

# Spiritual Leadership: A Passion To Serve God – Overview

Lesson	Components	Description	Profiles
Arenas of spiritual leadership	Self Home Ministry/Service Deacon Eldership Church Family Community	Spiritual leadership is driven by the relationship with God through Christ to serve him as we follow Christ for the salvation and righteous living of self and the world. Why do we lead?	Jesus Daniel Nehemiah Mary Stephen
What is spiritual leadership?	Chart a righteous course  Serve a righteous cause  Nurture a righteous life  Devotion to righteous interests	The passion to serve God: Leadership is not a position -- leadership is lived. Spiritual leadership is lived for God. So, spiritual leadership is to serve God. The spiritual leader has a cause to serve God.	Jesus Esther Elijah Nehemiah Peter Paul Barnabas Epaphraditus
Man of God (Jesus)	Sacrifice Knew who He was Went to them Listened Responded Moved on Not ashamed	Jesus was not distracted by the political concerns or correctness -- always on the well being of the people; Jesus did not suffer, toil, sacrifice, labor, and die for some person's or group's personal agenda; Jesus did not get caught up in the world's pursuits, pleasures, and worries -- Jesus was always focused on God. So, his values, conduct, perspective, and ethics were upside down from those around him. Why did Jesus lead?	Jesus Joseph Moses Esther Elijah John the Baptist
Spiritual integrity	Reputation Character Influence Conviction Trustworthy Responsibility	What does it take in a person to make him/her a spiritual leader? What do those being led need in their leader? Who do they trust? What do they respect? What does God see and want in his leaders?	Joseph, Joshua Elijah, Noah Daniel Daniel's Friends Jesus, Stephen John the Baptist Peter, Paul Enoch

Spirit of a spiritual leader	Compassion Passion Longsuffering Peace Maker Lover Meek Hungers for God Pure Mournful Humble Persevere	What kind of person makes a spiritual leader? What kind of spirit does a spiritually minded person have? Where do spiritual leaders place themselves in their relationship with God, others, the world, themselves? What is the great desire of a spiritual leader?	Good Samaritan Jesus Paul Peter Sons of Thunder David  For contrast: The Pharisees
Tools of spiritual leadership	Prayer Vision Fellowship Study Worship Work/Task Open eyes and ears Out stretched hands	How does a spiritual leader do what he/she does? Beyond skill and ability, what kind of spiritual functions or acts enable a leader to do what he/she does? Why do we lead?	Nehemiah Abraham Jesus Paul David
Tasks of spiritual leadership	Development ---- Mentor/ Farmer Teacher/Trainer Decision Making Problem Solver Achiever Personal Growth	What does a spiritual leader do? What are the purposes given to a spiritual leader? Why do we lead?	Elijah--Prophets Paul--Timothy Jesus--Apostles John--Parents Mordecai-Esther Joseph
Keys to spiritual leadership	Attitude Motive Heart Mind Behavior Initiative	What kind of mind, hear, spirit, conduct, and desire does a person need to be a spiritual leader? What kind of spiritual growth is needed?	John the Baptist Jesus Paul Peter David
Equipping the saints	Spiritual growth, Spiritual training, Spiritual service, of the entire Flock	To bring together and into action all the talents, opportunities, and resources of the congregation and focus them to serve God and to develop and nurture the spiritual growth, life, and obedience of all of the sheep	School of the Prophets  Paul Silas Timothy/Titus
Dynamics of the eldership	Impact change Balance/Tension Fellows Spiritual Growth Inner life Fundamental Truths Dangers/Perils	Individual persons, personalities, and lives bonded together as one to make decisions, resolve conflicts, to plan and prepare for the flock, to lead the flock to follow Christ, The Good Shepherd; to take heed to feed and protect the entire flock from within and without	Jesus Moses Peter James/John Paul

## Lesson 1

# Introduction

### A Personal Note

Some achieve leadership positions through politics and maneuvering or by default and manipulation. Some gravitate or fall into it without any pre-intent. Still others achieve leadership positions because they have earned it. Achieving a leadership *position* is no guarantee that they are leaders. What makes the difference? What matters most? What makes the greatest impact on growth and achievement as a leader?

The ability to lead is not in the position but in the person. An informal or formal position of leadership may provide a platform to lead others. An analysis of your own experience, both in the secular and in the church, may teach you that it *has not been*:

- Appearance -- yet you are expected to be clean and wholesome,
- References -- not who you know as much as what those whom you know do say about you (a person may become a good leader though he/she had never been one before),
- Resume` -- yet you are expected to have the skills (or be capable of gaining them) for the specific position or work.

It *has been* (not necessarily in this order):

- Talent/Ability/Skill -- do they believe you can do what they want you to do,
- Influence -- how you impacted where you have been,
- People -- how you handle people,
- Attitude -- what you believe and how you think,
- Ethic -- how you work.

### A Description

This study is not about being an elder or deacon or any other leadership role. It is about the function or practice of leadership, and what it means to be a leader. We will discuss and examine the dynamics, the characteristics, the nature, and practice of being a leader. We will discuss and examine the implications of these truths for the various roles or *arenas of leadership*.

We will address at least three great questions of spiritual leadership in the church (How would you define and qualify these?):

- Do you want to be heard?
- Do you want to be trusted?
- Do you want to be respected?
- Are you ready and willing to learn, grow, and change?

Then, we must answer the question, "Can I lead without these?"

The follow is a list of the components of this study though not in any order of study:

- Arenas of leadership
- Nature of spiritual leadership
- Christ's leadership
- Spiritual leadership integrity
- Spiritual leadership tools
- Spiritual leadership tasks
- Keys to spiritual leadership
- Equipping the saints
- Practical dynamics of the eldership: Looking beyond the biblical qualifications to be an elder to examine what goes on in an eldership (This will be the last lesson of the study because the eldership is the final arena of spiritual leadership in the church).

### **Discussion**

1. Describe the challenges that are facing the Lord's church.
2. Explain the qualities that are needed for the spiritual leader of the church.
3. Explain whether gender or age restrict spiritual leadership.
4. Describe the arenas of spiritual leadership for the Lord's church.
5. Explain the difference between leadership and management.
6. Why do we lead?

Lesson 2

# The Arenas of Spiritual Leadership

Arena	Describe	Positive Profiles	Behaviors	Negative Profiles	Behaviors
Self Leadership	<p>To live for own purposes by own values, by own choices, decisions &amp; accept responsibility for them.</p> <p>Self accountable Self convicted Self controlled Of your own mind</p> <p>Loyalty to Christ</p>	<p>Enoch Joseph Job Jesus John the Baptist Thomas</p> <p>Woman who washed Jesus' feet</p> <p>Lydia Paul Hannah</p>	<p>Spiritual mind Stand your ground Go about your business Handle peer pressure</p> <p>Not concerned with how weak or peculiar you may appear</p> <p>Do what needs doing Hear what needs hearing Say what needs saying</p> <p>Courage to do/say what needs doing/saying</p>	<p>Esau Judas Samson</p>	<p>Carnal mind Sell yourself Sell out Betrayal Undisciplined</p> <p>Base instincts/desires</p> <p>Not risk for the greater good or higher cause</p> <p>Self willed</p>
Home Leadership	<p>Nurturing Training/Teaching Providing</p> <p>Loyalty to Christ</p>	<p>Joshua</p> <p>Abraham &amp; Sarah</p> <p>Hannah Mary Zachariah &amp; Elizabeth</p> <p>Philippian Jailer</p>	<p>Invest yourself in others</p> <p>Living example w/family seeking God, His kingdom, His righteousness</p> <p>Not back down on conviction</p> <p>On knees before God</p>	<p>David Eli</p>	<p>Failed to see themselves as God's servants to their families</p> <p>Self centered -- immoral choices set off chain of conflict, turmoil, death</p> <p>Betrayal</p>

Arena	Describe	Positive Profiles	Behaviors	Negative Profiles	
Service or Ministry Leadership	<p>Commitment to do a specific task in a particular area of work due to recognized need and perceived desire, opportunity, and talent</p> <p>Self initiative</p> <p>Usually what can be done on your own</p>	<p>Daniel Jesus Mary Barnabas Epaphraditus Noah Elijah Jesus 13 Apostles</p> <p>Phillip's daughters</p> <p>Levites</p> <p>Joshua/Caleb Jeremiah</p> <p>Nehemiah</p>	<p>Invest yourself in others</p> <p>Do what needs doing Hear what needs hearing Say what needs saying</p>	<p>10 Spies Jonah</p> <p>Wicked Kings of Israel/Judah</p> <p>12 Apostles</p>	<p>Fear of risk takes over thinking</p> <p>What you want takes over thinking</p> <p>Make excuses</p> <p>Self serving</p>
Deacon Leadership	<p>Assigned specific area of work due to perceived need and believed skill/talent to meet that need</p> <p>Working within a group</p>	<p>Elisha Stephen Phillip</p>	<p>Responsible for the area of work</p> <p>Plan the duties and organize the people to get it done</p>		<p>Failure to address the tasks needed to be done</p>

Arena	Describe	Positive Profiles	Behaviors	Negative Profiles	Behaviors
Eldership Leadership		in Jerusalem in Antioch Nehemiah		in Laodicea Peter	
Church Family Leadership		Jewish wilderness wanderings -- Moses, the elders, the people Esther/Mordecia  Mark 2:1-10	1Thes.1 Phil.1		
Community Leadership		Jerusalem Church (Ac 4)  Israel not harvest all their grain The Good Samaritan	Reputation: community Reputation: brotherhood		

## **Discussion**

1. Why do we lead?
2. Explain authority and organizational structure as it relates to these arenas of spiritual leadership
3. Describe a balanced relationship between authority and organizational structure and spiritual leadership for the church.
4. Analyze the description and examples and describe what a spiritual leader does.
5. Contrast the positive and negative behaviors and describe the essential traits of effective spiritual leadership.
6. Explain God's response his leaders when they failed and apply that to you and me as God's spiritual leaders.



### Lesson 3

# The Passion To Serve God: What Is Spiritual Leadership?

Leadership is not a position -- leadership is lived. Spiritual leadership is lived for God. So, the spiritual leader is a servant -- a servant of God. Spiritual leadership something we do for God.

#### **The spiritual leader chooses a righteous cause to serve.**

- (Esther 3:1-6) Mordecai refuses to compromise, even what seems to be a small one. Mordecai was not going to bend -- not one bit! Rather than challenge Mordecai directly, God's enemy, Haman, plotted to exterminate Mordecai's people (God's people). Mordecai mourned deeply; yet, he would not dishonor God no matter what (4:1-3). His sackcloth and ashes were symbolic of mourning or remorse & of trust or hope.
- (Esther 4:10-17) Esther is challenged to seize opportunity that has presented itself at the right time it was needed. She moves knowing the great risk because she believed that the cause was greater than her own life. The opportunity presented gave her the force she needed to save God's people.

#### **The spiritual leader charts a righteous course to follow.**

- (Nehemiah 1:2-4) Nehemiah identified with a cause for God and His people and began immediately to chart a righteous course for God's people to serve to succeed.
- He saw the need (Nehemiah 1:4-11), rose up to the need (2:1-10), captured a vision of success of the cause (2:11-18), inspired others to follow him for that cause (2:16-18), and then he organized the people and got them working (3:1-32).
- (Nehemiah 4-6) He had a cause, pursued that cause, inspired others to follow him for sake of the cause, organized them to get the work done, and then did not let up until the cause was done. He stayed with the people who followed him and he would not let anything or anyone distract them from the work, from the cause. Rather, he equipped them to respond to the distracters.

#### **The spiritual leader nurtures a righteous life.**

- (1 Thessalonians 2:1-6, 9-10) Paul taught and led them through a life of toil, hardship, and constant labor -- not through some personal agenda, desire for praise, or hypocrisy.

- (Verses 7-8) Through the gentle, caring, and sharing spirit, heart, and hand.
- (Verses 11-12) Through a love that challenged us to stretch while it comforts us to keep on going to live the righteous life of love and good works.

**The spiritual leader is devoted to righteous interests.**

(Philippians 2:25-30) By being a servant at heart -- one who loves people, accepts risk for those people, and works tirelessly for them.

**Discussion**

1. Explain what drives the spiritual leader.
2. Describe what drives him/her to do.
3. Explain the use of timing or opportunity in leadership.
4. Examine the qualities this spiritual leadership requires.
5. Analyze Jesus' model of spiritual leadership and evaluate how it applies in all arenas of spiritual leadership.

Lesson 4

# Man of God: Christ's Leadership

Spiritual Leadership Traits as seen in Jesus	Text	Description
Not manipulated by situations or others	Jn.18-21 Mt.4:1-11	Jesus took control of the situation, he looked to the well being of his followers, and he did not allow others to stop him.
Goes to the people	Mt.4:23-25 Lk.7:1-50 Ma.1:16-45 Jn.4:1-54 Ma.6:1-6	Jesus lived his leadership. He led by seeking -- not by waiting.
Instills his values in others	Lk.5:1-11 Ma.2:13-17 Jn.21:1-18 Jn.13:1-35 Mt.5-7 Lk.22:54-62	Jesus invested a great deal of time and effort teaching and showing the truth he taught.
Does not misrepresent himself	Ma.15:33-41 Mt.17:1-13 Ma.2:1-10	Jesus lived his leadership! He told them who he was, what he could and was going to do and why. Then, he proved it by his life and actions.
Believes he has something the people need	Lk.15:1-32 Jn.20:30-31 Jn.8:12-14 Lk.4:17-30	Jesus knew what he had to offer them, to give them. He gave himself to make them aware of their need for it. He knew what he had to do and he was driven to do it in order to give it to them.
Submits to God then serves the people	Ma.8:31-33 Mt.3:1-4:25	Jesus did not need to stroke his pride, fill some personal agenda, or appease his self-aggrandizement; Jesus was driven by the force of love for people, motivated by a love for people and a desire to serve them. Jesus did not use leadership for own personal benefit.
Is on a mission and he does not allow himself to drift from it	All "I AM" in John Ma.8:31-33 Lk.4:17-31 Lk.2:41-42 Mt.1-3 Ma.6:1-6	Jesus knew who he was and what his life was about. He did not stray from that path for his life and he did not detour or allow anything to get in the way of that path. He did not seek another path.
Problem solver	Ma.4:35-41 Jn.2:13-22 Ma.10:32-45	Jesus did not make excuses but looked for solutions. Then he taught them from those solutions. Jesus led by action!

Requires no worldly credentials	Mt.1-4 Lk.1 Mt.17:1-13 Jn.9,18-21 Mk.6:1-6	One of his greatest credentials is that Jesus lived his leadership. Jesus did not need the world's approval and he did not seek it. He lived his life, traveled his path, and did what he came to do without any one person's approval. Jesus led by his own integrity and faith.
Changes paradigm that need to be changed in others	Jn.5,9,11,13 Mt.5-7,23 Lk.6,4,7	Loyal and true followers are not blind. Jesus knew that he must first win the mind (thought and emotion) to gain the life.
Is first a servant	Lk.22:63-65 Jn.13;1-35 Ma.10:32-45 Mt.20:20-28 Mt.22:34-40	God's will always first for Jesus. He was driven by what God expected, commanded, desires. He wanted to please his Master. This was the foundation and character and whole purpose for his life.
Spends time alone with God	Jn.6,17 Mt.14 Mk.14 Lk.11	Jesus did not lose his sense of who he was and what he wanted to do, his mission. He nurtured his relationship with God and nourished his soul. He would not be cut off from the source of his life and his spiritual well being.
Healthy spiritual leader has nothing to prove, nothing to lose, and nothing to hide	Lk.22:63-65 Jn.18-19,21 Mk.6:1-6 Mt.26:36-56 Lk.24	Jesus nurtured his integrity and his life spoke for itself. He was loyal to his purposes. He did not get entangled in the selfish interests of others.
Love the world, serve the many, train the few	Jn.3:14-17 Mt.9:35-39 Mt.28:16-20	Jesus knew why he was doing it, did as much as he could, and trained others to serve with him and follow him.
Feels secure to express his emotions and be vulnerable	Jn.2,11 Mk.14:33-36	Jesus was driven by compassion and he knew the pain and stress, the pleasure and joy of living in this world. That means he was connected to the people and the individual. Jesus led through connection to the people, by being among the people and not from a distance.
Speaks the truth whatever the cost	Ma.14:1-2 Lk.22:1-6 Mt.23-25 Ma.2:1-3: Ma.11:15-19 Ma.6.1-6	Jesus was not concerned with consensus or peer pressure -- He did not bend-- not one bit! He led with steadfast conviction!
Calls for commitment in themselves and then others	Jn.6:61-71 Ma.8:34-38 Lk.9:57-62 Mt.26;36-36	Because he lived this way, Jesus lived his leadership. Jesus did not expect, teach, or command what he would not himself do.
Builds relationships with those they lead	Mt.11:25-30 Lk.24:1-53 Jn.20:1-21:18 Mt.10:1-42 Jn.13-16 Mt.17:1-23 Mt.14:22-33	Believes that people development is his greatest achievement. One way he did this was to live his leadership. So, he took the time and effort to deliberately invest himself in others. Jesus led through others and for others.

Possess the courage to let go of the familiar	Phil.2:5-8 Lk.4:1-11	Jesus would fight the battles in the wilderness if needed. He would give up all that was comfortable and he knew and go where he had never been before and live like he had never lived before. God would lower Himself to us in order to lift us back up to Him.
Never judges by the outward appearance	Lk.7:35-50 Lk.15:1-7 Mt.23:1-36	No matter how society or group or individual may judge you or prejudge you because you do not fit their mold or you just aren't good enough for them, Jesus did not follow them. He always say the need in everyone, he always say the good in everyone. That was he key to access their heart and minds. Jesus lead by acceptance,
Makes no apology and accepts no excuse	Lk.9:57-62 Lk.14:25-35 Lk.22:54-62 (w/31-33) Ma.6:1-6	No amount and kind of social, political, or personal pressure could make him alter his course or change his mind. He had no concern for political correctness. He would not compromise or sell out or betray his God and Father and who He was! He was never ashamed! Jesus lead by courage.

### Discussion

1. What about Jesus impresses you the most?
2. Why?
3. What was the purpose for his life, his work, his actions, his deeds, and his words?
4. Explain the difference between nature and effects of taking action and reaction.
5. Analyze the nature, power, and impact of Jesus' influence and discuss how we can live that way.
6. Jesus was sinless; he had no flaws, but we are. Examine how Jesus dealt with the flaws of those he had trained to follow after Him as leaders and discuss how God's leaders are blameless.
7. Examine these traits of Jesus' spiritual leadership and determine how he judged the effectiveness or success of what he did.
8. Explain how Jesus used power, authority, and control in his spiritual leadership and examine how we apply that to ourselves.
9. Explain how Jesus' spiritual leadership style effected his life and the lives of those who followed him
10. Why did Jesus lead?

## Lesson 5

# Spiritual Integrity

People naturally follow people who are stronger than themselves. People will listen to and follow those they respect and trust. We do not give respect and trust to a person who surrenders to our way to do things, who surrenders to what we want. We give respect and trust to our leaders based on what kind of person the leader is. Leaders earn our respect because of what they are made of, because of what makes them what they are. This is also why we do not respect and trust others to be our leaders. Consider the following components of spiritual integrity.

### Reputation

- ⊕ Image others have of that kind of person you are (Mt.4:23-25, Gen.5:21-24).
- ⊕ Identity is the beginning of reputation and identity that is lived secures an honest reputation (Mt.3:1-10, Gn.6:5-8).
- ⊕ Integrity is greater than reputation, yet a good reputation follows one who keeps his integrity and will not compromise or sell it (Mt.3:4-6).
- ⊕ People will often know what your answer will be or what you would do in a given situation before they ask you because they know you; so they may or may not come to you in the first place.

### Character

- ⊕ Enables you to see clearly (Gne.50:15-21).
- ⊕ Gives us what it takes (Dan.2:48).
- ⊕ One cannot rise above the limits of his character (Mt.27:1-10).

### Influence

- ⊕ Impact your actions, person, life has on others (Mt.5:13-16, Gen.50:15-21)
- ⊕ It is how you give the world Jesus (Mt.5:13-16, Ac.4:11-13)
- ⊕ It will happen when you draw a line in the sand, stand on your own feet, and do not cross that line (Jn.6:61-71)
- ⊕ When you speak, people listen (Dan.5:13-14, Mt.7:27-28)

### Conviction

- ⊕ Refuses to compromise, stays the course, knows where he/she stands and knows who you are -- decisions making confirms or compromises values or convictions (Dan.3:1-18, 6:1-23).
- ⊕ Courage to face and handle the response to those decisions (Jno.18-19)

- ⊕ God will hold up the one who is convicted (1Kg.17:1-16)
- ⊕ Passion of our convictions will judge the enemy and attract others (1Kg.18)
- ⊕ Will stand alone to speak the truth (1Kg17-18, Dan.1-6, Jn.18-19, Mt.3)
- ⊕ To do what is right, not what is popular or politically correct.

### **Trustworthy**

- ⊕ Walk the talk (Gal.21:11-20)
- ⊕ Do not regard the judgment of others as the basis for their decisions and actions (Ma.8:34-38)

### **Responsible**

Spiritual leaders have given themselves to spiritual growth that makes them responsible leaders (Da.1:4-19):

- ⊕ Intelligent (v.4)
- ⊕ Competent (v.4)
- ⊕ Servant's heart (v.4)
- ⊕ Teachable (v.4-5)
- ⊕ Convicted (v.8)
- ⊕ Favor with people (v.9)
- ⊕ Submissive (v.12)
- ⊕ Well-informed (v.17)
- ⊕ Gifted (v.17)
- ⊕ Excellence (v.19)

Herod lacked character as a leader and it cost him everything! (Ac.12):

- ⊕ A leader who mistreated people (v.1)
- ⊕ A leader who sacrificed the innocent for his purposes (v.2)
- ⊕ A leader who made decisions based on popularity (v.3)
- ⊕ A leader who is irrational in difficult times (v.19)
- ⊕ A leader who harbored anger towards others (v.20)
- ⊕ A leader who sought power out of insecurity (v.20)
- ⊕ A leader who is blinded by his own ego (v.21-23)

How do we avoid this trap of self destruction?

- ⊕ Identify your weaknesses/flawed character
- ⊕ Look for patterns
- ⊕ Face the music, apologize to those you have wronged, and look for ways to repair your character
- ⊕ Stay teachable and rebuild.

## **Discussion**

1. Explain why people would or would not listen when you speak.
2. Explain how spiritual leaders live at a higher level.
3. Explain the phrase "under conviction".
4. Examine when leaders need the courage to act.
5. Examine the statement "Training is nothing. The will is everything -- the will to act."
6. Describe how a spiritual leader can face confrontation with the spirit of Christ.
7. Explain the source of a spiritual leader's credibility.
8. Describe the impact that character has on a person's mind, spirit, and life.



## Lesson 6

# The Spirit of a Spiritual Leader

What kind of person makes a spiritual leader? What kind of spirit does a spiritually minded person have? Where do spiritual leaders place themselves in their relationship with God, others, the world, themselves? What is the great desire of a spiritual leader? What drives the spiritually minded person?

### 1. **Compassion**

- ⊕ Jesus (Mat.9:35-39, Lk.19:41-44, Jn.11)
- ⊕ The Samaritan (Lk.10:25-37)
- ⊕ Compassion is to observe and understand the reality of human conditions, submit to God for him to burden you with a specific need, respond to the human condition with the will to act, and determine a clear path to respond, and then take the action with all that you have to give or seek the resources.
- ⊕ Our compassion for others comes from Jesus' compassion for us.

### 2. **Passion**

- ⊕ John the Baptist (Lk.3:2-22)
- ⊕ Jesus (Jn.2:13-22)
- ⊕ Sons of Thunder
- ⊕ Passion is the desire and will to act, to give it all you have got, to serve God with "gusto"; To be consumed with a mission that will compels others or repel them; To be so driven by a sense of justice, of right and wrong (good and evil), that you won't be still (rest) until you see the results; To be molded by thinking that sees things as black and white, that the issues are not clouded or corroded or complicated by anything: To not settle for anything less than all of this. That is what passion gives to someone.
- ⊕ Our passion is for God and nothing less.
- ⊕ (Heb.12:1-3) The heart of endurance is passion, to run with the passion of a purpose and the perspective to see hope.

### 3. **Hunger for God**

- ⊕ Jesus (Mt.5:6, Lk.4:1-13) -- In the wilderness, Jesus recognized and accepted that God would lead him into periods of growth not gratification; that God will enable us to fight the battles of and overcome the temptation to take shortcuts; that recognize and learn the discipline that comes from

depending on God; that we deepen our sense of mission, gain our perspective from God, and then loose any desire for self-promotion.

- ⊕ Paul (Phil.1:19-23, 3:7-21) -- Paul discerned what hindered him, he discovered what he needed or what wanted, and he determined how to get it! He walked away from the path of the world that would keep him from God, he sought the path that would lead him to God, and he found a single-minded passion to seek God.
- ⊕ If our hunger is for God, then we can never and will never be satisfied with or by the world or the approval of others. We will not seek their approval.

#### 4. **Lover**

- ⊕ "Jesus lover of my soul" -- The spiritual leader must love the souls of men, driven by a desire to be a blessing to others.
- ⊕ Jeremiah (Lam. 4:6-8, 3:22-27) -- The prophet grieves so deeply for the condition of his people that it hurts him and turns to God to plead from his bleeding soul, his broken spirit, for His endless mercy to come to them all.
- ⊕ Jesus (Lk.15:1-2) -- It does not matter to Jesus who you are, he can not but move himself to seek you. No matter what anyone else my think of you, the spiritual leader wants God to save your soul and bless your life and that move him to action.

#### 5. **Meek**

- ⊕ Not the absence of strength to make you weak, but the presence of strength under control.
- ⊕ Jesus (Jno.2) -- He moved with his strength and he did not cower but he attacked no one
- ⊕ Jesus (Jno.18-19) -- He stood before Pilate and the multitude, he accepted ridicule, mockery, false accusation, beating, and finally death and he did nothing. He could have stopped it but he did not. He surrendered his strength to God for the moment because that is what God needed of him. His pride did not suffer and his compassion did not falter. He did not suffer and die because he was too weak to stand up for himself and fight for himself. He died because he had the courage to accept God's will. Meekness is not weakness but **meekness is courage!!!!**

#### 6. **Humble**

- ⊕ (2Tim.1:5-7) -- not a timid or fearful spirit, but one that has the capacity or strength (power, love, discipline) to do what needs doing or say what needs saying in the face of challenge or opposition.
- ⊕ (1Pet.5:6-10) -- do not turn from the face of the enemy, from the face of trouble or conflict, from the face of opposition.
- ⊕ (Jam.4:7-10) -- not self-reliant because you are able to trust God for it all and with it all.
- ⊕ ( ) -- not hardheaded or stiff-necked in the face of authority or the challenge of the truth

### 7. **Mournful**

- ⊕ Grieve over the human condition.
- ⊕ Jesus (Mk.14:33-36, Jno.11, Lk.19;41, Mt.9:35-39)
- ⊕ Paul (What drove Paul to do what he did?)

### 8. **Peace Maker**

- ⊕ Jesus
- ⊕ Paul (Philemon)
- ⊕ Elders in Jerusalem (Acts 15)

### 9. **Pure**

- ⊕ Unadulterated
- ⊕ Not seeking the ways of the world and the ways of God, not desire the approval of the world and of God
- ⊕ The people will know where you stand and you always stand with God.
- ⊕ How (2Cor.10:1-6, Phil.4:8-9) --

### 10. **Persevere**

- ⊕ Paul (2Tim.4) -- Three Principles:
  - (1-5) *Faith* to serve God at any time all the time without hesitation or desire to quit
  - (6-8) *Hope* in God's reward for your service and life to follow Christ
  - (17-18) *Trust* God to keep, protect, and deliver you in His time and His way.
- ⊕ See passion above.

For a contrast, examine the Pharisees (Mat.5:17-20, 23:1-37, 25:1-46)!

## Discussion

1. Explain the direction or purpose of a spiritual leader.
2. Examine these qualities of a spiritual leader's spirit and describe situations where each would be required.

# The Tools of Spiritual Leadership

All leadership requires some basic skills or abilities necessary to be effective and successful: people skills, knowledge of areas of leadership, insight for decision making and problem solving -- all which can be learned and developed over time. What spiritual tools does the spiritual leader have? What spiritual functions enable a leader to do what he/she does?

## ⊕ Prayer

(Lk.11:1-13) Jesus and God -- a source of protection, power, authority, and wisdom to believe and trust absolutely that will not falter or fail, cannot be compromised or manipulated.

## ⊕ Vision

(Heb.11:13-19) Abraham and the Patriarchs -- driven by what we see in the heart, soul, and mind that which we cannot see with the eye.

## ⊕ Fellowship

(Heb.10:19-39) Spending time with the saints, assembling with the saints, has the natural effect of lifting us up from the ground and moving us on our journey home.

"Every leader should aim to finish well. We need to preserve because confidence will be rewarded; obedience will be recognized; shrinking back will be regretted; and Christ's return will be celebrated. Our journey is not a sprint, but a marathon. We must pace ourselves and endure to the end" (John Maxwell).

## ⊕ Study

(Jno.8:31-32 w/2 Cor.10:3-6) Knowing God and his truth, developing an insight into how he thinks and feels, why he acts, what his purposes are, how he sees us and our world will become the compass four lives will not fail to direct rightly in all we decide and do.

## ⊕ Worship

( ) Worship separates us from the world and places us in the presence of God.

⊕ **Work/Task**

Hymn -- "This Is My Task"

(Mat.22:34-40) We build our lives on a foundation of serving God and taking care of each other.

⊕ **Open Eyes/Ears**

(1 Pet.5:1-10) Ever alert for the safety and wellbeing of the entire flock and each individual sheep.

⊕ **Out Stretched Hands**

(Gal.6:1-10) Influence is enhanced because are ever ready to respond to the sheep.

### **Discussion**

1. Explain the power that a relationship with God will have over us.
2. Examine these tools and explain any common threads they may have.
3. Describe the effect of those common threads on the leader as he/she carries out the work.
4. Explain the effect it will have on a spiritual leader who does not steadily feast his/her soul on these tools.

Lesson 8

# The Tasks of Spiritual Leadership