**TALKS ON LEADERSHIP**

**#7: WHEN LEADING BECOMES CHALLENGING**

**II Corinthians 2:15,16**

The leader is human. Spiritual leadership is a heavy task already. But there will be times when leading becomes even heavier due to changes or occurrences around the leader, the task or the people he is leading. The talk of today will help you to regain your strength when leading becomes challenging.

**SITUATIONS THAT STRAIN LEADERSHIP**

Spiritual leadership has the added spiritual dimension, which means the leader does not only contest with physical powers but also spiritual powers. There are times when leading becomes extra difficult and the leader is pressed as a cart under a heavy burden of sheaves (Amos 2:13). Let us see few examples:

* Destabilising issues in the family (Exodus 4:25,26; II Samuel 6:20; 13:1,19,20,28,29; 15:13,14).
* When the people murmur and the load seems too heavy to carry (Numbers 11:10-15).
* Personal pressure, fear, insecurity or uncertainty (I Samuel 23:7,8,24-26; Matthew 26:38).
* Rejection or seeming disintegration in the team (I Samuel 30:6a; John 6:60,61,66).
* Adverse effect of carnal or unwise leadership decisions (II Samuel 24:10).
* Threat of personal security (I Kings 19:1-3; Nehemiah 6:1,2).

**SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLING LEADER**

God has not left the struggling leader without hope. In fact, the challenges of leadership clearly show that the task we are called to is not to be done in our strength alone. We should depend on God at good times and also at challenging times. How do we approach challenging times in leadership?

* Develop a balanced and healthy mental attitude (Deuteronomy 31:7,23; Joshua 1:6-9; I Chronicles 28:10,20; I Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10; II Timothy 2:1):
	+ Call to mind that leaders are human and they have their fair share of trouble. It is only fair that the leader should have more trouble than the people he is leading!
	+ Challenges do not make you less of a leader; they only make you less dependent on yourself.
	+ Victory over challenges will strengthen and promote you. This prospect should help you in throwing your entire weight behind the fight for resounding victory.
	+ Without these challenges, a leader could be tempted to be harsh and unrealistic on those who struggle among the people he is leading.
	+ There is always a way out!
* Reinforce your personal anchor:
	+ Encourage yourself. As a leader, you cannot afford to stay in the valley for too long (I Samuel 30:6b).
	+ Go on your knees and pray. The throne of grace is for the leader too – to come and receive help in the time of need (Matthew 26:36,39; Hebrews 4:15,16).
	+ Share your burdens with, and solicit prayer from a trusted ‘inner circle’ (Matthew 26:36-40).
	+ Be patient as you are faithful: troubles come, and by God’s grace, they will go (II Corinthians 1:8-11).

There is no challenge that is enough to destroy your ministry. Depend on God and throw your entire life into His hands. He will help you through any difficulty and grant you a fruitful ministry as you trust Him day by day.