

LEADERSHIP TIPS

A publication of
Leadership Development and Church Ministries
Open Bible Churches
Compiled by Dr. Paul Leavenworth

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LEADERSHIP QUOTES

Matters of the Heart

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

Matthew 6:8, NIV

"It is the heart which perceives God and not the reason [alone]. That is what faith is: God perceived by the heart, not [only] by the reason."

Blaise Pascal, mathematician and philosopher

"Our hearts are restless till they rest in [God]."

Augustine, theologian

"Only the pure in heart can see God, and therefore, draw nigh to him; and only by God's drawing nigh to them can they maintain this purity."

Soren Kierkegaard, philosopher and theologian

"Apathy can only be overcome by enthusiasm, and enthusiasm can only be aroused by two things: first, an ideal which takes the imagination by storm, and second, a definite intelligible plan for carrying that ideal into practice."

Arnold Toynbee, historian

"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

I Timothy 1:5, NIV

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Ministry Formation

Essential Leadership Arts

These leadership arts found in the book *Aqua Church* by Leonard Sweet will help churches sail unknown seas as they seek to reach people drowning without hope in Jesus Christ. It is intended to be an inboard navigational system for your church that parallels the inboard navigational systems for cars. The leadership arts are:

Art #1	"Orienting By the North Star: Jesus the Christ"
Art #2	"Studying our Compass: the Bible"
Art #3	"Casting the Anchor: Tradition"
Art #4	"Walking the Gangplank: Risk Taking"
Art #5	"Listening for Sonar: Vibrations"
Art #6	"Seeing Through Scopes: Vision"
Art #7	"Taking Shore Leaves: Sabbath Rest"
Art #8	"Signaling With Flags and Semaphores: Communication"
Art #9	"Valuing the Crew: Collaboration and Teamwork"
Art #10	"Using the Gyroscope: Creativity"
Art #11	"Learning From the Ship's Log and Library: Intellectual Capital"
Art #12	"Feeling the Wet Finger: Intuition"

Each chapter concludes with: (1) A description of a specific Aqua Church, including the reasons why and the web address of the church, (2) the captain's log book, and (3) the ship's log (activities and questions for the leaders of your church).

Strategies for Today's Leaders,
Third Quarter, 2002, Vol. 39, No. 3

Spiritual Formation

Leadership Lessons from Suffering – Seven Things Suffering/Tribulation Does

1. It clears out the clutter of your life; it helps you focus on those things that are most important.
2. It helps you concentrate on your real hope (Jesus), not on other persons or things. He is your means, your supply, your source for miraculously turning adversity to blessing.
3. It increases your trust in God, for in adversity your roots (like the Bristlecone Pine) sink deeper. Adversity places us in our most manly position – on our knees.
4. It forces you to direct your energy based on YOUR choice: you choose death or life based on whether you feel sorry for yourself (self-pity) and bemoan your circumstances, or you choose to find God's options to respond with (direct your energy in a positive, not negative, direction).
5. It causes you to call upon God in a more personal way, to deepen that Father-son relationship, to find again (and deeper yet) that He is good and He loves and means to bring good from adversity, fulfilling the promise of Romans 8:28.
6. It prepares and better qualifies you to minister to others in similar trials and with similar distress. In this way you, jointly with the Holy Spirit, bring life and joy to others and to yourself, and be the change agent He intends you to be.
7. Finally, it's part of the sanctification process a normal process of growth. Our positive response to suffering produces change, growth and miraculously makes us the tree (like the Bristlecone Pine) we should be. Success after success will produce pride. Suffering and persecution will produce character. Like salvation, sanctification is a God-miracle; but it can happen and again and again, in our process of becoming more like Jesus.

David Roper, Idaho Mountain Ministries

Handling Adversity

Ten things to do—and not to do—when you as a pastor face trying circumstances

DO:

1. Face reality and know your weaknesses.
2. Allow God's strength to shower peace and hope in that reality.
3. Receive help, encouragement, accountability and prayer support from others.
4. Blend those blessings from others with an inner willingness to apply God's strength
5. View your "limp" as a blessing, not a curse. It doesn't hurt to laugh, either. Like the Word says, laughter does good like a medicine.
6. Release your feelings and fears in prayer and counseling. Therapy can bring healing to more areas of your life than the noticeable disability.
7. Reach out to others who need help. As you give, God gives much in return. Your testimony, song or smile might be all that person needs.
8. Walk in the fullness of God's Spirit and remember that He is your true source of help.
9. Keep a journal.
10. Obey the rules—a good diet, exercise, proper rest, appropriate medicine and regular tests, if needed.

DON'T

1. Live in denial. Faith does not equal ignorance, denial or stubbornness.
2. Live in doubt. Facing the facts does not provide a reason for deleting faith.
3. Live by trying to do everything for yourself. God's agenda offers others an opportunity for ministry into your life. Rejecting their gifts insults God.
4. Live so codependently on others that you refuse to take safe risks.
5. Live in condemnation, blaming yourself, others or God for the disaster. Condemnation clouds us from the beauty of joy.
6. Be afraid to talk with God and counselors honestly. Confessing to God what He already knows does not offend Him. That will also keep you from becoming obsessed, always speaking only about what you "can no longer do."
7. Live in isolation. Finding a way to help a hurting friend or stranger brings inner healing.
8. Live with self-strength as the only source of help. God's Spirit is available for a reason.
9. Be afraid to write down your anger, fear and questions.
10. Live as a rule-breaker of those guidelines that help your health.

Ministries Today, July/August 2002

LEADERSHIP

Leadership Challenges _____

Barna's Beefs

<p>His nine challenges for American Christianity —prophetic words, or sweeping generalizations?</p>
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CHALLENGE 1: THE SAME OLD SAME OLD

Religious energy may be experienced through new forms of music or dramatic architecture, but there is a noteworthy staleness to the faith experience of most Americans.

If Christianity is to be a serious component in people's lives, there must be an intentional and strategic shakeup of what we do and how we do it within our faith communities. More of the same won't get us any farther down the road of genuine discipleship.

CHALLENGE 2: THE DECLINE OF THE EVANGELICALS

We categorize people as "evangelicals" on the basis of their theological beliefs. The diminution of the group suggests that aberrant theology and doctrine are increasingly invading the inner circle of the Bible-believing community. Whether you applaud evangelicals or abhor them, recognize the implications of their marginalization. Every day, the church is becoming more like the world it allegedly seeks to change. At what point does that collapse become a "crisis" and merit concentrated and strategic response?

CHALLENGE 3: ETHNIC ASCENSION

How will the church address the extreme ethnic diversification of faith communities? Most efforts at building multiethnic or multicultural churches have failed for various reasons. Planting new churches designed to reach a particular nonwhite ethnic group may not do much toward building a true church. How can we translate that openness into a church that is truly colorblind and authentically biblical?

CHALLENGE 4: WHAT ABOUT THE BIBLE?

In the last quarter-century it seems that we have learned how to sell Bibles but not how to sell what's in the Bible. Increasingly, people pick and choose the Bible content they like or feel comfortable with, but ignore the rest of God's counsel. This tendency seems especially prolific among young adults and teenagers. What can we do to elevate the prominence, credibility, and perceived value of God's Word in the eyes of a fickle and distracted public?

CHALLENGE 5: A COSTLESS FAITH

Christianity has no cost in America. We've made it way too easy to be "born again"—perhaps much easier than Jesus intended. When do we get to the point at which we accept smaller numbers of intensely devoted people rather than feverishly investing in filling auditoriums and stadiums with massive numbers of the lukewarm "Christians" that Jesus promised to spew from his mount (Rev. 3:16)?

CHALLENGE 6: UNDERSTANDING THE SUPERNATURAL

Shockingly few Americans understand the power and significance of the supernatural world—the real supernatural dimension. Most Americans deny the existence of Satan and the Holy Spirit and are blissfully ignorant of the spiritual battle that rages around and within them. Who will inform and motivate God's people about the realities of the battle?

CHALLENGE 7: NEW FORM AND SUBSTANCE

Aided by the rise of Busters in the pastorate, Mosaics (18 and younger) will questions and reshape much of the theology that many churches embrace. And they will alter the very ways in which the community of saints gather and experience God's and each other's presence. You can count on some foundation-rattling challenges coming from the Mosaics. Are you ready?

CHALLENGE 8: ISOLATION AMID PLENTY

There are more than 300,000 Protestant churches in the U.S. There are another 20,000 Catholic churches that can be added to the mix. In many communities, churches compete rather than cooperate. What will it take for churches to become the Church? At what point will we drop our territorialism and recognize how much we need each other in order to complete God's work his way?

CHALLENGE 9: WHERE ARE THE LEADERS?

The people who fill the positions of leadership in churches today are, for the most part, teacher—good people, lovers of God, well-educated, gifted communicators—but not leaders. They do

not have or understand vision. They are incapable of motivating and mobilizing people around God's vision. They fail to direct people's energies and resources effectively and efficiently.

For the church to become strong again, we must heed the guidance of the leaders God has called and gifted for that purpose, while growing through the focused teaching of those who are gifted to explicate his Word and its profound implications for our lives.

Christianity Today, August 5, 2002

Condensed from Barna's *The State of the Church: 2002* (Issachar)

MINISTRY

Ministry Management

Compassion Fatigue

Being a caregiver himself, Barney Self, a licensed family and marriage therapist and LeaderCare counselor for LifeWay Christian Resources, knows the causes and symptoms of a malady he calls "compassion fatigue."

Symptoms of compassion fatigue, Self said, include:

Physical

- Fatigue
- Physical depletion/exhaustion
- Sleep difficulties
- Somatic problems (headaches, colds, ulcers)

Emotional

- Irritability
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Guilt

Behavioral

- Aggression
- Pessimism
- Callousness
- Defensiveness

Work-Related

- Quitting the job
- Poor work performance
- Absenteeism
- Tardiness

Interpersonal

- Perfunctory communication with others
- Inability to concentrate on relationships
- Withdrawal from others
- Dehumanizing others

Self challenges ministers to "do healthy things for themselves." He furnishes a list of depleters and replenishers:

Depleters

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ⊗ Caffeine | ⊗ Sexual affairs—internet or physical |
| ⊗ Processed sugar/white flour-based foods | ⊗ Eating on the run or alone |
| ⊗ Eating for comfort | ⊗ Compulsive buying |
| ⊗ Alcohol | ⊗ Gambling |
| ⊗ Pornography | ⊗ Lethargy |
| ⊗ Isolation | ⊗ Workaholism |
| ⊗ Avoidance | ⊗ Distance from friends |
| | ⊗ Nicotine |

Replishers

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storytelling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exercise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hearing others' healing stories | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy diet |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music (appropriate types) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Couple relationship time |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hearing stories outside the caregiving realm | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive hobbies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meditation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spiritual growth—prayer/Bible study |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guided imagery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Massage | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connectedness with friends |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Journaling | <i>(koinonia)</i> |

Terri Lackey, *SBC Life*, Journal of the Southern Baptist Convention, August 2002

Mentoring

Parenting PKs

PKs (pastor's kid) face demands, expectations and challenges most other children never have to even think about. Here's what you can do to give your children the support they need.

- Do not sacrifice your family on the altar of ministry.
- Spend time with each member of your family individually. Enjoy simple, everyday moments with your kids. Involve your family in your decisions and ministry.
- Don't neglect your family's devotional life. Spend family time in God's presence. Minister to, pray with and bless your spouse and children.
- Lay a firm foundation and set boundaries. Teach your congregation to respect your family time. Make it clear that your family is your first ministry.
- Be authentic. Practice what you preach both in and out of the pulpit.
- Let your children see your fun and human side. Enjoy them. Regularly go on a "date" with each child.
- Listen to your children and speak candidly to them.
- Respect and protect your child's privacy. Don't expose his or her life in a sermon illustration.
- Give your children the opportunity to be normal. Don't pressure them with unrealistic expectations or force them to grow up prematurely.
- Love and support your children through all the challenges they will face. Allow them the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.
- Use wisdom and be sensitive to allow God to be the one to promote your children into ministry. Don't push them in prematurely because of your own desires or need for help.
- Give your children a prayer covering and a spiritual inheritance they can pass on to their children.

Ministries Today, July/August 2002

31 Biblical Virtues To Pray For Your Kids

1. **Salvation.** "Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory." (Isaiah 45:8, 2 Timothy 2:10).
2. **Growth in grace.** "I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18).
3. **Love.** "Grant, Lord, that my children may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them." (Galatians 5:25, Ephesians 5:2).
4. **Honesty and integrity.** "May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection." (Psalm 25:21).

5. **Self-Control.** "Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do." (1 Thessalonians 5:6).
6. **Love for God's Word.** "May my children grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb." (Psalm 19:10).
7. **Justice.** "God, help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do." (Psalm 11:7, Micah 6:8).
8. **Mercy.** "May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36).
9. **Respect (for self, others, authority).** "Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as your Word commands." (1 Peter 2:17).
10. **Biblical self-esteem.** "Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:10).
11. **Faithfulness.** "Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these twin virtues around their necks and write them on the tablet of their hearts." (Proverbs 3:3).
12. **Courage.** "May my children always be strong and courageous in their character and in their actions." (Deuteronomy 31:6).
13. **Purity.** "Create in them a pure heart. O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions." (Psalm 51:10).
14. **Kindness.** "Lord, may my children always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else." (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
15. **Generosity.** "Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age." (1 Timothy 6:18-19).
16. **Peace-loving.** "Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace." (Romans 14:19).
17. **Joy.** "May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit." (1 Thessalonians 1:6).
18. **Perseverance.** "Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them." (Hebrews 12:1).
19. **Humility.** "God, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all." (Titus 3:2).
20. **Compassion.** "Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion." (Colossians 3:12).
21. **Responsibility.** "Grant that my children may learn responsibility, for each one should carry his own load." (Galatians 6:5)
22. **Contentment.** "Father, teach my children the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives them strength." (Philippians 4:12-13)
23. **Faith.** "I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children's hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them." (Luke 17:5-6, Hebrews 11:1-40).
24. **A servant's heart.** "God, please help my children develop servants' hearts, that they may serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men." (Ephesians 6:7).
25. **Hope.** "May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13).
26. **Willingness and ability to work.** "Teach my children, Lord, to value work and to work at it with all their heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Colossians 3:23).
27. **Passion for God.** "Lord, please instill in my children a soul that follows hard after you." (Psalm 63:8).
28. **Self-discipline.** "Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair." (Proverbs 1:3).
29. **Prayerfulness.** "Grant, Lord, that my children's lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Ephesians 6:19).

30. **Gratitude.** "Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20, Colossians 2:7).
31. **A heart for missions.** "Lord, please help my children to develop a desire to see your glory declared among the nations, your marvelous deeds among all peoples." (Psalm 96:3).

Mountain Streams, February, 2002
Mountain Plains Region, OBC newsletter

LEADER'S READING RESOURCE

Goll, Jim and Lou Engle. *Elijah's Revolution*, 2002, Destiny Image Publishers, Treasure House

The sub-title to this book is "the call to passion and sacrifice for radical change." This book serves as a prophetic call to cooperate with God in His purpose to revive the church and equip a new generation of believers who will radically participate in the great harvest that God is bringing in all over the world today. The authors use the lives of Elijah (passion) and Esther (sacrifice) as examples and types of the heart of a new generation of believers who are sold out for Jesus and His Great Commission cause. The authors challenge us that "normal" Christianity has *always* been 'extreme': extreme devotion to the person of Jesus Christ; extreme abandonment of self-will and absolute surrender to the will and purposes of God; extreme love for God that totally consumes one's heart, soul, mind and strength." (p. 45)

Nee, Watchman. *How to Study the Bible*, 1993, Living Stream Ministry

The sub-title of this book is "practical advice for receiving light [spiritual insight] from God's Word." This compilation of Nee's teaching notes on Bible study is full of insight and practical suggestions for "hearing from God through His Word." Nee describes three prerequisites: 1) the need to be spiritual; 2) consecration; and 3) the need to experience God's Word in practice. Next he describes how the student of the Word depends upon the Holy Spirit to: 1) enter into the thoughts of the Spirit; 2) enter into the facts recorded by the Spirit; and 3) enter into the spirit of the scriptures. Nee also describes different types of Bible study, but emphasizes that the ultimate purpose of the study of God's Word is to better know God and become more like him. Nee concludes that "we need to remember that the way to study the Word is to have our being dealt with by God." (p. 74)

Thomas, Viv. *Future Leader*, 1999, Paternoster Press

According to Thomas, who coordinates leadership development with Operation Mobilization, there is an emerging model of leadership that is driven by compassion, not obsession; rooted in relationship, not systems; and promotes life, not self-image. Leaders who embrace this new model will be team motivated and change oriented while facing four major contradictions: 1) creativity amid chaos; 2) tension between specialization and generalizations; 3) tribal and global relationships and responsibilities; and 4) communication amid alienation. The characteristics of those who embrace this new emerging model include: 1) submission to the God-given context; 2) understanding contradiction but maintain God given vision; 3) maintaining healthy momentum in times of chaos; 4) maintaining long-term loving relationships; 5) empowering others to realize their God-given potential; 6) using technology for Kingdom purposes; 7) understanding that ministry comes out of a healthy devotional life; 8) understanding self and political realities; 9) being a life-long learner; and 10) being about the Great Commission.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Spheres of Authority*, 2002, Wagner Publications

C. Peter Wagner has written several books on the "new apostolic reformation" which include *Churchquake* (1999). This is the most balanced and Biblically based of his efforts so far. Wagner

discusses his view that God is "restoring" apostles to their proper role and responsibilities in the church for the purposes of fulfilling the Great Commission. He examines the Biblical passages that refer to the function of the apostle and defines them as "Christian leaders[s], gifted, taught, commissioned, and sent by God with the authority to establish the foundational government of the church within an assigned sphere of ministry by hearing what the Spirit is saying to the churches and by setting things in order accordingly for the growth and maturity of the church." (p. 25) Wagner emphasizes character and accountability as essential qualities of true apostles. His discussions of spheres of influence and types of apostles are helpful. Wagner concludes his argument for the emergence of the "new apostolic age" by stating that "God will only bless us if we let the wine go to our hearts and produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We must move forward in humility, honoring, while not necessarily imitating, those who have gone before." (p. 122)