

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

Part One:

The Holy Spirit and Prayer

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All quotes are from *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders unless otherwise noted.

INTRODUCTION

The ultimate goal of all ministry (diakonia, i.e. service) is to lead people to Jesus, while being led by Jesus, thus giving glory to God.

"Bishop Leslie Newbigin even goes so far as to question how far the conception of leadership is one that we really ought to encourage. It is so difficult to use it without being misled by its non-Christian counterpart. The need is not so much for leaders as for saints and servants, and unless that fact is held steadily in the foreground, the whole idea of leadership training becomes dangerous. The pattern of training in Christian leadership must still be that given by our Lord in his training of the twelve."

"You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all." **Mark 10:42b-44**

I. Leadership is not about offices and titles, but about character and hearts.

- A. Definition of spiritual leaders: influencing others toward Jesus Christ.
- B. We influence not out of titles, but out of character and hearts.
- C. "The final estimate of men shows that history cares not an iota for the rank or title a man has borne, or the office he has held, but only the quality of his deeds and the character of his mind and heart." Samuel Logan Brengle, *The Soul-Winner's Secret*.
- D. "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. An my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and the power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God." **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

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- E. "It is not won by promotion, but by many prayers and tears. It is attained by confessions of sin, and much heart searching and humbling before God; by self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold, deathless, uncompromising and uncomplaining embracing of the cross, and by an eternal, unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified." Samuel Logan Brengle, *The Soul-Winner's Secret*.
- F. "Maturity isn't measured by one's learning or knowledge, but by one's lifestyle."

II. Natural Leader	vs.	Spiritual Leader
Self-confident		Confident in God
Knows people		Also knows God
Makes own decisions		Seeks God's will
Enjoys directing others		Delights in obeying God
Independent		God-dependent
Ambitious		Passionate for God
Makes own methods		Seeks God's way
		Loving people

III. Leadership Development

- A. School of Life
1. All you are, your struggles, successes, equip you.
 2. You minister out of **what** you are.
- B. Being, not doing, builds spiritual authority
1. Spiritual Exercises: Quiet time, prayer, fasting, study the Word
 2. Examples: David, Moses, Paul
- C. Key Lesson: "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much." **Luke 16:10**
- "God will not trust His people to you if He cannot trust His money and things to you, for His people are much more important to Him than His **material wealth**."
1. Proper response brings greater release.
 2. Study the lives of other leaders. See how they slowly grew.

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- D. "Methods are many, principles are few. Methods always change, principles never do." Warren Wiersbe
- E. "God works principally in the leader first not through them. Emerging leaders who do not recognize this will be frustrated. We're evaluating activities while He's evaluating us." Paul Stanley.

IV. Recap

- A. Nature of leadership is influence.
- B. Influence flows out of your being not your giftedness (or surface leading).
- C. Learning from the issues (read lessons) of life is critical.
- D. "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put devious lips far from you." **Proverbs 4:23-24**
- E. "Let me be taught that the first great business on earth is the sanctification of my own soul." Henry Martyn

V. Work of the Holy Spirit

- A. If we agree leadership flows from our inner being, then:
 - 1. We must recognize we cannot lead on our own.
 - 2. We must expect and experience the touch of the supernatural in our service.
- B. "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task... And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man *full* of faith and *the Holy Spirit*, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch." **Acts 6:3, 5**
- C. All Christians are under obligation to be the best they can be for God. In the parable of the Talents: **Matthew 25:14-30**
 - 1. They traded their talents.
 - 2. They took risks.

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- D. All of us are leaders to the extent we influence others. You will influence others to the extent you yourself are influenced by the Holy Spirit.
- E. "And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened. Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" **Luke 11:9-13**
- F. "Spiritual leadership can be exercised only by Spirit-filled people. Other qualifications for spiritual leadership are desirable. To be Spirit-filled is indispensable."
- G. "The Holy Spirit does not take control of any person or body of people against their will. When He sees people who lack spiritual fitness to cooperate with Him, elected to positions of leadership, He quietly withdraws and leaves them to implement their own policy according to their own standards, but without His aid. The inevitable issue is an unspiritual administration."
- "The church at Jerusalem was sensitive to the exhortation of the apostles and selected seven men possessing the requisite qualities. As a result of their Spirit filled activity, the disaffection was quickly healed, the church was blessed, and the men selected to dispense earthly benefits were soon seen as the Spirit's agents in dispensing heavenly blessings. Stephen became the first martyr for Christ, and his death played no small part in the conversion of Saul. Philip became the first lay evangelist and was used by the Spirit to lead the great revival in Samaria. Faithfulness in the exercise of gifts of nature and grace prepares the way for elevation to greater planes of usefulness and, perhaps, the multiplication of those gifts."
- H. In the book of Acts, it stands clear that the leaders who significantly influenced the Christian movement were people who were filled with the Holy Spirit:
1. It is recorded, of Him who commanded His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high, that He was Himself 'anointed...with the Holy Spirit and with power' (10:38).
 2. The privileged one hundred twenty in the upper room were all filled with the Spirit (2:4).
 3. Peter was filled with the Spirit when he addressed the Sanhedrin (4:8).

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4. Stephen, filled with the Spirit, was enabled to bear irresistible witness to Christ and to die as a radiant martyr (6:3,5; 7:55).
5. It was in the Spirit's fullness that Paul commenced and exercised his unique ministry (9:17; 13:9).
6. Paul's missionary companion Barnabas was filled with the Spirit (11:24).

He would be strangely blind who did not discern in these facts, the fundamental criterion and equipment for spiritual leadership.

VI. Prayer

"But He Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray." **Luke 5:16**

- A. "To busy Martin Luther, extra work was a compelling argument for spending more time in prayer. Hear his answer to an inquiry about his plans for the next day's work: 'Work, work from early till late. In fact I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.' "
- B. "Progressive teaching in the art of praying is needed, and the Holy Spirit is the Master Teacher. His assistance in prayer is more frequently mentioned in Scripture than any of His other offices. All true praying stems from His activity in the soul. Both Paul and Jude teach that effective prayer is 'praying in the Spirit.'"
- C. "Prayer influences people by influencing God to influence them."
- D. "To move people, the leader must be able to move God."
- E. "Between God on the one hand and the devil on the other, stands the praying person. Though weak in them self, they occupy a strategic role in the deathless struggle between the dragon and the Lamb."
- F. "When asked if he really believed that two men for whose salvation he had prayed for over fifty years would be converted, George Mueller of Bristol replied, 'Do you think God would have kept me praying all these years if He did not intend to save them?' Both men were converted, one shortly before, the other after, Mueller's death."

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G. Asking is the law of the Kingdom:

"Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened." **Matthew 7:7-8**

H. Persistence is the key:

Mark 7:24-30; Luke 18:1-8; Luke 11:5-13

I. Fasting is a part:

Isaiah 58:1-14, 57:15; Matthew 6:16; Acts 13:1-4

