

## **THE LEADER FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE**

The role of the leader from God's perspective is: i) to equip (to make fit, to prepare, to train, to perfect or to make fully qualified for service) your fellow workers or assist them to become fruitful in their service for God; ii) to disciple them to be people with a heart after God so that they may in turn disciple others. This role is achieved much by the example you are to those you are leading.

### **Character Before Performance**

*"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for those to whom He may show himself strong, whose heart is perfect towards Him." II Chron. 16:9*

It is our heart and not our performance that is important to God. God's expectation is not a **perfect performance**, but a **perfect Heart**. Many times we loose contact with the condition of our heart. A heart that quickly recognises anything that offends. God wants us with a perfect heart. He looks upon our **character before our performance.**

As a leader in God's Kingdom, we will each be held accountable for exemplifying Jesus Christ in our spirit and behaviour, as well as in our words and duties.

In the secular sphere, leaders are seldom judged on their personal lives, however, leaders in the kingdom are judged not so much by what they accomplish as by the character they reveal - **who they are** before **what they do**. The high standard applies not so much to the leader's achievements as to the condition of his or her heart and spirit.

If first the leader's heart is right, godly behaviour will always follow and good leadership will be manifested.

Unfortunately, many churches when selecting leaders give priority to whether the person has natural gifting, management skills or a choleric personality. Character is considered of minor importance when it should be of the utmost importance.

In Prov. 4:23 it says "Guard your heart for out of it are the issues of life". Let us constantly guard our heart so that we do **everything with a right motive.**

### **Hearing God Through Relationship With Him**

David is a great example to us of a man who loved God through a deep relationship.

***He developed a heart of worship while he was tending his father's sheep - unknown and unnoticed.*** When Samuel was looking for God's man, Jesse said ..... "Behold he keepeth the sheep" - 1 Sam 16:11

God had seen his heart and set him apart. ***1 Sam 13:14- "The Lord has sought a man***

*after His own heart”*

Something happened in David while he watched over the sheep. It was there that he learnt to:

- i) spend time with God = relationship
- ii) to wait on Him = for guidance
- iii) to seek Him = to know Him
- iv) to listen to His voice = to get answers
- v) to obey Him = death to self
- vi) to pray = to communicate
- vii) to trust God to fight for him = the lion and the bear. *When the lion came to spoil the flock, David didn't look at it as an occasion for alarm, but an opportunity to see God's glory revealed.*
- viii) to worship = to love Him

It was with the sheep that the revelation of the deer panting after the water became a reality to David - Ps. 42:1-2

The foundation of David's life was built on his relationship and worship to God.

You and I are to be **passionate lovers of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

To hear from God the leader must first of all develop a relationship of intimacy and love with God. Without this happening, you will only tend to lead out of head knowledge or natural gifting instead of the anointing and power of God.

This relationship is built through **regular prayer and worship**. Because you are leading people in worship, **you must** live a lifestyle of worship and seek to know God closely enough where He begins to share with you what He wants to do through your life and the worship team.

As a leader, it is important that your spirit is tuned to the promptings and lessons of the Holy Spirit. Jesus emphasised that leaders in His church would always lead and be based not on man's ability to reason things out as much as on his readiness and receptivity to hear God through "revelation knowledge", the things that God unfolds by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Godly leaders hear from God: 1) through the written Word of God; 2) through the Holy Spirit speaking to them in their spirit; 3) through other men and women of God; 4) through dreams and visions. This of course can only happen as their minds are being transformed from the ways and patterns of the world. It is holiness of heart and life that keeps channels of communication open with God. When the Holy Spirit chooses to speak to them through visions (daytime mind pictures) and dreams (sleeping revelations), they hear clearly.

Become a man or woman of prayer. This will ensure you moving in the anointing of God rather than from natural gifting or ability.

## A Servant Heart

Jesus' life-style and lessons establish the mode for a new kind of leader - the servant leader (Matt 20:26-28). The servant leader leads from a position of personal security, that is, knowing who God has made him or her to be, and resting in the peaceful awareness and confidence that God's hand is ordering his or her personal destiny. The godly leader is one who stoops to help another, who counts others better than himself (Phil 2:3,4), who lays down his life for others (John 10:11), who seeks to serve rather than to be served (Luke 22:27).

Until a person is ready to wash feet he is not qualified to be a kingdom leader.

This kind of leadership must **come from having the love of God shed abroad in our hearts**. Let's look at Christ as our example - His love was sacrificial, His love was unconditional, His love was constant and self-sustaining, His love provides for the best interests of others and *He commands that we should love others as He has loved us*.

Paul's idea of service is the same as our Lord's: "I am among you as he that serveth;" "ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake". According to Jesus Christ, he is called to be the "doormat" of other men; their spiritual leader but never their superior.

When we realise that Jesus Christ has served us to the end of our meanness, our selfishness, and sin, nothing that we meet with from others can exhaust our determination to serve men for his sake.

## Unity and Harmony

Being "*of one accord*" is a dominant trait of New Testament church leadership.

Whenever the early church leaders gathered in Jerusalem, it is said they were in unity and harmony, with each other and with God. Their agreement was spiritual and practical, not only theological, for they shared their lives and possessions. Acts 2:42-47 shows they met together, studied together, and shared their material possessions. They met often to pray, revealing not only relationship with each other but their total reliance on God.

**Psalm 133:1-3** *"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.*

*It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion*

*For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore. "*

In referring to "brethren" the Hebrew word here "**ach**" indicates a brother, especially an immediate relative, but also any fellowman, countryman or companion.

Notice here that unity and anointing are synonymous with each other eg. Solomon's temple - when the priests were as one in sound and unity of spirit, God poured out His anointing.

Unity is likened to precious oil poured on the head - it started at the head and covered

the whole head. Wasn't just dabbed on. Ran down onto his body. Ex 29:7. The oil wasn't just dabbed on isolated parts of the body but covered the whole lot. With Christ as our head, there comes a strength of authority, purpose and vision covering a whole congregation when its people and leaders are unified.

i) In dwelling together in unity there is a covering which brings:-

1) accountability to each other bringing protection and safety - this accountability helps us to live holy sanctified lives.

2) strength - greater strength for the task than if we were isolated

3) increased wisdom and understanding - the anointing oil poured on the head from which comes thought and reasoning. There is great counsel in the wisdom of many.

For you as leaders to lead the worship team successfully, there must be **agreement together**, their must be **unity of vision and purpose**, there must be a **love and a serving of each other** and a **doing away of all hidden agendas**. For you to work together successfully, there must be co-operation, help and collaboration. You must *seek to support, strengthen and encourage each other as leaders*.

For this unity to properly happen, each of us are to lay aside our own self-ambition and secret agendas. We are not to push for position or be jealous of God's favour on others but are to love and support each other and wholeheartedly follow the vision of the church and worship team.

You must each see the importance of the well-being of the team above your own self-ambition. The word for self-ambition in the Greek "Eritheia" describes a person concerned only with his own welfare, a person who is self-willed and seeking opportunities for promotion. It denotes a person that would resort to any method for winning followers.

Jesus stressed the importance of unity when He prayed to the Father in John 17:21-23 for the unity of all believers of subsequent generations.

"That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me: that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me".

The oneness Jesus requests here is not an organisational but a spiritual unity, which, will be visibly manifested in the life of the church and will bear witness to the divine mission of Christ.

## **A Total Commitment**

There must be a total commitment to see the vision come to fruition. How can you successfully lead your team if you are slack with your attendance, with prayer or your

commitment to the team goals and visions. **Lead by example.** In other words, if you require of the team to put in a certain amount of private practice each week, or to bring a tape to rehearsal for recording their parts, you must do the same. Always seek to be on time and lead your people to be men and women of prayer.

**Faithfulness** in leaders is a must if you wish to have people follow you. There must be passion to see the success of what God has called you to do. Remain fervent in spirit - living fervour, fiery hot, full of burning zeal. It signifies a high spiritual temperature, inflamed by the Holy Spirit.

Charles H. Robinson says this is respect to faithfully being committed to what Christ has called us to - *“This Christ life is simply turning the little shop of life, so woefully perplexing, over to another. Christ becomes owner, manager, overseer. His is the responsibility, the upkeep. Your part is to be faithful clerk, steward of the grace of God. You are to trust the management to Him and obey orders: take off the shelves anything displeasing add anything He commands. But He is also Your elder brother and His love takes out all the worry, fever, and tension. And one day, if you have been faithful over few things, He will give you a heavenly shop in the city of the King!”*

## **Loyalty To Those in Leadership and Other Team Members**

*Do our hearts smite us when we touch one of God’s anointed whether by speech or attitude?*

1 Sam 24: 5 - “And David’s heart smote him , because he cut off Saul’s skirt.”  
v6 - “The Lord forbid that I should lift my hand against the Lord’s anointed.”

*We must be examples to those around us by not allowing any attack on those in authority over us or those in leadership with us.*

We might say “but theyre not God’s anointed look at this or that in their lives” Aren’t they? Who knows? We dont .....only God knows and they are the ones that are ultimately accountable to God for their decisions and actions.

1 Sam 18:11 - “And Saul cast a javelin , and said I will pin him to the wall with it .”

Up until the time Samuel had anointed David to be king, David’s life had been reasonably simple, looking after the sheep ..... Now in the kings palace, he had to dodge spears

Even when they peirce your heart, don’t turn and criticise behind their back but stand with them, and if changes are needed, make mention of them in love but allow God to bring about a change in the situation.

You will never become a good leader if you cannot learn the principle of loyalty to your team mates and those in authority over you.

## **A Teachable Spirit**

Acts 13:22 - “ I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all My will .” Only one man in the Bible enjoys the designation of being *a man after God’s own heart* - **David**.

To outward appearance, David is more readily remembered as a gross sinner. He committed adultery, murdered, lied, betrayed his nation, made severe mistakes in judgement, was a poor manager, and finally was unable to manage his home. Although David did many wrong things throughout his life, God commended the heart of his leadership because he was teachable.

With every mistake, David repented; and of equal importance, he learned from his mistakes. Not only was he humble and teachable, but he listened to his critics and his enemies as well; and, foremost of all, he heeded the prophets of God.

***This teachable spirit is the trait that caused God to classify him as Israel’s finest leader.***

When Nathan confronted him..... 2 Sam 12:13 - “ I have sinned against the Lord”

When his baby died..... 2 Sam 12:20 - “And he came into the House of the Lord and worshipped”

Ps 51 - David’s heart was one continually of worship and repentance

Your attitude plays a big part in how successful you will be. Make sure you keep a sweet spirit when criticised, corrected or someone is appointed into leadership in preference to yourself. If something upsets you, get it off your chest straight away so there is no opportunity for a build up of bitterness or resentment. One of the reasons why God said that David was a man after His own heart was because, in spite of all his misgivings, he was teachable.

When you are corrected or things happen that displease you, ask the Lord what He is trying to teach you through this situation. Learn to find the truth in any criticism. Always keep your heart open to God’s instruction through these times for this is the way He builds strength of character in us.

## **Humility**

Never think you know it all. There is no room in the Kingdom of God for prima donas. Walk in humility of spirit and never seek to big note yourself or receive the praise of others.

Do not seek to show off or give the impression that you are seeking to be recognised. Remember, it is only by God's grace and mercy that you have the gifts and abilities that you do have.

A true worshipper recognises that **without Christ he can do nothing**. God

**detests pride** and if we ever get to a place where we think we've got it together and are better than others we are in serious trouble. eg. Luke 18:9-14, James 4:10.

## **A Commitment To Learn More**

Don't stagnate or be satisfied with where you are at. There is always so much more you can learn to become excellent in leading your team. A good leader is always gleaning from others, reading, listening etc so that he is able to stay a jump ahead of those he is leading. This will prevent you just taking them to a certain level and then plateauing. Never get to the place where you think you know it all. We can learn things even from the most unlikely situation or person.

## **Resisting Popular Opinion**

The leader in God's Kingdom does not condition his appeal to the sentiment or mood of the times. Spiritual advances require faith especially when the circumstances are not looking good. Unbelief will never see beyond the difficulties. Unbelief sees "walled cities and giants", rather than the presence and power of God. Unbelief looks at obstacles: faith looks at God. Joshua and Caleb led the way into the future by confronting a negative report and helping the people to rise to serve God in faith.

## **Vulnerability**

Being vulnerable as a leader means to stand totally open as a human being, hiding nothing and refusing to defend oneself. Few things elicit more of a response from people than to sense they are dealing with someone who feels their pain and understands their need, which they only discover if the leader is vulnerable enough to disclose as much. If the people you are leading feel you are infallible they will feel that they could never attain to your level.

## **Leading With Authority But At The Same Time Releasing Your People To Do Their Job**

A good leader moves in the authority and anointing of God but at the same time releases them to be the person God has called them to be. As a leader we must not totally control those we are leading. We must give them the freedom to learn and develop and through their mistakes grow into the person God wishes them to be. A wise leader knows when to let the reigns of authority hang slack that his delegates may learn, and then when to pick up the reigns again and lead them onto the next level.

## **THINGS NEEDED FOR THE WORSHIP TEAM.**

**i) Teamwork** - you must all work together to see the vision happen with no feelings of being threatened or none of your own agendas. *Do not think you know it all* or *do not be afraid to share what you know* for fear of someone getting better than you or getting to know some of your favourite licks etc. Each one of you must be secure in who he/she is in God and that God has given you a unique anointing.

**ii) Question Where Each Member Is At In Respect To Commitment** - It will only be successful if each member of the team has a commitment to each other and to see the vision of the music dept come into being. This will require **discipline and determination**. Each person must begin to own the vision. It may mean starting from scratch and auditioning each person to find where they are at and what areas they need to be developed in. eg. those that may be weak at singing harmony.

**iii) A Servant Heart and Love for Each Other** - where each person looks out for the good and well-being of the others in the team.

**iv) Good Lines Of Communication With The Church Leadership**

**v) Determining Areas Of Responsibility So That Not One Individual Carries The Burden**