

The Power of Spiritual Leaders

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

We are living in troubled times...

Here are some others: GLAAD, a leading LGBTQ watchdog group, is urging Hollywood to incorporate more LGBTQ content into children's programming. A former Disney Channel actor recently spoke of witnessing his female co-stars being sexually exploited at an early age. And new sex education guidelines in New Jersey will teach first-graders about gender identity.

For wholesalers, the price of vegetables rose 82% last month from a year earlier. Grain prices increased 40% while meat and fish categories rose an average 23% compared with March 2021. Then there is energy. Home heating oil, diesel, and gasoline rose 106%, 64%, and 60%, respectively.

The official CPI no longer measures the cost of maintaining a constant standard of living, Williams says. His index, which he says does reflect the cost of maintaining a standard of living, rose 17.2% from a year earlier—the fastest since 1947.

For the first time in 80 years, Gallup has found that less than half of US adults belong to a church, synagogue or mosque.

“US church membership was 73% when Gallup first measured it in 1937 and remained near 70% for the next six decades, before beginning a steady decline around the turn of the 21st century.”

Membership numbers dropped to 50% by 2018, and last year slipped to 47%.

“Over the past two decades, the percentage of Americans who do not identify with any religion has grown from 8% in 1998-2000 to 13% in 2008-2010 and 21% over the past three years,” the report added.

The trend is likely to continue, with Gallup noting that church membership is “strongly correlated with age.” While 66% of Americans born before 1946 belong to a church, only 58% of baby boomers do. Meanwhile, membership for Generation X is 50%, and just 36% for millennials. Available data on adult members of Generation Z appear to mirror millennial rates of religiosity.

ONE THING

Spiritual leaders fulfill their RESPONSIBILITY, not through natural ABILITY, but through daily AVAILABILITY.

Deuteronomy 17:18–20 (ESV) — And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

→ What to Do

1. A Biblical COMPETENCY.

Deuteronomy 17:18 (ESV) — And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.

The Bible is clear that there are many false prophets among us...

What will/do false prophets/teachers promote in America?

- **Knowledge about God over knowing God**
- **Dependence upon intellect over the Holy Spirit**
- **Health, wealth, and happiness over brokenness, perseverance, and humility**
- **Consumerism over Servanthood**
- **Independence over Spirit dependence**

Matthew 24:11 (ESV) — And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (ESV) — For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV) — Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Spiritual leaders fulfill their responsibility, not through natural ability, but through daily availability.

→ What to Do

1. A Biblical COMPETENCY.

2. A Daily CONSISTENCY.

Deuteronomy 17:19a (ESV) — And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life ...

Joshua 1:8 (ESV) — This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Exodus 23:29–30 (ESV) — I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.

→ The Four Prayers...

Isaiah 50:4 (NIV84) — The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

Spiritual leaders fulfill their responsibility, not through natural ability, but through daily availability.

→ What to Do

1. A Biblical COMPETENCY.

2. A Daily CONSISTENCY.

→ What to Develop

3. A Personal HUMILITY.

Deuteronomy 17:19–20a (ESV) —And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers ...

**What does it mean to “...fear the Lord...”?
First, it doesn’t mean that we live scared of God...**

But it does mean that we know this one certainty...

There is a God, and I’m not Him!

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV) — The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Second, we are to live in humility towards others...

Deuteronomy 17:20a (ESV) —... that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers ...

Philippians 2:3 (ESV) — Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Romans 12:10 (ESV) — Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Look for ways to serve others!

I know that many among you do not consider yourself a leader, let alone a spiritual leader...

Matthew 20:25–26 (NLT) — But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant

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3. A Personal HUMILITY.

4. A Spiritual PURITY.

Deuteronomy 17:19–20a (ESV) —And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left ...

Titus 2:11–12 (ESV) — For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

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→ What to Do

1. A Biblical COMPETENCY.

2. A Daily CONSISTENCY.

→ What to Develop

3. A Personal HUMILITY.

4. A Spiritual PURITY.

→ Where it Leads

5. A Future LEGACY.

Deuteronomy 17:20b (ESV) — ... so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

Did you notice that it says... “he and his children...”

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) — Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

I know that many may say the old adage...

“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.”

But I say, “If you put enough salt in his mouth he will want to do nothing but drink!”

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV) — And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Spiritual leaders are not called to spiritual PERFECTION, but rather led by spiritual DIRECTION through spiritual CORRECTION.

→ SEEKING GOD – Promises ... A 40-day Devotional

Exert from the Preface...

Seeking God on a daily basis has been the single greatest experience and enjoyment in my life. This is not discounting the enjoyment of my wife, children, grandchildren, or ministry. Rather each of those have been raised to greater heights of enjoyment through my daily time with Jesus.

When I first gave my life to Jesus I immediately wanted to meet with Him. I wanted to read my Bible, pray, and get to know this God who saved my soul. I tried many devotions, types of praying, and versions of the Bible. My problem was not desire, but structure.

Through many trials and errors I would bumble my way onward, not really knowing what I was doing or where I was going. If someone asked me whether I daily spent time with the Lord or not I would have said yes, but truth be known, it was a hit or miss struggle (a lot more miss than hit).

Then I discovered the secret. Spending time with Jesus is about building relationship through routine. Jesus called the disciples that they might be with Him. Daily they walked with Him, ate with Him, listened to Him, laughed with Him, and even cried with Him. This daily routine was the route that led to a deep relationship and even friendship. A friendship I wanted with Jesus.

Almost forty years ago I began building my relationship with Jesus through routine. I can say that my daily routine of cultivating a deep relationship with the Lord has borne fruit that far exceeded my wildest expectations.

The Power of Spiritual Leaders Deuteronomy 17:18-20

*Spiritual leaders fulfill their _____, not through
natural _____, but through daily _____.*

→ What to Do...

1. A Biblical _____.

2. A Daily _____.

→ What to Develop...

3. A Personal _____.

4. A Spiritual _____.

→ Where it Leads...

5. A Future _____.

*Spiritual leaders are not called to spiritual _____, but rather
led by spiritual _____ through spiritual _____.*