



LEADERSHIP

A Teaching Newsletter of Pastor Gregg Johnson and The Mission Church

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A NEW RESOURCE FOR LEADERS

Leadership Teaching Newsletter is a great new resource for pastors, missionaries and all who are engaged in Christian Leadership. This monthly publication is developed by Pastor Gregg Johnson and staff of The Mission Church and is provided free to all leaders of ministries who strive toward greater effectiveness in the ministry they serve. Leadership endeavors to fulfill the following values:

- TO EQUIP by providing teachings, insights and information to Christian leaders in foreign lands who are unable to access mainstream media.
- TO ENCOURAGE the body of Christ around the world by inspiring the church's leaders to persevere through challenges, adversity and even persecution.
- TO EXHORT men and women in leadership to demonstrate the example of Christ through godly devotion, love of the brethren and commitment to the family.

If you are a leader in Christian ministry and would like to be added to our mailing list, Please contact the Mission Church.

5 QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE LEADERS

Pastor Gregg Johnson

"A man's gift may take him to the top, but only character will keep him there."

There are certain qualities, which if present in one's character, will cause him to succeed in whatever he chooses to do. This is especially true when it comes to Christian leadership. Whether a missionary evangelist, a bible school administrator or pastor of a local church, if one demonstrates these certain attributes, he will not only be propelled to "the top," he will remain there to enjoy the fruits of his labor.

VISION

Vision is seeing by faith the state God has called you to while focusing your energies toward achieving that state."

Leadership is not just having a title, holding a position or sitting on a committee. Leadership is about people. It's about influencing people toward change; taking them from their present condition and pulling them to the place God wants them to be. In order to do this, one must have vision.

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Without vision, the people perish." There's nothing more frustrating than trying to follow someone who doesn't know where they're going. Without a grasp of where the head is leading, followers become discouraged having no sense of significant accomplishment, resentful while feeling their time is being

wasted and will eventually quit not having good reason to continue making the sacrifices required by their leaders. Another translation of Proverbs 28:18 reads, "Without revelation, the people cast off restraint." The opposite is equally true: with revelation, the people practice restraint. Destiny determines discipline. When people know where they are going (when they have vision), they will focus themselves accordingly and throw off anything that hinders them.

Vision must be clear and practical. Too many well-intentioned leaders never succeed because those following them could not take ownership of a significant purpose. It is one thing to state a vision; it is another thing to convey it in a way that others can embrace it. For this to occur, several elements must be present.

First, develop a general vision statement that clarifies the values or goals the body is endeavoring to fulfill. But don't place too much confidence in a written statement alone; this is just a process to help you define your direction. The true essence of one's vision is borne out of how he leads. Every decision, every staff position, every project and calendar item must be implemented only as it supports the values of the vision. Further, these choices must be communicated enthusiastically to the body so followers will understand, take ownership of and support the direction of their body.

Secondly, develop specific objectives, positions or projects to directly support the vision while communicating the value they have to the life of the body. These are important

because they give people the opportunity to directly involve themselves with the vision and celebrate the victories that come through their involvement. Its these victories that build strength into the body and integrity into the character of one's leadership. Furthermore,

specific tasks that yield victory encourage people to commit themselves unselfishly and even sacrificially.

SELF CONTROL

"No man can lead others until he has first conquered himself."

Without self control, one's success will destroy him. Scores of good men and women have found themselves in places of authority only to realize their character was not deep enough to support their advancement. With promotion in the kingdom of God comes greater responsibility, and with that: temptation and spiritual attack. "Higher levels brings higher devils" and if a leader does not have mastery over his flesh, he will fall under the pressure those attacks bring.

No where is this better exemplified than in the life of Samson (Jdgs 16). With his promotion to au-

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5 QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE LEADERS (con't from pg. 1)

thority came invitations to fraternize with the world. Women started noticing him and materialism came within his reach. But lacking mastery over his impulses, he flirted with temptation, gave birth to sin which brought quick and certain death to his divine destiny.

As leaders, we should never allow ambition to race ahead of self discipline. Our prayer should often be, "Lord, don't allow me to ascend to a level of authority that my character has not been prepared to support." It is a good thing that God doesn't give us that "stuff" we've been naming and claiming—if He did, it would probably kill us. With a larger church comes more pressure to please the crowds. Bigger budgets and taller buildings test one's financial integrity. Admiration of men brings the luring eyes of women and frequent offers of compromise. If a man's character has not been refined in the fires of self control, he will find himself like Samson: stripped, defeated,



INTEGRITY

"Leadership occurs when one lives by principle rather than preference."

Paul warned Timothy his protégé that a bishop must be blameless (1 Tim. 3). Moral courage is a scriptural requirement for any aspiring to leadership in the kingdom of God.

Integrity is twofold. First it is the belief in an absolute system of right and wrong. Second, it is the will to do right regardless of personal cost.

Sadly, there are many today who have no sense of absolutes. Instead they are guided by a "non-principle" that says, "I don't do what is morally right; I do what is right for me." For them, right and wrong is established by what helps or hinders their advancement. If honesty helps them succeed, they will be truthful, if honesty becomes a hindrance, they'll simply lie. If marriage supports their ambition, they will be married, if not they'll simply divorce.

A person of integrity doesn't live by what best serves him, he is guided by certain non-negotiable principles—even if those principles come at great personal expense. Daniel had an unwavering commitment to pray daily. He refused to waver from this conviction even when it meant he would be thrown to the lions. It's inter-

esting to note that there was no Mosaic Law requiring such piety, Daniel arrived at this personal conviction out of a relationship with the Lord. Abstaining from prayer would not have violated any law on the "books," it would however violate a law written on His heart.

Effective leaders are men and women who lead out of their own passion. They have raw convictions that cannot be com-

promised regardless of personal cost. It is this strength of character that holds them firm in times of hardship, guides them through seasons of adversity, and inspires their followers with confident devotion.

HUMILITY

"A servant is concerned mostly with the needs of the one he serves."

Many books have been written and seminars organized on the topic of leadership. However, no where in the bible can the word "leadership" be found. Instead, we see the word "servant." Scriptures refer to "Moses, My servant, Abraham My servant and My servant David."

While important to study the patterns of effective leaders, we must be careful not to be caught up such worldly attitudes of James and John in Mark 10. Worldly leadership is men advancing and promoting themselves. It is centered around

popularity, admiration, having power over others and exercising control over them. But in Christ, leadership is the exact opposite. Christian leadership is actually servant hood. Rather than holding others down to lift up yourself, it is being concerned with the needs and welfare of others over your own.

If we are seeking leadership to be noticed, honored or exalted, we are doing it for the wrong reason. Our ministry will be impure, corrupt and void of God's blessing. James 4:6 says, "God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble." Self promotion provokes God to move against us. Humility, on the other hand, draws down God's blessing and rich provision.

One of the highest values a leader can have is to promote others above himself. Eph. 4:11-12 says that leaders in the kingdom of God are to equip the saints for the ministry. Unfortunately, some "leaders" are unable to do this. They are threatened by others. Fear that an upcoming protégé is more talented, has stronger gifts and may steal their popularity causes them

to undermine their student's advancement and cut them off from promotion.

Leaders must understand that their greatest compliment comes when people under their mentorship have become effective and widely used in ministry. What greater testimony to one's leadership can there be than the success of his student. This is not something to be feared, this is what every leader should covet.

INTIMACY

"We can lead no person until we are first led by God."

Job 15:8 asks, "Have you heard the secret counsel of the Lord?" As leaders in His kingdom, we must be intimate with the King. More than just knowing scripture, or knowing doctrine, we must know God.

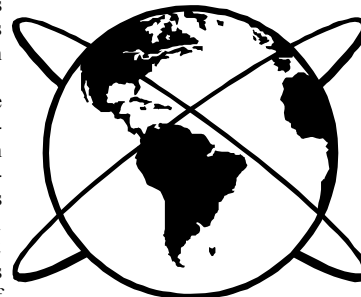
Just because one knows about God doesn't mean he knows God. I may know a lot about the president of the U.S., but that doesn't mean I know him personally.

Those who were effective leaders for God were intimate with Him first; they were led by Him on a personal basis. It was out of this intimacy that prophetic authority flowed. They were leaders who saw into God's heart, they understood His burden and knew His intentions. Amos 3:7 says "The Lord does nothing until He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." It was out of an intimacy with God that Abraham knew of God's intention to destroy Sodom, Moses understood Yahweh's response to Israel's complaints and Samuel knew that the Lord did not want a king.

As leader's we must set the standard for intimacy with God. It matters not that no one else studies His Word, prayers fervently or loves to worship. We are to ascend to the secret place of the Lord and pull others into it by the force or our passion.

It is out of an intimacy with God that effective leadership flows. It gives us a wisdom that exceeds our education, an insight that surpasses our experience, and a power that propels our destiny. Into each bible

leaflet let every leader inscribe, "Intimacy with Him must precede service for Him."



Go into all the world and preach the gospel teaching them to observe all things I have commanded

SIGNS OF MINISTERIAL APOSTACY

- ☛ Loss of Appetite for the Word of God
- ☛ Neglecting to Engage in Prayer
- ☛ Easily Distracted During Times of Worship
- ☛ Absenteeism from Accountability
- ☛ Developing A Critical Attitude
- ☛ Lack of Respect for Authorities
- ☛ Loosening of Once Sacred Convictions
- ☛ Praises of Men sought over pleasing God
- ☛ Programs become more important than people
- ☛ Apathy toward the struggles of others

blind and laboring in the enemy's gristmill.

Billy Graham wrote, "There are men who can command armies but cannot command themselves. There are men who by their burning words can sway vast multitudes but who cannot keep silence under provocation or wrong. The highest mark of nobility is self-control. It is more kingly than regal crown and purple robe."

FAITH FOUNDATIONS: The Authority of Scripture

Rich Langford

The authority of any document is based on the authority of its author. For example, an essay on the subject of the cause of cancer that is written by a college student has less authority than one written by someone who has won a Nobel prize for cancer research. Both may be true and accurate but one has greater authority because its author is recognized as an expert on the topic.

When we speak about “the authority of scripture” we are really trying to answer the question, what exactly do we mean when we say that the Bible is the Word of God? Because God is the ultimate authority on every subject, the authority of scripture depends on the extent to which it relates the actual words of God Himself as opposed to words of men speaking about God. If the Bible is authored by God, it shares His authority; but if not, its authority is only as great as the men who wrote it.

First, we should see what the Bible claims about itself. 2Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2Peter 1:20-21 states, “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophets themselves or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God.”

It’s clear from these two

passages that the Bible claims God as its author (2Tim 3:16 says “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God”). Peter explains how it came to be physically written by men without sacrificing its authority as the Word of God. Further, Paul confirms that the Bible is authoritative because it can be used for practical matters of correction and reveals the principles by which God wants us to live, work, and relate to Him.

Now that we know that the Bible claims the authority of God for itself, we must measure that claim against outside evidence.

One such proof is in the continuity of the Bible. Consider some of the following facts about the Bible:

- It was written over a period of 1,500 years.
- The actual writings were the work of 40 different men from every walk of life including peasants, kings, soldiers, poets, fishermen, statesmen, and shepherds.
- It was written on three different continents (Europe, Asia, and Africa).
- It was written in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).
- It was written in several different styles (legal, historical, poetic, prophetic, apocalyptic, correspondence).

In spite of this, however, the Bible is completely unified in its teachings and its themes. There are no inconsistencies or contradictions. From Genesis to Revelation we read about the same God who never changes.

Another proof is historical/archeological. There are no instances in which an historical prophecy has not come true. Many of these prophe-

sies are extremely detailed and have been fulfilled in every aspect. The prophecy in Daniel 11 describes the conquest of Asia by Alexander the Great, his premature death, the subsequent dividing of his kingdom between his four generals and the conflicts that arose between those king-

scholars agree is the date that Jesus was actually born. (The current calendar has no foundation in scripture. The year 1 AD was actually set by a Roman Catholic Pope who made a good guess but was off by a few years.) The Bible has never been proven to be wrong.

There are many other proofs that establish beyond a doubt that the Bible is the Word of God. This point is important because it means that God has given us a standard, a point from which we can measure everything else and determine whether it is true. God’s ways are unfathomable (Romans 11:33) and so we can never expect that any one person or group of people, no matter how wise or how godly, can provide us with a perfect model of the way in which we are supposed to walk.

The Bible was given to us to be the final arbiter. Its authority is absolute because it is the Word of God and His authority is absolute. As leaders of those seeking to live according to God’s will we must be intimately

“Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.”

Winston Churchill

doms. Having such incredible accuracy and detail, historians dismissed this prophetic utterance as a fake; they said that it must have been written after the events unfolded. However, archeological evidence has confirmed that the style of Aramaic used in Daniel was the same as that used in Babylon during Daniel’s time there more than 200 years before Alexander.

In fact it has often been the case that historians doubted the accuracy of biblical records only to discover archeological finds proving the Bible correct. Another example is Luke’s statement that the Governor of Syria at the time of Jesus’ birth was Quirinius (Luke 2:2). Historians had long pointed to Josephus’ history of Israel as proof that Luke was wrong. Josephus said that Quirinius was Governor of Asia in 6 AD, after Jesus had been born. Since then, however, archeologists discovered a monument which stated that Quirinius was Governor of Syria in 7 BC—about the same time, other records point to the taking of a Roman census, and the time most

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The Integrity of the Bible

It claims to be divinely inspired

II Tim. 3:16, I Pet. 1:21, II Thess. 1:

It has no contradictions

Written over 1500 hundred years by 40 different authors in 3 different languages without any contradictions

It is scientifically accurate

Stated the earth’s roundness before Columbus: Is. 40:22
Reveals the secret of dividing light in the invention of radio waves in Job 38:5
Job 38:24 and predicts

It is historically accurate

attempt to reject its basic historicity even in matters of detail now appear absurd.” A.N. Sherwin-White

It is archeologically accurate

“On the whole...archeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of scripture. Archeologists have found their respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine.” Yale Archeologist Millar Burrows

It is universally accepted

more more The Bible has been read by more people, published in languages, translated, retranslated and paraphrased than any other book in existence.

It’s messianic prophecies

Is. 7:14; 50:6; 53:4-7; Ps. 22:16; Ps. 68:18

It’s historical prophecies

Announcement of Cyrus & Fall of Babylon: Is. 44:28-45:2
The Fall of Tyre: Ezekiel 26:1-14

It shows the only way of salvation

himself Every other religious writing teaches that man must make acceptable to God. Only the Bible reveals the true God who reaches out to man, cleanses his guilt and reconciles

TO THE TIMOTHY: Tips for Teachings

- **Set three points.** You want to capture your listeners, not bore them. Organize your thoughts, define them concisely and make smooth transitions between them.
- **Prune, prune, prune.** Eliminate unnecessary words. Get to the point. Stick to the point. Illustrate the point. Summarize the point. Move on!
- **Fire the furnace.** Communicate with passion. Anemic presentations guarantee ane-

mic results. Ask God to kindle your soul with holy fire.

- **Resist shortcuts.** Prepare. Prepare. Prepare. Don’t wait until the last minute. “Saturday Night specials often misfire.”
- **Marinate the message.** Soak your soul in its truth and internalize each point.
- **Teach from the heart.** Good communication begins with the heart. An

open heart invites open hearts. Draw on personal examples that demonstrate personal experience.

- **Be humble.** Avoid talking down to your listeners with haughtiness, anger or condemnation. Try to speak in generalities using the third person plural.
- **Trust The Great Communicator.** Remember it is the Holy Spirit who teaches effectively—not human talent.

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FAMILY FOCUS: Husbands' & Wives' Praying Together

Pastor Gregg Johnson

Do you and your spouse pray together regularly? If you do, your home and marriage will be strong. If you don't, you're probably facing struggles and conflicts that could otherwise be avoided. A regular, consistent devotional time between spouses is a family's first line of defense against the enemy.

In Job 1:1-10 we see how Satan wanted to attack a family but could not. There was a wall of protection around this home that was placed there by prayer. A family who can stand against the wiles of the enemy is a family united in prayer—and the most effective prayer is when the husband and wife stand together in intercession.

The first reason why such prayer is most effective is because it develops true "oneness" in the marriage. Gen. 2:24 says a man and a woman shall become one flesh. There are many couples who have become one flesh—but spiritually, they are in two different worlds. They both may love the Lord and walk with the Lord, but they are not walking with the Lord together. Scripture says that husbands and wives are "heirs together of the grace of life."

Their journey in Christ should be hand in hand, learning together, sharing together, worshipping and discovering His presence together.

When couples pray together something happens spiritually. There is a special unity that both souls feel and carry with them in their hearts even when apart. Ecc. 4:9,10 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good

reward for their labor, for if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls for he has no one to lift him up."

In these devotional times many offenses can be healed. Many complaints a wife has about her husband come from not feeling valued by him or that he doesn't think high enough of her to have prayer or discuss spiritual concerns together. When a husband takes time to pray with his wife he shows her how significant and valuable she is to him. This brings sincere encouragement to the wife, enhances the marriage and builds peace in the home. The old saying is true, "If momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy."

A second benefit is that praying together introduces the "agreement of faith" into the family. Many of the things we face can only be solved through prayer. And the most effective prayer is described in Matt. 18:19: "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." The scriptural principle of spiritual synergy reminds us that one shall chase a thousand and two shall set ten thousand to flight. So many difficulties would be avoided if families grasped this truth.

The enemy will try to get us to do anything as long as we don't pray together. He tells us to write new family budgets, change schools for the kids, go to counseling or move to a new neighborhood—anything as long as we don't pray together. The devil knows that carnal weapons can't break his strongholds, only spiritual ones. The only way he can keep control of our family is by keeping husbands and wives from praying together.

A third reason why

couples need to pray together is that it brings a greater sense of the presence of God in the home. There are some homes I go into where there is just no sense of God's blessing. While in other homes there is a tangible peace that hovers upon them. This is the abiding anointing of the Holy Spirit that remains because He isn't grieved, quenched or neglected. This is what we all should want. This is what our children need to grow up in.

This was actually the "hedge" that Job had around his home. It was the manifest presence of God. When His presence prevails in a home, special things happen. Couples are not easy pray for an angry spirit; love and sincere consideration abounds toward one another. As well, the convicting power of the Holy Spirit will deal with sinful tendencies or worldly compromise—especially in the children. Mom and dad can't always see what the teens may be doing, but when the anointing of God hovers on a home via the authority of the parent's supplications, the Lord becomes that ever present watchman.

As important as praying together is, there are many challenges that come to couples as they endeavor to do it. Some of the difficulties that arise are as follows:

"There isn't enough time in our schedule to stop and pray together." It's true, we're all busy. But somehow we find time to do the things we consider to be important. The real problem is not a lack of time, it is not seeing prayer with our spouse as valuable. In effect, we need to change our attitude.

Remember, We don't need hours of prayer together. In fact, I think it is better to have shorter times of prayer—more consistently. If all you can squeeze out is 5 or 10 minutes, that's fine. More

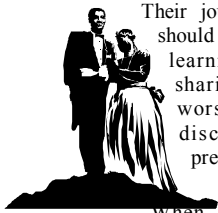
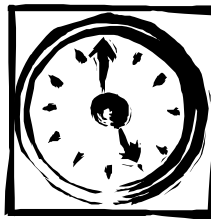
than likely, that amount of time will grow and you will be looking forward to longer prayer meetings with your spouse.

"We get discouraged because of inconsistency." Many couples give up trying because they fail in their goal to pray together everyday. Don't give up. Perhaps you need smaller goals that are more attainable. It is fine if all you can do is pray together a few times a week. Celebrate those small accomplishments rather than condemning yourselves for what you can't do. It is important to not fall under "bondage" to this. Having a legalistic approach toward daily prayer is almost as unhealthy as not praying at all.

"It's difficult to relate to each other spiritually because of past offenses." A wife may think her husband is a hypocrite and the husband may feel threatened by his wives piety. This is simple to remedy: forgive. God is trying to show you hidden judgments you have toward one another that are hindering your marriage. Learn to accept one another's strengths and weaknesses—as well as your own.

"The husband lacks initiative." Ultimately it is the husband's responsibility to initiate prayer in the home. Too often it falls to the wife to read the Bible with the kids, ask to pray for special needs and push the family to attend church. Sir, you are the spiritual head and priest of your home. Put down the newspaper, turn off the TV grab your wife's hand and say those three special words, "Honey, let's pray!"

If you can do this—even a little bit. It will revolutionize your



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