



### Losing Control

Are you really interested in growing your organization? Doing so means giving up control – especially if you want to pass the organization's mission on to the caretaking of others.

It is a lesson well learned to know you cannot remain the center of all activity while simultaneously wanting others to become involved. If you try to do both at the same time, you earn one of two results:

- 1.) Those you hope to involve will abandon you, will start competitor organizations, or worst of all will remain, but only as an undermining presence. Yes you retain control, but only over a shrinking ministry.
- 2.) The organization will be taken over by others – but not at the timing you choose, and not necessarily with the same set of values.

Growing organizations gain new sets of eyes and with them new perspectives. The greater the effectiveness, the more people become involved – both in terms of those who want to help and those being helped. Each interested person

offers counsel for conducting ministry more effectively. But listening and involving costs you control.

Do you want to grow? You will have to risk the quality of your service as new people do things less well than you. You also risk learning how ineffective you have been as someone performs better than you and gets the glory.

Do you *really* want to grow? Doing so means others help shape the vision. It can no longer be a swelling in just your individual heart. The perspective of others may even eclipse your own.

The biblical witness -- especially that of John the Baptist -- was becoming lesser while the one he prepared the way for became greater. More got done that way, and for far greater purposes than the mere preservation of one's notoriety. Let's make this witness our own.

-mark

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