

# Spiritual Leadership

*January 22, 2017*

## I. Introduction: Spiritual Leadership

- A. Spiritual Leadership is Different.
- B. Spiritual Leadership is Foundational.
- C. Effective leadership must first be built on spiritual leadership.

**1 Peter 5:1-4** To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

## II. Three Questions To Evaluate Your Spiritual Leadership

### *1. What Is The Responsibility Of Your Leadership?*

**1 Peter 5:2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care,

#### A. The Leader Is A Shepherd

1. The role of the shepherd is to lead and feed.
2. The role of the shepherd is to guard and guide.

**1 Peter 5:2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care,

#### 3. The Leader Shepherds God's Flock

- Spiritual Leadership is a gift to be stewarded.
- God deeply loves His sheep

**1 Peter 5:1** To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

**John 21:15-17** When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

- Greater spiritual opportunity requires more spiritual leaders (shepherds).

## B. The Leader Responds To God's Call

**1 Peter 5:2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care,

**John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

1. Frustration occurs when we try to lead where we are not called.
  - Leadership is not criticizing or comparing.
  - Leadership is not fantasizing.
  - Leadership is not forcing.
  - Present faithfulness leads to future leadership.
2. Frustration occurs when we fail to lead where we are called.
  - We fail when we dismiss the reality of leadership.
  - We fail when we drop the ball of leadership.
  - We fail when we doubt the call of leadership.
  - You forfeit fulfillment when you fail to lead in the present.

## 2. What Is The Style Of Your Leadership?

**1 Peter 5:2-3** watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

A. Lead with a willing heart.

1. Leadership is blessed when we view it as a calling and not a compulsion.

- We must be careful that we do not allow the blessing of leadership to become a burden.

**Galatians 6:9-10** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

2. Sometimes we fail to lead because we fear to lose.

**Hebrews 6:10** God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

- God calls us to lead faithfully and not to live fearfully.

**2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NLT)** This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

B. Lead with an eagerness to serve.

**1 Peter 5:2-3** watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1. Spiritual Leadership is focused on others and not on self.

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Effective leadership comes with the opportunity for toxic motivations.

- Unappreciated blessings can lead to unexpected destruction.
2. A servant's heart is the antidote to toxic leadership.
- God honors a servant's heart.
- C. Lead with a godly example.

**1 Peter 5:2-3** watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

**Mark 10:41-45** When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**1 Peter 5:1** To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

- You example is your exclamation.
- Spiritual Leadership is developed through modeling and not manipulation.

### *3. What Is The Goal Of Your Leadership?*

**1 Peter 5:4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

A. The Leader leads for Jesus' approval.

- We do what we do for an audience of One.

**Acts 26:19** So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

B. The Leader leads for eternal reward.

An eternal perspective leads to effective leadership.

Long-view leadership gives short-term clarity.

**1 Peter 5:1 (ESV)** **1** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

**1 Peter 4:19** So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

### III. Conclusion

- A. If you do not lead where God has called you, you fail to fulfill your God-given potential.
- B. If you do not lead where God has called you, others will fail to receive their God-given blessings.
- C. You cannot effectively shepherd without the help of the Chief Shepherd.

***Josephus, War.7.1.3***

(13) Hereupon Titus ordered those whose business it was, to read the list of all that had performed great exploits in this war, (14) whom he called to him by their names, and commended them before the company, and rejoiced in them in the same manner as a man would have rejoiced in his own exploits. He also put on their heads crowns of gold, and golden ornaments about their necks, and gave them long spears of gold, and ensigns that were made of silver, (15) and removed every one of them to a higher rank: and besides this, he plentifully distributed among them out of the spoils and the other prey they had taken, silver, and gold, and garments.