

Three Powerful Sentences  
by  
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There are three powerful sentences that can release the wisdom and energy of the people around you, so that the complex and difficult work of ministry can be carried on in the fullness of the gifts that God supplies to His church. When a spiritual leader speaks these words with honesty and integrity, amazing things can happen! Here are those three powerful sentences.

1. **“I don’t know.”** Omniscience is an attribute of God, not of man. Owning up to ignorance can be a marvelous antidote to arrogance. The people already know you don’t know everything, so why try to pretend otherwise? Obviously this is not a sentence you would say with regard to the main articles of our faith, but in virtually every other area of life and ministry, this sentence can be enormously refreshing. Speaking these words models honesty and humility for the people you serve, as they learn from your example.

2. **“What do you think?”** The emphasis is on the word YOU, opening the door for a fruitful and powerful exchange of ideas. Asking this question communicates great value to the person on the receiving end. It helps them see themselves as the partners in the gospel that they really and truly are. After you speak these words, be ready to be quiet and listen for a while. There will probably be a need for you to ask more questions with lots of active listening. At some point your conversation partner may say to you, “So what do YOU think?” At that point the other person will be eager to receive and consider your opinion – which may not have been their attitude previously.

3. **“I need your help.”** Like omniscience, omnipotence is something only God can claim. When St. Paul says to the Corinthians, “You are not lacking in any spiritual gift” the “you” is not singular but plural. The congregation AS A WHOLE is not lacking in any of the gifts needed to carry out the work God is calling them to do. Asking someone for help indicates respect for that person, and respect is something we all want and need. By the way, people who feel genuinely respected by their leaders are more likely to give respect to their leaders.

The first sentence, “I don’t know” sets a healthy tone of honesty and humility. The question, “What do you think?” releases ideas for discussion and exploration. The words, “I need your help” create an opportunity for a dynamic display of energy and action, to the glory of God and the fulfillment of His mission.