Apostolic Teams

by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline — AT1

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The Need For Apostolic Teams 4151

I. Two Main Forms Of Human Leadership

- **A.** Apostolic teams and presbyteries (elders)
 - **1.** Both usually *plural*
 - **2.** A shepherd is a pastor
 - **a.** Shepherd (singular) always refers to Jesus (Acts 20:17)
 - **b.** Elders (plural) are overseers (or bishops) or shepherds (see also 1 Pet. 5:1–2)
 - 3. As shepherds are united, so will their flocks be
- **B.** Elders' responsibility is to govern—conservation (1 Tim. 5:17, Titus 1:5)
 - 1. In the Old Testament the place of the elders was the gate
 - 2. Their function: judgment, counsel and government
 - **3.** The New Testament concurs with this
- C. Apostolic teams' function is extension (Rom. 15:20–21)
 - 1. Reach the unreached
 - 2. They did not operate alone
- **D.** Governing body in an area is sovereign
 - 1. Same applies to a family—mother and father are sovereign
 - 2. Independence and sovereignty are not the same
 - a. Sovereign: accountable to God
 - **b.** Independent: out from under God's authority possibly?

E. Apostolic Teams

Mobile

Top authority of church
Extension

Presbyteries

Local/Resident

Govern locally

Conservation

- 1. Balance is 50% emphasis on either side in New Testament church
- 2. The current balance is 98% conservation and 2% extension
- **F.** There is no place for independence in Christianity

II. Interdependence

A. Apostles appoint elders—Acts 14:21–23

After elders are installed a group of believers becomes a church

- **B.** Apostles sent out by elders—Acts 13:1–4
 - 1. They became apostles after being prayed for and sent out (Acts 14:14)
 - 2. They were selected by the Holy Spirit from the most experienced and fruitful
 - 3. Then new leadership emerges from the less experienced

- C. Reproductive cycle (Acts 16:1; 1 Thess. 1:1, 2:6)
 - 1. Apostle means: one sent forth
 - 2. It all starts with God the Father

III. Jesus Set The Pattern

A. The first apostle (Heb. 3:1)

Women have a place (Luke 8:1–3)

- **B.** The early church was mobile
- **C.** Apostolic attestation
 - 1. It takes the supernatural to make Gentiles obedient (Rom. 15:18–19)
 - **2.** 2 Corinthians 12:12
- **D.** Marks of the apostle
 - 1. Perseverance, character, not giving up
 - 2. Signs, wonders and mighty deeds
- **E.** The issue is *not* apostolic succession, but apostolic ministry (1 Cor. 4:20)

Requirements For Apostolic Teams 4152

I. Vision

- **A.** Proverbs 29:18
 - 1. Vision produces discipline
 - **2.** Rules produce rebels
- **B.** Our present vision
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:11–12
 - **a.** Holy conduct and godliness in anticipation of the Lord's return
 - **b.** Hasten the coming of the Lord
 - 2. The end will not come *until* this Gospel has been preached to *all* nations (Matt. 24:14)
 - **3.** Rev. 5:9–10 also Rev. 7:9–10
 - a. Emphasis on the kingdom—reigning on earth
 - **b.** The redeemed come from *every* tribe, tongue, people and nation
 - **4.** "Until the full number of the Gentiles has come in" (Rom. 11:25–26)

II. Intercession

- **A.** Ephesians 6:12
 - 1. Our enemy is not flesh and blood
 - 2. There is a descending order of rulership of darkness
- **B.** 2 Corinthians 10:3–5—We have the weapons to defeat the enemy
 - 1. Spiritual weapons
 - 2. For pulling down Satan's strongholds
 - 3. Strongholds are in the mind
- **C.** *First*, Air Force and Artillery, *then* Infantry
 - 1. Air force and artillery: sweep skies clean and pound enemy defenses = intercession
 - **2.** Then infantry goes in = apostolic teams

III. Direction Of The Holy Spirit

- **A.** Romans 8:14
 - 1. Be born of the Spirit to become children of God
 - 2. Be regularly led by the Spirit to become mature sons every day, every hour

- **B.** Acts 13:2–4
 - 1. Apostolic teams are initiated by the Holy Spirit
 - **2.** Accompanied by the Holy Spirit
- **C.** Acts 16:6–10
 - 1. Holy Spirit forbade them to go (v. 6)
 - **2.** Holy Spirit did not permit them (v. 7)
 - **3.** Holy Spirit led by a vision
 - **4.** Paul received the vision, but *they* prayed and *they* concluded

IV. Leadership Sets An Example

- A. Elicit corporate decisions (Rom. 16:9–10)
 - 1. Not "advance"
 - 2. But "follow me"
- **B.** 2 Timothy 3:10–12
 - 1. Personal traits: you have followed me
 - 2. Persecutions/afflictions: that which happens to me might be just to set an example for you

V. Harmony And Continuing Prayer

- **A.** Harmony or teamwork is essential
- **B.** Pray together naturally and regularly
 - 1. Matt. 8:18–20
 - a. Bind and loose
 - **b.** Harmonize (agree)
 - **c.** Authority is in the realm of your responsibility
 - 2. They prayed for signs and wonders (Acts 4:23, 29, 31)

VI. Flexibility

- **A.** Going further with God
 - **1.** Progress is by *faith*
 - 2. You need a strong, healthy body
- **B.** Philippians 4:11–12
 - **1.** Contentment in whatever state
 - 2. Instructed in *all* circumstances
 - **3.** Full or hungry; to abound or suffer need

VII. Commitment

- **A.** Matthew 24:8–14
 - 1. Ever-increasing turmoil, opposition and persecution
 - **2.** Then . . . "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached . . ."
- **B.** Revelation 12:11
 - 1. Overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony
 - 2. More important to do God's will than stay alive
- **C.** "Communists are dead men on furlough" (Lenin)
 - 1. Christians should emulate this
 - 2. We're all dead already (in Christ) so give all for Christ

Learning By Doing 4153

I. Personal Background

- A. Born in Britain
- **B.** Professor of Philosophy, Cambridge University
- **C.** Encountered Christ in British Army
- **D.** Revelation of God came only through Scripture, not fellowship
- **E.** Received healing from skin condition (Prov. 4:20–22)

II. The Sudan

- **A.** Derek's first encounter with a Moslem, Ali, the hospital foreman
- **B.** Ali received Jesus
- C. Three supernatural things opened Ali's mind to Christ:
 - 1. Ali's foot was healed
 - 2. Hornet sting did not hurt Derek
 - 3. Derek drank brackish water in Jesus' name

III.Israel

- A. His marriage to Lydia
- **B.** Adoption of eight daughters
- C. God's protection during the birth of the State of Israel
- **D.** Pastored a church in Britain

IV. Kenya 1957-1961

- **A.** Ninth daughter adopted
- **B.** Taught in a teacher training college
- C. Began to teach the Africans from the Bible
- **D.** The Holy Spirit visited the college with an outpouring
- E. All students graduated, were born again and Spirit-filled
- **F.** Suzanna—she failed, then prayed, did well on exam and was passed!
- **G.** All nine gifts of the Holy Spirit were present there along with signs and wonders

V. Zambia

- **A.** Team split up
- B. Mahesh Chavda went to Zaire
 - 1. 30,000 leaders the first day
 - 2. 70,000 to 100,000 people in the first night meeting
 - **3.** 250,000 by week's end
 - 4. Approximately 125,000 saved

VI. Pakistan

- **A.** Seven people in team
- **B.** Pakistan is 98% Moslem, 1% Christian
- C. In Karachi, they expected 600 but 3,000 attended the first meeting
 - 1. About 1,500 received Christ
 - 2. About 90% stood for prayer
 - 3. A 12-year-old Moslem boy, born deaf and dumb, received hearing and speech
- **D.** Next meeting many deaf and dumb were healed
- E. A woman, about 60, born blind, received her sight
- **F.** The strong man of Islam is the spirit of Antichrist
- **G.** Ignorance, poverty, hopelessness, violence, no respect for life
- **H.** Continual battle with unseen forces; i.e., high winds, thunderings