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WORKSHOP

1 **Developing The
Leader In You**

DEVELOPING THE LEADER IN YOU

Introduction

There is no doubt that Leadership has been a subject matter that had attracted the attention of so many people and at different fora. And many have conceptualized leadership from different perspectives.

However, in the context of the church and discipleship, we cannot begin to explore this subject matter of developing the leader in you, till we come to terms with the matter of the regeneration of the inner being of anyone who would hold himself out as a leader. This regeneration is the basis of seeing and living the way God will have us so do.

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Col 1:27

Therefore, for us, there is no discourse on leadership and leading that would be complete without situating it in Christ and His pattern of leading. Suffice it to say that the greatest leader that has ever lived was the Lord Jesus Christ and He gave us a universally acceptable pattern for anyone to follow.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God Roms 12:1-2

Let me also quickly emphasize from the scriptures below that it is the content inside of a man that determines what kind of leader he or she would be.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Matt 7:16-20

These scriptures puts it in better perspectives:

"Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish". Psa 49:20

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he". Pro 23:7a

It is possible for a being not to know who he is, and to live on this earth without accomplishing the purpose why he has been born. The bible likens that individual to a beast (animal) which lacks adequate discernment, and eventually perishes.

If that will not be our case, then the first thing to discover is who we are and, what the bible says about us.

One fact we must understand here is that no man can lead who has not been led. Better put, the character of a leader would be dependent on who is leading him from within.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them," Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Matt 1:25-28

You are the light of the world, like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. Matt 5:14-15 (NLT).

From the above scriptures can you highlight who the bible says you are?

- i.** Made in the very image and likeness of God
- ii.** Made to have dominion, rule and give a definite sense of direction to all others
- iii.** A light that defines the path for others to follow, a light that shines for others to see the how to do things.

In this light, I will define a leader as someone who is constantly being resourced from within to know how things ought to be done, who is doing it the way it must be done and also help others to see how things can be improved. And this God has made you to be, by having His very nature inside of you and the light of life by which you are positioned to be a leader.

This is the first matter you must come to terms with, and the Almighty God will help you to see and associate with this wholesome truth (Amen).

All those that became men of influence in the bible and in our contemporary world discovered the potential inside of them and fanned it to flame. Having gotten an idea of what leadership is, what should concern us is the how of fanning it to flame. This shall be the focus of this workshop.

What does development entails

It means growing and becoming more mature, advanced, or elaborate in some definite areas of human endeavor.

Note that the word "**developing**" is a present continuous word". Though we have this nature inside of us, it must not be left dormant or redundant. I must be grown, it must be worked upon, and it must be given necessary impetus to mature into full blown stage. Bro. Paul warned Timothy against neglecting the gift that is in him,

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 1Tim 4:14.

So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God. 2 Chr27:6

Developing the Leader inside you comes with the following necessities:

i. Practice discipline. A good leader needs discipline (of all resources...time, money, his mouth, etc) *1 Cor 9:27*, He needs to be a man who has complete control over his life. He must not be a glutton, nor a drunkard, but one who per time can define what must be done and has the ability to get it done.

ii. Take on more responsibilities. A great way to develop the leader in you is to take on more responsibilities. *Prov 10:4, 12:24, 22:29, 24:30, 26:13-14*. Did you see the issues raised about the diligent and the slothful in the above passages of the scripture? The diligent is always looking for more to do, thereby increasing his proficiency, while the slothful is always looking for ways to abstain from work thereby wasting the potentials in his life. Your potential in life will be strengthened by tasking it and will also become wasted by not putting it to use. Experts are born with a skill but by putting it to use they became great in that area. Please rise and God will help you.

iii. Learn to follow. *2 Sam 22:31-35, Lk 6:40*. Great leaders are made by following men of reputation in their time for a definite practical dis-

ipleship. Following gives room to learn, it gives room to see their devotions, it helps to note how they manage their time, their resources and even handle knotty issues. Isaac became a great man in his own life simply by following his father Abraham, Elisha followed Elijah the result was obvious. A potential leader must be able to follow others. **Who are you following?**

iv. Keep learning. Great leaders are great learners. They are never tired of learning. Their learning ability makes them to be abreast of situation and circumstances. They are not novices, but rather well informed by much learning. *Prov 1:5, 9:9, 16:23, 30:15-16.* A wise man will hear and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels. Never become tired of learning, use all opportunity to get requisite information about things around you. The knowledge you have will give you the necessary advantage to lead others.

v. Be a discerning listener. Good leaders train themselves to be a discerning listener. To be a discerning learner involves not being hasty or jumping into conclusions, but on the contrary listening so as to note the in-betweens and to be properly positioned to proffer quality response. *Provs 25:28, James 1:19, Prov 14:29, 29:20.* You must develop this virtue in order to become properly positioned to be a leader.

vi. Be interested in what goes on around you. Leaders generally are interested in the overall well-being of all and sundry around them, they don't live their lives in isolation of that which happens around them. Note, David being moved by the predicaments of the men who were around him, did not push them away nor stylishly avoid them, but he stood with them and the bible said he became their Captain. *1 Sam 22:1-2, Neh 1:1-11, Lk 10:29-37.*

Are you such moved with compassion for that which befalls men around you and what goes on around you?

vii. Inspire others. Leaders see the potential inside others and help fan it to flame. They are not jealous of someone else's grace but they recognize the grace in a fellow and do all they can to make such brother or sister attain the best in life. David became Captain over a group of distressed men, he received them in their period of distress but turned them into great men who did exploits for the kingdom of God. Competition or rivalry is not in the vocabulary of leaders, rather a passion to see others excel in life. *Is 42:1-3, 1 Sam 22:1-2.*

viii. Resolve conflicts. A leader must also be one who resolve conflicts wholesomely. His vastness in issues of life helps him to address all matters well. Thus, he must not be a novice, nor a biased personality.

ix. Be Courageous. Another attribute you must develop that will position you to be a leader is courage. Courage is the ability to do something dangerous or to face pain or opposition without showing fear. Leaders take the bull by the horn, they dare the odds, and they quit themselves as men to get things done. David faced the bear and the lion in the desert and overcame them all. You must not be a fearful fellow if you will occupy the position of leadership, cowardice must be far from you. *Prov 28:1, Joshua 1:7, 2 Chr32:1-8, 1 Chr 11:21-23, 12:1-15.*

x. Be Humble. Great leaders never rate themselves as important as other people but on the contrary they see themselves as being positioned to help or serve others. Humility will attract men to you, while arrogance will make men not to accept even the good you seemingly wants to offer. Be humble, never allow superiority complex to take hold over your life. *Matt 23:1-12, Lk 22:24-27, James 4:6.*

Conclusion

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth Lam 3:27.

All these attributes must be imbibed while you are young. Whatsoever leadership meets in you is what will become your attributes as a leader. Bend down and cry unto the Lord to make you for the days ahead of you. Meanwhile the absence of quality leadership is the bane of all the crisis in the whole world today. Arise, shine and be the solution to the crises on the earth. God bless you.

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