

Reflections on the Apostle Paul as a leader

(Based on 2 Corinthians)

The Wounded Leader

Plan to end your ministry well!

Ramez Atallah was born in Cairo, Egypt and immigrated with his family to Canada when he was sixteen. He came to know the Lord through a local church in Montreal and was discipled as a student through the Inter-Varsity group at McGill University. From 1972 to 1980 he developed and directed the ministry of the Groupes Bibliques Universitaires du Quebec. In 1980 along with his wife and two children he returned to Egypt, where he became the IFES Regional Secretary for the Middle East. He attended the first Lausanne Congress and was appointed as a youth representative to the Lausanne Committee in 1975. He served on the Committee from 1975 to 1994. In 2006 he rejoined Lausanne as Program Chairman for Lausanne III Cape Town Congress. After the Congress, he was appointed as one of the Deputy Chairs of the Lausanne Movement until 2015. Since 1990 he has been the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt, the position he still holds until now.

Don't nurse your hurt and wounds but rather let God's grace heal you in your inner self

Paul was deeply hurt by the Corinthians criticism of him as...

1. timid in face to face contact (10:1)
2. unimpressive in person (10:10)
3. an untrained speaker whose speaking amounts to nothing! (11:6, 10:10)
4. to compensate for above, deals with people strongly in writing (10:1, 10)

He struggled to respond in a God honoring fashion. The principle he lays down is that even though our "weapons" are not "manufactured by the world" yet they are extremely powerful (10:4, 5)

One of the greatest temptations we face is to use the world's weapons

"Friendly fire" sometimes wounds more people in Christian work than attacks from the enemy!

Paul was "wounded" & "hurting because..."

1. He had been wounded by those he loved and served sacrificially (2:3,4)
2. His good intentions were misunderstood (v. 12-14a, 15-17)
3. He feared to be disappointed by what he may find in his upcoming visit (12:20-21)

Study how Paul responded to his hurts and turn them over to Christ the Great Physician to heal your wounds.

HOW TO END YOUR MINISTRY WELL

- Remember it is not YOUR ministry, it is God's!
- Your great achievement's will never make up for your weaknesses.
- Listen to trusted friends and colleagues who can give you HONEST feedback and wise advice.
- Plan to leave when things are going well!
- Try to humbly understand the relation between YOU and the BRAND God used you to promote.

WHAT YOU CAN TAKE WITH YOU

The great and wonderful news is that while you can't take your "achievements" with you when you leave your ministry, you can, if you end well, keep all the positive relationships you have built over the years.

This "social capital" is your greatest asset!

CONCLUSION OF LETTER (13:11)

- Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice!
- Strive for full restoration,
- encourage one another,
- be of one mind,
- live in peace.
- And the God of love and peace will be with you.

**WHAT PLANS ARE YOU MAKING
TO END OUR PRESENT MINISTRY WELL?**

**IF YOU DON'T PLAN FROM NOW, CHANCES ARE YOU WILL
END UP AS A WOUNDED LEADER!!**