**TALKS ON LEADERSHIP**

**#9: 100% (I Corinthians 14:12)**

In the competitive arena of high performance, giving your 100% is crucial. It is the difference between gold and silver, between a medal or no medal at all. It is what makes one to break a personal record, a national or even a world one. The true joy of service comes only to those who give 100%. In a race where it takes a computer to decide between the winner and the runner-up, it becomes clear that 100% is the norm. As Christian leaders therefore, it is not strange to talk about this important attribute of excellence. It is what makes the difference between an excellent Church and others, between holiness and sentiment, between perfection and permissiveness.

**THE PLACE OF DELEGATED TALENT**

God has given everyone several abilities (Matthew 25:14,15; Ephesians 4:7,8; I Corinthians 4:7). It is true at the natural and also at the spiritual/ministerial level. God gives ability (I Peter 4:11). To produce for God, man must receive from God. A man can receive nothing but as it is given from above (John 3:27). Inspiration for preaching, ability to sing, talent to teach, exhort, minister, etc, all proceed from the Holy Spirit, distributing to every man according as it pleases Him (Romans 12:6-8). The first step in divine service is thus to acknowledge what God has given and surrender it under His mighty hands.

**THE PRIORITY OF DILIGENT TOIL**

Diligence implies dedication and discipline. Our talents are a departure point. Few talents with much toil will achieve significantly more than many talents with little toil. A man failed the discipleship call because he lacked just one thing, not many (Mark 10:17-22). For you too, it may just be one thing or one area of your life. Those who do not give 100% say. “Everything else I can do but this thing I may not do” (I Kings 20:9). They are willing to go at the bidding of their leader but only when they have convenient time (I Corinthians 16:12). But those who give 100% stay there till the battle is finished (II Samuel 23:9,10). They do what is required to succeed (II Kings 13:18,19). They labour more abundantly than their predecessors (I Corinthians 15:10). They stretch themselves to the very limit because duty demands it (Philippians 2:25-27). They press forward to the high calling regardless of what is behind them (Philippians 3:13,14). They resist unto blood, striving against sin (Hebrews 12:4).