Apostolic Teams
by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —
AT1

Three Tape Series
4151 The Need For Apostolic Teams
4152 Requirements For Apostolic Teams
4153 Learning By Doing

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 Presbyteries
   Mobile Local/Resident
   Top authority of church Govern locally
   Extension 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

© 1986 — Derek Prince Ministries–International