

GENERATION CHURCH

LEADERSHIP PODCAST

STRENGTHENING THE SOUL OF YOUR LEADERSHIP PART 2: "THE CHALLENGE OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP"

EPISODE NOTES

Here's a recap from our previous lesson:

It is possible to gain the world of ministry success and lose your own soul in the midst of it all.

The relationship between a leader's private encounter with God in solitude and their call to leadership in the public arena.

Spiritual Transformation: The process by which Christ is formed in us for the glory of God, the abundance of our lives, and for the sake of others.

This is not about self help, but it's about soul healing.

The leader who is mindful of their soul is faithful to the one thing they can do.

Create the conditions that set us up for an encounter with God in the places where we need it most.

The best thing any of us have to bring to our leadership is the transforming of our self.

Our main objective in this series of teachings is to help lead you into encounters with God that will strengthen the soul of your leadership in the places you need it most.

Indicators of Soul Health: F.A.S.T.E.R.

Forgetting Priorities

Anxiety

Sped up life

Ticked Off

Exhaustion (Soul)

Relapsing in unwanted behaviors

A QUICK ESCAPE

Leadership that functions as it should in spirit and in productivity is not for the faint of heart. We are tempted to move into one extreme or the other.

We are all trying to lead with vision and flesh out that vision. That requires energy, work, time, and leadership, right? But at the same time, we are dealing with emotional immaturity, traumatized humans, spiritual warfare, etc.

It's the tension between "Build my church" and "Seek first the Kingdom". Both have to be done, but we abandon one over the other.

We either get so wrapped up in "work" of the ministry, we neglect our own souls and the souls of others at the expense of "Building the Church" or we get so wrapped up in the "spiritual" stuff that we never lead with vision and build moments, but not movements.

Movements are built by a series of consistent moments in the soul of a leader.

It's a consistency of both. But we tend to want to escape the times of tension.

The temptation to compromise simple Christian values such as love, community, truth telling, confession, reconciliation, silently waiting on discernment for God--all for the sake of expedience.

Can you hold to the deepest of your values in the face of pressure to perform?

If trying to get "work" done produces anger, resentment, division for the sake of productivity, then what are we doing? That's not Kingdom work.

Full time ministry is complicated today. A pastor's role used to be simple. My stress is never the sermon, visiting people, or spending time developing people. It's the C.E.O. stuff. I have to be a businessman, constantly work on vision/culture/values. It's the organizational stuff that drains the soul of a leader at times.

The greatest challenge of your spiritual leadership is compromise. You will be tempted to compromise Christ's character for the illusion of building Christ's Kingdom.

A CALL TO THE WILD

The Soul is a tender thing and leadership can be dangerous.

The soul is like a wild animal--tough, resilient, resourceful, savvy. It knows how to survive in hard places. But it is also shy. Just like a wild animal, it seeks safety in the deep, dark underbrush.

If you want to see an animal in the wild, the last thing you do is go crashing around in the jungle and yelling for it to come out.

The settings in which we lead are the places that everyone is crashing through the jungle together; hurried and chaotic while the deeper part of us flees into hiding.

Our souls go into hiding for protection from a world filled with hurry and production.

We are no different in ministry from the rest of the world's expectations.

The tension in today's world of ministry: ***What the human soul really needs in order to be healthy and what life in leadership demands and expects.***

It's the tension between BEING and DOING.

AN INVITATION TO INTIMACY

There are thousands of leadership books. Some contradicting each other. There are more books on leadership today than ever before and yet we are still seeing leadership decay by the droves in churches.

Here is what is certain; people need to know where to find bread. Not stale bread that you've picked up last minute at the store because it was cheap and available. That's some sort of regurgitated devotional, etc.

But fresh, warm bread that comes firsthand from your time with God. How many of you know that fresh bread is way more expensive than outdated bread but it is so much better.

The goal shouldn't be "check the box of getting bread". The joy is not found in the checking of the box but in the cooking of the bread.

And people need to know where to find it. There is a shortage of bread in many ministries. And if the leader doesn't know where to get it, how will the people know?

As we get ready over the next few lessons to dive into the leadership of Moses', his entire life in leadership can be viewed through the lens of his private encounters with God and how his soul was strengthened through those encounters.

Moses never seemed to have any leadership strategy other than: **Seek God in solitude and carry out what He revealed there.**

But that requires a stillness, a margin, an appointment. Is God struggling to get an appointment with you?

The primary place where our soul is strengthened: Silence and Solitude.

Silence and Solitude is difficult due to the addiction of the "doing". There is a dopamine hit of accomplishing that next thing.

The reason why we resist silence and solitude is because of the anxiety we experience when we pull away from the very thing we've allowed to define us externally.

Ministry has become your identity instead of your calling.

What is required for the kind of moments Moses had with God? Desperation.

Moses' private encounters with God were his lifeline, not his quiet time. They were his only means of survival.

And when he got to the end of his life, he was known as the greatest prophet Israel had ever known.

The vision he had didn't quite work out the way he saw it. But he knew God and God knew him. I can't help but think that that was his greatest achievement.

CHALLENGE

Start out with at least 10 minutes of silence/solitude a day; work up to 30 minutes before you do any work for the next month. Have people help keep you accountable for this.

Are you escaping moments to work on the movement? Write down in detail and share your experience.