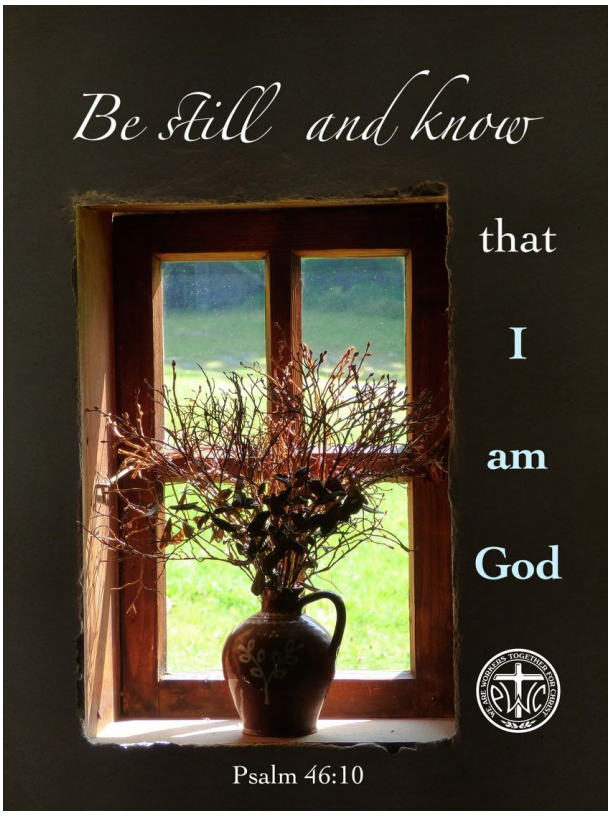
Be Still

(a.k.a. The dangers of leadership "experience.")



"Are we so noisy in our instruction of other people that God cannot get near them?" – Oswald Chambers

By the time I come to saying something, I've already thought about it incessantly, worked it around in my spirit, viewed it from every angle, considered every possible outcome, designed contingency plans for the contingency plans, and role-played it in different tones. I have a very noisy brain.

If I'm not aware of this as a leader, then I will steam roll every opportunity for creative input from my team. Not only that, but I staunch the Spirit's opportunity to work someone through His creative process in partnership with Him and not with me. What sort of growth and equipment and proving and miracles do I work against with my leadership "experience"?

Other leaders I've encountered do a lot of external processing. They throw out several ways something could be done without any real consideration or commitment to one way over another. They might form quick attachments to good ideas that are volunteered in a discussion. They have a very noisy meeting room.

If they are not aware of this as leaders, then they will unknowingly adopt a low standard for the sufficiency of Christ for their ministry. While seeming to embrace creativity and collaboration, they opt for security in the plans of man.

Experienced leaders in ministry have often walked so far with God, and have so much experience saying "yes" to God in service, that they've forgotten what it's like to wonder if God will come through in spite of personal failures. We know He will!

But let us not forget that this was a truth we came to know through many personal failures - circumstances we failed to account for, perspectives we didn't seek, boundaries we didn't define.

Let us allow for those in our care to wonder and to wait. Let us quiet the noise.

This doesn't mean we allow our people to flounder. No! We can confidently define the Who, What, Why, When and Where of things without dictating the How. For experienced leaders, this is a difficult thing. After all, we "know" how to do things.

Leaders: Let us practice moving away from our experiential leadership and toward mature leadership, by practicing stillness in front of our people. Still our minds. Still our mouths. Still our meetings.

Let's watch and wait together to see what the Lord will do!