

The Un-Appointed Adjutant

“Every Marine a Rifleman” is a motto that adorns most every rifle range on Marine Corps installations across the globe. It is etched into stones, hung on signs and painted on walkways. We see it there and know it because it is truth. Each Marine is required to qualify on the rifle range every so often to ensure they maintain familiarization with their weapon and proficiency in marksmanship. Whether they are infantrymen who live for battle, a cook, a supply clerk in a warehouse or a military policeman, each Marine is required to first be a rifleman. When the battle horn sounded years ago and we were called to war, not everyone picked up their rifle and went...but that made them no less capable a Marine.

The same concept holds true for the adjutant who is not appointed to a particular leader...the lack of direct appointment makes them no less an adjutant. Among the prerequisites for service in the adjutancy, appointment is not to be found. So the question arises...what does the un-appointed adjutant do? Simple...they serve wherever there is need. The appointed adjutant is limited in his scope regarding this, limited to one (or two) leader(s) and this is perfectly fine. The appointed adjutant will automatically gravitate toward his bishop as expected however the un-appointed adjutant is free to “plug any gaps” if we can put it that way.

I have encountered many church settings where a leader will come to speak and they will not have an adjutant with them for whatever reason. This is where those un-appointed step up. I have also experienced many times when my bishop is ministering by the laying on of hands and no one has a mind to support those that are being delivered...I stay and move with my bishop, no matter how the person may wobble and threaten to fall under the anointing. It is the charge of the adjutant to always stand behind (spiritually and literally) your leader in these settings. When no one steps up to work the altar...un-appointed adjutants, where are you?

The adjutant finds himself working and serving not because he is appointed or asked, but simply because he is an adjutant. It is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 6, there was need to appoint deacons, you know the story. Verse 5 tells us that they chose Stephen “a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost,” Stephen did not receive faith and the Holy Ghost because he was appointed, he had these all along and I daresay he was chosen because he was found doing the work. We are appointed because we of what we are doing now, not because of what we are going to do.

Adjutants, just because you are not made chief or because you are not appointed does not make you any less a servant of the Lord. Be encouraged to find yourself in the gap wherever there is need. If it is your desire to be appointed to a leader, make your petition known before the Lord. That is exactly how I was appointed. I prayed two things: I asked the Lord for a mentor who would guide, instruct, accept and be an example for me. Secondly I said “Lord I want to be *his* adjutant”, and He did it.