

## A Gentle Reminder

This week I picked up a book I hadn't opened in a while. It's a work penned by Terry Nance entitled "God's Armor Bearer". While rereading this 3 volume series, I began to reflect on my time and service as an armor bearer and now adjutant. As a result of this reflection I am forced to ask myself some questions...and produce honest answers. I encourage you to reflect and ask yourself similar questions:

- 1) Why do you serve your leader? Or rather, what is your motive for service?

Initially, I reflexively look at this question and want to respond with a very obvious and "on the surface" answer like, "Because it's what God wants me to do." Or maybe, "Because I am a servant." While those answers are indeed valid, this question and time of reflection demands a greater inspection. The disciple must guard against a self-serving motive as he follows his leader. Contrast the language between the occurrences recorded in St. Mark 10:35 and 2Kings 1:9

*"And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldst do for us whatsoever we shall desire."* St. Mark 10:35

*"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee."* 2Kings 2:9a

The disciple will always receive from the master; this is the nature of the master/disciple relationship. The disciple receives and perpetuates the spirit of the leader. What is your motive for service?

- 2) Are you giving all you can to your leader? Or perhaps it would be easier, (and more honest) to answer, what areas of your discipleship or service could improve.

This question demands a thoughtful and honest answer; anything else would be a disservice to the one who you serve. The automatic answer to this question from most would probably be "no". We realize that we are not perfect and there is always room for improvement. Real growth begins when you identify for yourself, what specific areas you require improvement, and what you are doing about improving.

Do you need to pray more effectively for your leader with a specific and insightful strategy for his life and ministry? Do you need to devote more time caring for your leader, by checking in with them more frequently and seeing to their daily cares? Do you need to improve your respect for your leader by not questioning tasks and orders, and not murmuring when you don't understand? The list could go on, the point is each person's areas of improvement are personal and must be discovered and addressed by that servant.

I encourage you this month to take some time and reflect on your service to your leader. Think about how that has grown and how the needs of your leader may have changed over time. This month, flip open some of the core curriculum you began with and touch base with the basics of your service.

Remember where you came from and forge ahead in your discipleship with a zeal to cover and support your leader to the fullest of your capacity.

God be with you all.