major supporting church in Greece. He chose Timothy because he knew Timothy’s heart.
 - Philippians 2:20, “For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.”
 - Like-minded – *isopsuche* – “same soul”

- See Philippians 2:22-23, “But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.”

IV. EVERY APOSTOLIC TEAM MEMBER MUST CARRY YOUR HEART AND MINISTRY LOAD.

A. Numbers 11:17

And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

- B. First, they must have your spirit—your anointing . . . complimentary gifts.
- C. Second, they must have your heart as well as your spirit—your passion . . . attitude.
 - God can give them your anointing but you must give them your heart!!
- D. Third, they must be willing to bear the burden and share the load of ministry and hard work as it is assigned to them.
 - Bear and Share