

ALL CHRISTIAN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

THE KEYS TO EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE IN TEAM MINISTRY – (LUKE 6:12-16)

A team is a group of people carefully selected after undergoing training for a mission as a group. Therefore, Team Ministry deals with a prayerfully selected group of people working towards an assigned goal i.e. what they are called to do. An efficient team is a winning team.

Before a Ministry team could be efficient, there are keys that have to be unlocked. These are: -

1. **THE KEY OF PRAYER**: - A popular song says Prayer is the key that Jesus started with it and ended with it. Even before stepping into the Ministry He had 40 days and night fasting and praying (Luke 4:1-2). Because of the importance that the Lord attaches to careful selection, **He showed the way that suffering, the flesh and uplifting the Spirit could make the right choice.** Acts 13:1-2a confirms of this peculiar way of stepping into Ministry. One must receive from God before appointments or selections are made (Haggai 1:8).

2. **SEPARATION**: - This is a very difficult task and can only be successfully alone when sentiment is taken out of the way. **Jesus had many disciples but he chose only twelve to name them Apostles** (one being sent). Did He not love the other ones? No! He had His eyes on the Goal and was determined to succeed. Paul and Barnabas were separated from a whole lot of teachers and prophets (Acts 13:1-2). These people must have had **genuine** encounter with Christ.

3. **RE-CHANNELLING/RE-ALIGNMENT**: - Means putting one's ability into where they fitted most. In football, the training experience shows that one can be pulled out of a position to do better in another position. **In Christ's ministry, fishermen became fishers of men, a doctor became a writer, a tax collector became a keeper not of financial record but a day to day record of the whole events in Jesus life and ministry.**

4. **THE KEY OF INTIMACY (Luke 6:13)**: - He called them to Himself, He chose them twelve, and they were working many closely to Him than anyone else. They meant more to Him than His earthly mother, brothers and sisters (Mark 3:31-35; Matthew 12:46-50). **No matter wherever you come from before, a new intimacy must spring up in order to have a successful ministry. Unity in the Spirit will go a long way in bringing greater success.** As people in the Ministry we have something more precious than what we have in common in our physical relationship. Don't keep people at arms-length, there should be understanding.

5. **THE RECOGNITION OF GRACE** (2 Corinthians 4:1) - **Those who are members of the team in the ministry are called by grace and they should recognise it and not have their hearts puffed up. They should not look on other with indignation but with humility they should do their work as people called by grace.** We know that the gift and calling of God is without repentance but we see people who have fallen out of grace (e.g. Saul).

6. **IDENTIFICATION WITH THE VISION OF THE LEADER:** I believe that Jesus was very clear about His vision and mission and communicated such clearly to the disciples (Luke 5:10, 32). He was setting also the examples for them. He wanted them to follow their footsteps (Luke 5:27; John 21:19). He made them know it was a new dispensation (Luke 5:36-39) and they followed his vision and taught the same thing throughout their generation and they lived his life. **So, as a team, we are highly responsible to follow our leaders and in the same manner to show examples to our followers.**

If a team is not doing well, the coach is hold responsible and might be sacked because if he finds out that the team is not doing well, he is the first person to notice and has to take a step to put things in order.

7. **THE KEY OF AUTHORITY:** - Any Ministry team without delegated authority cannot function well because in dealing with people, authority has to back up words to make for smooth running. Jesus is sending out the twelve on a mission and sent them in twos (Luke 9:1-2) - (a) **For an established testimony** (John 8:17; Deut. 17:6) - (b) **Agreement in the Spirit gives greater power** (Matthew 18:18-19).

The Christian council in Jerusalem when they met over their problems in Antioch was in Unity, had a common conviction after receiving testimonies from Peter, Paul e. t. c. It was a teamwork, which they received from people who had the field experience. After the counselling, there was an established Church doctrine or decree (Acts 15:6, 22-23).

8. **WINSOMENESS AND SUBMISSION:** - Every chosen team has one thing uppermost in their mind, which is success. Every ministry has a divinely assigned duty and all the workers or team members should focus towards this goal. The rule has always been the same in all generations (Matthew 6:33; Haggai 1:9-11). **The primary aim must be to enrich the kingdom of God every other thing has to follow it. Re-arranging this order will not arguer well for the members of the team.**

We must be success minded and work principally towards that. Sacrifice is the main word here. Cross has to be endured, shame despised, but the joy that is set before us should be our consolation (Hebrew 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

Even as we are called and we achieve things, we have to submit to the head and also to one another. Paul and Barnabas took the case at Antioch to the administration in Jerusalem and they were later sent back with a letter as delegates were. When Philip revived the city of Samaria, his evangelistic gifts later gave way to Apostolic gifts (Acts 8:9-17), Paul and Barnabas were sent on a missionary journey by the laying on hands of other teachers and prophets Acts 13:3.

Having seeing the difficulties “let us encourage one another and stir up to love and good works” (Hebrew 10:24).