

Threefold Cord of Relationship

Recently I was in a situation where two bishops were conducting altar work, alternating between utilizing three adjutants. One of two things can happen as a result of five people working the altar...either it will be total chaos or poetry in motion. Can you imagine the scene; our bishop had just preached a riveting and soul-stirring message as led by the Spirit, he then calls his assistant pastor to aid him in laying hands as the altar grows thick with the press of people seeking deliverance or a healing touch. First, two adjutants were sufficient in serving the two bishops; it's simple math... that makes sense. But one adjutant moves to catch a falling person and motions for a third adjutant to step into the fray to assist while he continues to pray with the individual. And that's how this trade-off went for the remainder of the deliverance service, there was a rotation of the three adjutants to cover either bishop, stand guard at the altar (watch and pray) or catch and pray with the fallen. If one adjutant got tied up because of the proximity of the crowd, immediately the third adjutant stepped in and took his place, when the bishops shifted again, the adjutants would stay with them or shift. All of this was carried out with the precision of a practiced team however we have never been in that situation before. Never have two of our bishops simultaneously laid hands for that period of time requiring all of our service.

Not once did we three get in a bishop's way, physically or spiritually. Not once did we get in one another's way. Not once did we argue as to who was doing what when. Not once did we hinder the work, but rather functioned like a well-oiled machine. How was this possible? I'd already stated that we've never before encountered a situation like this before. We'd each individually served each bishop, but not concurrently and with such intensity. The above description does not do the scene justice and illustrate the magnitude of the height of the Spirit, the press of the crowd or the motion and urgency of the bishops. If you've ever been in a full deliverance service, you know what I'm getting at. So let me cut to the chase, this fluidity in service is possible because of what we'll call the threefold cord of relationship.

We are familiar with the scripture in Ecclesiastes; "and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Ecc. 4:12b) This rings true in the functionality in a team of adjutants who find occasion to serve simultaneously. This level of cohesive service was possible because each of us has relationship with the Lord. An adjutant's service will be greatly diminished and lacking in power, sight and spiritual authority when his relationship with the Lord is found wanting. In an adjutant's service, his first priority is relationship with God, and then he can concern himself with serving the bishop. The adjutant who does not have relationship with the Lord and His Spirit cannot hope to flow with and in the Spirit. You cannot flow in what you do not recognize.

The second portion of this relationship cord is that each adjutant had individual relationship with each bishop. We promote this relational bond between adjutant and bishop as a paramount concern to both parties. This openness in communication and spirit is greatly desired and irreplaceable in our service. No matter how many seminars you attend or how well versed you are in church polity and apostolic order...there is absolutely no substitute for relationship.

Thirdly, the adjutants had relationship with one another...outside of the church. We have a core of individuals who serve on our ministerial team and we spend a lot of time together. Whether it is at the dinner table after service; at the movies watching the latest blockbuster or in one another's homes just talking and relaxing, we spend time together. The same goes for our group of adjutants in our church. We get along extremely well and enjoy our friendship. In order for a group of adjutants to successfully serve together in ministry, they must have personal relationship. Otherwise they run the risk of growing individually (which is needed) but there is no room to grow collectively, as a team. For those of you who serve with another, get to

know that person or group of persons. Spend time with them and watch how the Lord will allow your service to be all the more effective as you assist your pastor. Utilize the principles of the threefold cord of relationship in your adjutancy.