

## Deciding to Stay

Adjutants and armor bearers are failing. Failing to attain a level of spiritual connection and natural relationship with their leader and as a result, their own ministries are left lacking. They are failing to gain important lessons and wisdom from their leaders. They are failing to support and be a source of strength. They are failing to receive, failing to give. Adjutants and armor bearers are failing because they do not want to stay.

I met a man once a few years ago and he slipped me a bit of advice and instruction that rings in my heart today. I didn't know him and he didn't know me but he knew my position in ministry and he was not hesitant to share although he is a man of few words. I won't bore you with the entire story, but what Overseer Austin (shout out) said to me one afternoon during service was "always stand by your leader". At that time, what I thought he was referring to was the need to stand by my leader and be a very physical means of support. But, what those words turned out to mean for me was something that reached beyond that night and still affects me and my ministry of service today. I will tell you, that at that moment, these words were difficult for me to hear because the relationship I had with my leader then was not as strong as it should have been.

There is much to be gained in staying.

- Staying after service when the last parishioner has gone home and driving your leader to their house.
- Staying with them as they "come down" after preaching and ministering, however long that takes, so that they are not physically drained all at once and "crash" as we say.
- Staying at that funeral that you never intended or expected to be at and taking care of what needed to be done (winking at Bishop Ware) because you were raised to be a faithful adjutant.

Adjutants, staying means taking your agenda, closing it up and pushing it to the side to see to the needs or desires of your leader. Even if that means just sitting there quietly and waiting.

- Staying means taking care of the unseen and unglamorous side of church business on a bright and sunny Saturday when you could be doing something else.

- Staying means sitting quietly by while your eyes are falling out of your head because you are so tired, while your bishop speaks with another pastor after a late dinner...then you gotta drive that 2.5 hours back to town and make sure your leader is settled at home.
- Staying means sometimes doing what you would rather not do...if you were given the choice.

Staying takes time. Staying takes patience. Staying takes dedication. Staying is intentional.

Some month's after I was appointed as adjutant to my bishop, I began to wonder...was I appointed to assist my bishop or was I appointed for my bishop to assist me? The answer is it's a two-way street. While assisting your leader in and especially outside of the regular duties of Sunday morning and Friday night services, you will gain. You will begin to find that areas of your life that you have so far tolerated (within yourself) will become manageable and soon you will see more victories. You will gain wisdom by the example of your leader and you can't help but operate with his/her spirit when you are properly connected. The only way to gain is to stay.

I am being redundant and very elementary because I want you to see the practicality of how to execute this principle, and reap the many benefits thereof. Adjutants there is so much to be gained, for you, for your family, your ministry, your preaching, your life, your relationships with others and for your future just by deciding to stay.