

LET'S TALK ABOUT EMPOWERMENT

Because Your Team Shouldn't Need Your Green Light to Get Real Work Done



By Lana Potgieter, Lighthouse Leadership

In my 20+ years of coaching leaders across industries and continents, I've seen it repeatedly: Well-meaning leaders unintentionally

become the bottleneck.

Everything flows through them.

Every decision. Every approval. Every tiny "just checking if this is okay..."

And when they're not around? Everything grinds to a halt.

Here's the thing — if your team can't move forward without you, you're not leading. You're micromanaging (with a smile, maybe, but still).

• Empowerment isn't about handing off your to-do list. It's not. It's about equipping people with the clarity, confidence, and authority to make decisions and drive outcomes.

That's when your team stops executing and starts owning. That's when you shift from doing *everything* to leading *something* bigger.

• Empowerment creates momentum. When people feel trusted and supported, they step up. They take the initiative.

They think ahead. And they stop asking for permission to do the job you hired them for.

• Empowerment is a leadership skill, not a buzzword. It takes trust, clear expectations, and a willingness to let go of a little control (deep breaths, you've got this). You should develop this skill, as it does not come naturally.

So, here's your little self-check:

- ☐ Can your team make bold, smart decisions without pinging you first?
- ☐ Are they set up to lead—or just execute?
- ☐ Do they feel your trust and backing, or are they sensing your white-knuckle grip on the reins?

Because here's the kicker: Your legacy as a leader isn't what you do—it's what your team does when you're not in the room or even in town.

Let them fly. (And for goodness' sake, stop being the "Are we there yet?" stop sign.)

Give me a call, and we can discuss developing empowerment skills for yourself and your executive team. Book a meeting here: lana@lighthouseleadership.today

Lana Potgieter is an internationally acclaimed leadership coach and business strategist who specializes in empowering business owners and executive teams within small to mid-sized organizations.

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