

LEADERSHIP TIPS

A publication of
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Open Bible Churches
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LEADERSHIP

Leadership Quotes on Desert Springs-Mountaintop Spirituality _____

“My ears have heard of you but now my eyes have seen you...”

Job 42:5, NIV

“The significance of desert and mountain is not who resides here, but what we ourselves have left behind in coming.”

David Douglas, theologian and author

“The desert loves to strip bare.”

Saint Jerome, theologian

“The mountain is where one seeks to transcend ordinary human experience; the desert is where one enters it most deeply.”

Belden Lane, author

“The desert is not the final stopping place. It is a stage on the journey...our vocation is contemplation in the streets.”

Carlo Carretto, author

“The mountain journey is about becoming more aligned with God’s presence and purposes in our lives... The journey is not about getting out of this world or out of ourselves into some more glamorous place – but about getting as deeply into this world as God, in Christ, has.”

Robert Morris, author

“The word of God, Jesus Christ, on account of his great love for mankind, became what we are in order to make us what he is himself.”

Irenaeus, theologian

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection of the dead.”

Philippians 3:10-11, NIV

Spiritual Leadership

Faith and Prayer in Habakkuk

Outline in Habbakkuk:

- Chapter 1 – Stage 1 – confused faith
- Chapter 2 – Stage 2 – confronting faith
- Chapter 3 – Stage 3 – conquering faith

Descriptors of Faith:

1. Faith searches honestly
2. Faith is matured in solitude
3. Faith is marked by stability
4. Faith is manifested in surrender
5. Faith is satisfied with God's solution

Principles of Prayer

1. A proper understanding of God's holiness causes one to have a burden to pray about social injustices
2. God's answer to prayer may be difficult to discern in the pressure of complex ministry circumstances
3. A leader should not be afraid to tell God exactly how s/he feels in any situation
4. Prayer should be a dialog and not just a monologue
5. Sometimes it will take a concentrated time of solitude to discern God's working and to stabilize one's faith in confusing and hurtful situations

Leadership Lessons:

1. Leaders must expect their faith to be tested
2. Leaders need to learn to be honest with God about their doubts
3. Leaders should not be satisfied with anything less than God's convincing answer to his/her personal problems of faith
4. Faith and righteousness are intertwined
5. The main thing about a leader's faith is the object of that faith

J. Robert Clinton, Leadership Topic 2: Faith,
MMM, November 25, 2002

Motivation and Leadership in Nehemiah

Motivation Techniques:

1. Working with followers
2. Sacrificing financially
3. Taking courageous stands against opposition
4. Crisis praying
5. Sensitivity to God in providential ways
6. Working for justice and reform
7. Cooperative competitiveness
8. Positional leadership
9. Networking power
10. Modeling perseverance
11. Practical advise
12. Extreme focus for a limited time
13. Affirming those who are participating in the work

Leadership Lessons:

1. Effective leaders are aware of motivational techniques to use with their followers
2. Successful change agents know their followers well
3. Modeling perseverance in the face of difficulties is a strong motivating factor for followers
4. Effective leaders use various influence means to accomplish complex tasks
5. Leaders should use affirmation to motivate followers
6. Effective leaders must make sure that they are functioning out of God's calling (not their own good ideas)

J. Robert Clinton, Leadership Topic 1: Motivation,
MMM, December 9, 2002

Decision Making and Spiritual Leadership

Scriptural concepts based on:

Psalms 118:8

Proverbs 14:12

Jeremiah 33:3

Job 7:17-18

Proverbs 16:6 II

Corinthians 5:9-11

James 4:17

Isaiah 41:10

Joshua 1:6-9

II Chronicles 2:14

Isaiah 11:2-3

James 1:5

Psalms 19:13):

- God doesn't want people to do what they think is best: he wants them to do what he knows is best, and no amount of reasoning and intellectualizing will discover that.
- Throughout history, great leaders have encouraged diversity in their organizations.
- Spiritual leaders astutely evaluate "coincidences" to see if these are God's answers to their prayers. Spiritual leaders are not discouraged by their circumstances—they are informed by them.
- God does not rescind everything he has said once a new leader is installed.
- Spiritual leaders make every decision with the awareness that one day they will give an account to God.
- It is at this point that true leaders separate themselves from mere office-seekers. When there are negative consequences to leaders' decisions, they refuse to blame their followers.
- Success can become intoxicating and can easily blind leaders to their own shortcomings. In contrast mistakes expose leaders inadequacies.
- Honesty, not infallibility, has repeatedly been listed as the most important quality followers desire in their leaders.
- Christian leaders do not have to be indecisive if they will learn how to know when God is speaking to them.
- Leaders need to monitor the quantity of decisions they are making.
- Leaders who have trouble making decisions may be struggling because they have no clear picture of where they are leading their organization.
- Every decision is a step toward a destination, so it is inevitable that leaders who do not know where they are going will falter in their decisions.
- Unfortunately, it is usually the opportunities and rarely the difficulties that vanish over time.

Henry and Richard Blackaby, *The Leader's Decision Making, Spiritual Leadership*, 2001, Broadman and Holman Publishers

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Church Leadership

Transformation and Equipping Emerging Leaders

Identifying Emerging Leaders – Discern the disconnected and help them find their place in the church:

1. Watch attendance patterns
2. Watch Energy patterns
3. Watch participation patterns
4. Watch seating and fellowship patterns
5. Watch for relational patterns
6. Watch for network and outreach patterns
7. Identify faithful men and women and pray for them
8. Resource and equip them

Equipping Emerging Leaders – How to free up and nurture the transformation of leaders:

1. Include them and help connect them to ministry
2. Free them up to follow their dreams and calling
3. Commission them to new ministries
4. Provide them opportunities
5. Create forums for spiritual nurture, networking, accountability, and challenge
6. Create intentional times of discipling and networking

Eddie Hammett, *Transformed Leaders, Transformed Churches,*
Net Results, November/December 2002

Change Dynamics and Ownership in Nehemiah

"Ownership refers to the willing acceptance by followers of some changes being proposed by a leader. The people participate wholeheartedly because they think it is right to do so. Follower ownership is imperative for accomplishing overwhelming tasks."

Leadership Observations and Principles:

1. Ownership of a change project by followers is a must for leaders seeking to bring about change
2. Effective change agents identify opinion leaders and make a strong effort to bring them on board as accepting the change strategy
3. Knowledge of who the followers are, where they have come from, and what they want is critical for effective change agents
4. People tend to be more supportive of ideas and change efforts that they help develop
5. Sensed need is a major motivating factor that leaders must take advantage of
6. Not all followers have to have ownership, but the key followers who will influence others must buy into the change
7. Followers who are affirmed by their leaders tend to follow these leaders

J. Robert Clinton, *Leadership Topic 3: Ownership,*
MMM, November 18, 2002

CURRENTS AND TRENDS

Events, People, Ideas – Changing Evangelical Life, Thought or Mission _____

Top 10 News Stories for 2002

- ① **Martyrs' Brigade:** Militant Muslims murder Christian in Pakistan, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Sudan, and Nigeria.
- ② **Might for the Right:** Conservative Christians rally as Republicans gain control of Congress.
- ③ **Pronoun Politics:** Bible scholars dispute gender translation in Today's New International Version.
- ④ **Faith Clash:** Missouri Synod Lutherans, Baptists, and other conservatives struggle over participating in interfaith services.
- ⑤ **Theology rattling:** With an eye on Iraq, Christians debate just-war doctrine, merits of preemptive attacks.
- ⑥ **Staying the Course:** 'Confessing' movement of classic Christians expands inside mainline denominations.
- ⑦ **Persecution Archive:** New documents from China chronicle 22,000 cases of religious persecution.
- ⑧ **Public School Pullout:** More Christian parents, objecting to pro-gay curriculum, remove kids from public education.
- ⑨ **Untying the Gay Knot:** Conservatives gather support for Federal Marriage Amendment, Canadian Anglicans split over same-sex unions.
- ⑩ **Dalit Turnabout:** Asia's 'Untouchables' reject Hinduism; move turn to Christianity than ever before.

North American Report, Top Ten News Stories, 2002
Christianity Today, January 2003

Top 10 2003 Predictions

- ① The Bible **will still** have the answers
- ② Prayer **will still** work
- ③ The Holy Spirit **will still** move throughout the work
- ④ God **will still** inhabit the praises of his people
- ⑤ There **will still** be God-anointed preachers
- ⑥ The church **will** grow faster than ever before
- ⑦ God **will still** pour out blessings upon his people
- ⑧ There **will still** be room at the cross for all peoples of all nations
- ⑨ Jesus **will still** love and forgive you
- ⑩ Jesus **will still** save the lost

James O. Davis, Top Ten 2003 Predictions,
Global Pastors Network, January 2, 2003

LEADER'S READING RESOURCE

Hybels, Bill. *Courageous Leadership*, 2002, Zondervan

Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church (one of the largest churches in the U.S.), begins this book with the statement that "the local church is the hope of the world." (p.15) From this premise, Hybels describes the potential and vitality of the church and its great need for Spirit transformed and empowered leadership. According to Hybels, the "360-degree leader" find God's answers and resources for the following questions: Who is your toughest leadership challenge? Is my calling sure? Is my vision clear? Is my passion hot? Am I developing my gifts? Is my character submitted to Christ? Is my pride subdued? Am I overcoming fear? Are interior issues undermining my leadership? Is my pace sustainable? Is my love for God and people increasing? Hybels describes personally and Biblically some of the answers that he has found. His parting exhortation for leaders is "stay the course." (p. 253)

Stott, John. *Basic Christian Leadership*, 2002, InterVarsity Press

Stott, a pastor and author, describes Biblical models of the church, the Gospel, and ministry from I Corinthians 1-4. According to Stott, leaders are those "who command a following... [who] go ahead... show the way and... inspire other people." (p. 11) In each chapter he addresses specific passages and topics related to Christian leadership: the ambiguity of the church (I Corinthians 1:1-17), power through weakness (I Corinthians 1:18-2:5), Holy Spirit and holy scriptures (I Corinthians 2:6-16), the church and the trinity (I Corinthians 3), and models of ministry (I Corinthians 4). Stott's premise is that "Jesus introduced into the world a new style of servant-leadership." (p.11)

Guiliani, Rudolph. *Leadership*, 2002, Hyperion

Guiliani, the popular and highly effective mayor of New York City during the September 11, 2001 tragedy, tells his story and describes the leadership principles that helped guide him through the challenges and uncertainties of the post-9/11 world. Although this is a "secular" approach to leadership, Guiliani's insights and experiences are interesting and in many ways helpful. Chapter titles include: first things first, prepare relentlessly, everyone's accountable, surround yourself with great people, underpromise and overdeliver, develop and communicate strong beliefs, be your own man, loyalty, stand up to bullies, and organize around a purpose.

Goldsmith, Marshall (et al, editors). *Learning Journeys*, 2000, Davies-Black

Goldsmith and his team of leadership consultants have compiled and described 37 personal stories from today's most prominent management thinkers and change agents in the business sector. The authors believe that "truly effective people learn from all of life and learn all their lives long." (p. XV 3-7 The authors use stories because they believe that "the power of story is alive in the lessons each of us share and use..." (p. xvi) Personal stories are used to illustrate several leadership issues: leadership lessons, crossroads and choices, learning and teaching, seeing yourself as others do, developing self-knowledge, unlearning, pain as a great teacher, and mentors matter.