

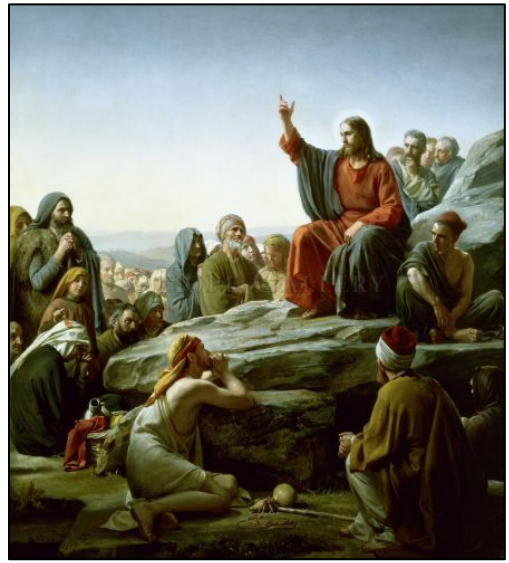


CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY SEVEN: LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCING THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

The presence and power of the Holy Spirit is to be accompanied by spiritual leadership to see powerful progress in the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Edwards, Whitefield, Finney, Roberts, Seymour, as well as modern leaders like David Cho, Savenaca Nakauyaca, and John Mulinde have all exemplified this. They have had the power of the Holy Spirit, and they also have taken specific action as Christian leaders.

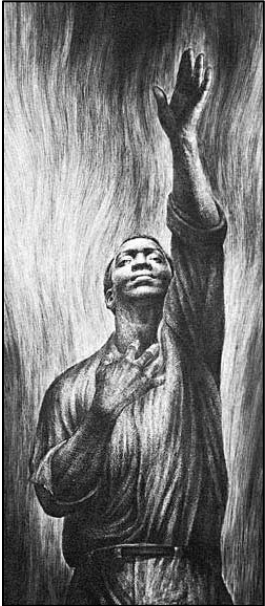


7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. Theological Foundations
3. Seeking God Wholeheartedly
4. Spiritual Practices
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. **Leadership**

A Definition of Revival



Revival comes by God's grace through Christians' faithful efforts of pleasing Him by seeking Him wholeheartedly, resulting in multiplicative advances of the kingdom of light over the kingdom of darkness in the personal, territorial, and cultural spheres, accompanied by periodic outpourings of the Holy Spirit in group settings.

Man, 1959 by Charles White



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Revival is an Increase of the Presence of God Himself:

1. **Invasion Into the Three Spheres** - It is the multiplicative (not just incremental) increase of the kingdom of God in all three spheres: Personal Sphere, Territorial Sphere, and Cultural Sphere.
2. **Visitations** - There are periodic visitations of the Spirit in group settings, where attendees look at each other, knowing that God has come, including manifestations of God in the room.

We are looking for not just a single outpouring of the Spirit, but a culture of seeking God wholeheartedly resulting in many visitations and power for multiplicative increase in the three spheres.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Kingdoms of Light and Darkness

Personal Sphere

Mark 1:14, 15

- Salvations
- Holiness, Fillings of the Holy Spirit
- Sanctification
- Fruits of the Spirit
- Deliverance, Healings, Miracles
- Widespread Fervent Prayer
- Love for others and God
- Involvement in Christian Discipleship

Territorial Sphere

Genesis 28:10-22

- Fruitfulness in the Surrounding Land
- No Hauntings, or Spiritual Power for Psychics
- Atmosphere of Godliness, Life and Joy
- Non-Christians spontaneously experience the things of God

Cultural Sphere

Isaiah 61:1-7

- Religious
- Family
- Business
- Education
- Government
- Media
- Medical
- Arts
- Entertainment
- Athletics



Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

1. Foundational Matters
2. Zeal As Requirement
3. Inquiring of God
4. Spiritual Fountains
5. Strength Not Weakness
6. True Servant Leadership
7. True Pastoring
8. False Shepherds
9. Leading Others



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

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Foundational Matters

1. The Inherent Good of Leadership
2. Strong Character
3. Good Strategy and Organization
4. Strong Base-Level Spirituality



Foundational Matters

1. The Inherent Good of Leadership



The Inherent Good of Leadership

Good to Have No Leadership? - Sometimes, as a means of authenticating a move of God, someone might say, “And there was no leadership, it was totally of God.” or “The meeting was completely led by the Holy Spirit.” While God has this prerogative, He has a bias for human agency, and chooses to effect the vast majority of His will leaders.

Leadership is Protective - In general, it's very good to have leaders present when the Holy Spirit is being poured out. Without godly leadership, matters can go afoul very quickly! It's the leaders' role to listen to God and to call the rest to His purposes.



The Inherent Good of Leadership

Seeking God for Themselves - Leaders are to hear the voice of God so they are in a position to serve in Christian leadership. Does the Father want them to do a 40-day fast? Two 40-day fasts? A 90-day liquid only fast? Leaders need to be able to hear God well, and obey so they have the grace and strength to give spiritual leadership.

Helping Others Seek God - Similarly, leaders need to listen to the Father well to know what to call others to. Does God want the leader to call others to a 40-day fast? Praying every morning for many hours? Praying all night? Deep repentance? The leader must hear from the Father well to call others to action.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Foundational Matters

2. *Strong Character*



Strong Character Expected of Elders

Titus 1:5-9 - This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷**For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach.** He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.



Strong Character Expected of Elders and Deacons

1 Timothy 3:1-13 - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.



Strong Character Expected of Elders and Deacons

1 Timothy 3:1-13 (cont'd) - ⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leaders Know the Scriptures

2 Timothy 2:14,15 - Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ **Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.**



Foundational Matters

3. *Good Strategy and Organization*



Queen of Sheba Recognizes Wisdom and Organization



1 Kings 10:4-5 - And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁵ the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her.

The Queen of Sheba Visiting King Solomon, 1890
John Poynter



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Good Strategy and Organization

Good organization including common purpose, coordinated effort, division of labor, and hierarchy of authority is to be prized as described in christianunion.org/theologyoforganization

Good leadership entails good strategy and organization including planning, delegation, processes, accountability, vision casting, evaluation and all the typical elements learned when studying the art of leadership.



Good Strategy and Organization in the Bible

- **Moses** - Moses established a hierarchy of judges with the hard cases being passed up the chain of command to give the people justice.
- **Nehemiah** - Nehemiah secured the needed resources and organized the people by dividing them to repair the wall of Jerusalem.
- **Paul** - Paul recruited helpers and established a plan of travelling to the population centers in the Roman Empire, sometimes staying just a few days and sometimes a few months all for the purpose of taking the Gospel to the Gentiles.



Good Strategy and Organization in the Church

- **George Whitefield** - As he traveled up and down the colonies preaching during the 1730's and 1740's, he sent copies of his diary ahead for printing and distribution to stir faith and attract attendance.
- **Fiji's Healing the Land Team** - The team developed a four week process to see villages turn back to God.
- **Local Churches** - They organize themselves and establish processes, meet the needs of families, raise money, in order to fulfill their calling.



Foundational Matters

4. *Strong Base-Level Spirituality*



Levels of Spirituality Among Christians

The following is a description of spiritualities needed to please our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They are based on the Scriptures as well as the revival-oriented international church and the times of great gospel progress in America's history.



Levels of Spirituality Among Christians

Christians are to build their lives around God instead of fitting Him in where it's convenient. Three possible levels of Christian devotion depend on enacting the three following principles:

1. **Hungering After God Himself** - Christians are to hunger after God Himself first and foremost. There's nothing better than seeking and pleasing the Lord.
2. **Seeking God Lifestyle** - Various levels of Christian devotion depend upon the Christian practicing the seven principles of the seeking God lifestyle.
3. **Spiritual Practices** - Seeking the Lord happens in the context of regularly drawing near to Him according to patterns He's prescribed.



Levels of Spirituality Among Christians

- **Daniel Spirituality** - This is a spirituality arguably needed of all Christians.
- **Shepherd Spirituality** - This is a stronger spirituality required of pastors and others in Christian leadership. They also have the responsibility of helping lay Christians stay strong in Daniel Spirituality.
- **Pauline Spirituality** - This is the strongest spirituality needed, that of a revivalist which brings power and direction to help pastors and other Christian leaders adopt shepherd spirituality. It takes great zeal and strength to call Christian leaders and others to Shepherd and Daniel Spirituality.



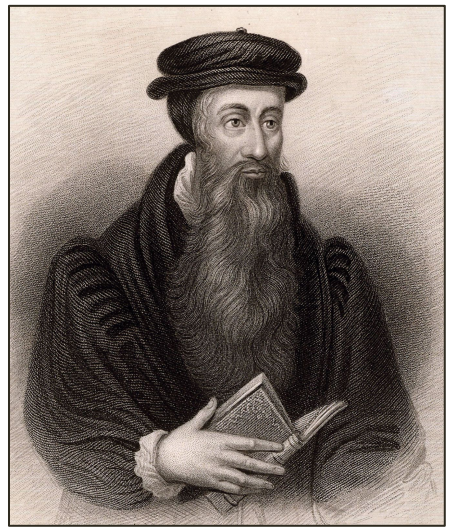
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Zeal in Leadership

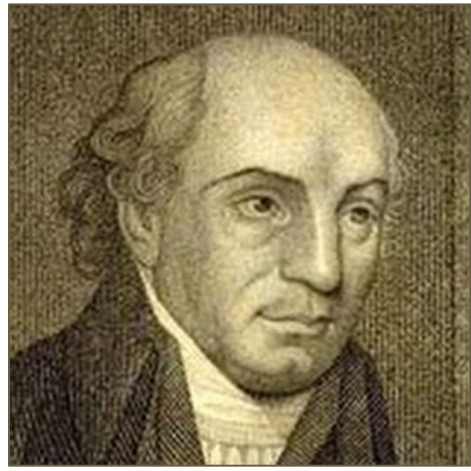


“Give me Scotland or I die!”

John Knox (1514-1572)
Scottish Reformer, Pastor and Revivalist



Zeal in Leadership



“Surely it is worthwhile to lay ourselves out with all our might in promoting the cause and kingdom of Christ.”

William Carey (1761 - 1834)
English Minister and Founder of Modern Missions Movement



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

God Himself is Zealous

Isaiah 42:13 - The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war **he stirs up his zeal**; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

Isaiah 59:17 - He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and **wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.**

Jeremiah 48:10 - “Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord with slackness, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed.”

Jesus is Zealous!



John 2:14-17 - In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, **“Zeal for your house will consume me.”**

Christ Driving Money Changers from the Temple, 1626
Rembrandt van Rijn



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leadership Must Have Zeal

Romans 12:6-8 - Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; **the one who leads, with zeal**; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:11 - **Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit**, serve the Lord.

Romans 10:2 - For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**



Lack of Zeal is a Serious Matter

Revelation 3:19-22 - Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, **so be zealous and repent.** ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 21:8 - “But as for **the cowardly**, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”



Lack of Zeal is a Serious Matter

Those in leadership are to lead with earnestness, diligence, boldness, consistency, fervency, enthusiasm and zeal. Being passive or sluggish in leadership responsibilities brings defeat. Zealousness is needed in leadership more than in other responsibilities.

To be lacking in zeal is to sin against God.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Examples of Zeal

- **Moses** - Eager for the glory of God's name
- **Phinehas** - Killing the Israelite and Midianite
- **Nehemiah** - Fasting 120 Days and strong confrontations
- **David** - Who is this that challenges the living God!
- **Elijah** - Mount Carmel
- **John the Baptist** - Even though it cost him his life
- **Peter** - Preaching the first sermon
- **Paul** - Enduring hardship, confronting Peter

The Zeal of Phinehas



Phinehas' Zeal drove him to dramatic action!



The Zeal of Phinehas

Numbers 25:6-13 - And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁷ When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and **took a spear in his hand ⁸ and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them**, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. ⁹ Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.



The Zeal of Phinehas

Numbers 25:6-13 (cont'd) - ¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹ “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy. ¹² **Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace,** ¹³ and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.”

Psalms 106:30, 31 - Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stayed. ³¹ And that was counted to him as righteousness from generation to generation forever.

David Faces Goliath



David faces a terrifying opponent with zeal and courage.

David with the Head of Goliath, 1610
Caravaggio



David Faces Goliath

1 Samuel 17:36-37 - Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, **for he has defied the armies of the living God.** ³⁷ And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”



Nehemiah's Resolve

Nehemiah 1:1-11 - The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”



Nehemiah's Resolve

Nehemiah 1:1-11 (cont'd) - ⁴ **As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.** ⁵ And I said, “O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.



Nehemiah's Resolve

Nehemiah 1:1-11 (cont'd) - ⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and **give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.**” **Now I was cupbearer to the king.**

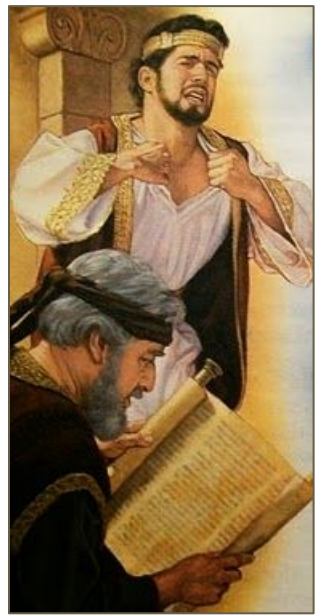


Nehemiah's Resolve

- **Fruit of Zeal** - Nehemiah's zeal for God's honor led him to fast, pray, weep and mourn day and night for 120 days, and then to boldly approach the king for resources and authority to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.
- **Diversity of Zeal** - Sometimes zeal leads to intense self-denial (fasting 120 days), and sometimes to great courage (approaching the king).



Josiah's Zealous Reforms



King Josiah, 14th king of Judah ascends the throne in 640 BC at the age of 8 and begins major reforms at age 16 and again at age 24. His father was Amon, grandfather, Manasseh, and great-grandfather, Hezekiah.



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 - Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ² And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. ³ **For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places,** the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. ⁴ And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ⁵ He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. ⁶ And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, ⁷ he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem. ⁸ **Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had cleansed the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.**



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ⁹They came to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the house of God, which the Levites, the keepers of the threshold, had collected from Manasseh and Ephraim and from all the remnant of Israel and from all Judah and Benjamin and from the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ And they gave it to the workmen who were working in the house of the LORD. And the workmen who were working in the house of the LORD gave it for repairing and restoring the house. ¹¹ They gave it to the carpenters and the builders to buy quarried stone, and timber for binders and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had let go to ruin.



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ¹² And the men did the work faithfully. Over them were set Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to have oversight. The Levites, all who were skillful with instruments of music, ¹³ were over the burden-bearers and directed all who did work in every kind of service, and some of the Levites were scribes and officials and gatekeepers. ¹⁴ While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiyah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given through Moses. ¹⁵ **Then Hilkiyah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.”** And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan.



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ¹⁶ Shaphan brought the book to the king, and further reported to the king, “All that was committed to your servants they are doing. ¹⁷ They have emptied out the money that was found in the house of the LORD and have given it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen.” ¹⁸ Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it before the king. ¹⁹ **And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes.** ²⁰ And the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying,



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ²¹ “Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book.” ²² So Hilkiah and those whom the king had sent went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter) and spoke to her to that effect. ²³ And she said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘Tell the man who sent you to me, ²⁴ Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book that was read before the king of Judah.’”



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ²⁵ Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands, therefore my wrath will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched. ²⁶

But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, ²⁷ because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ²⁸ Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place and its inhabitants.” And they brought back word to the king. ²⁹ Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. ³⁰ And the king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites, all the people both great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.



Josiah's Zealous Reforms

2 Chronicles 34:1-33 (cont'd) - ³¹ And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. ³² Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin join in it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. ³³ And Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and made all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

John the Baptist Confronts Herod



Mark 6:17-20 - For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, **"It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."**

*Sermon of John the Baptist Before Herod, 19th Cent.
Giulia Cheli Capella*

John the Baptist Confronts Herod



Mark 6:17-20 (cont'd) - ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

*Sermon of John the Baptist Before Herod, 19th Cent.
Giulia Cheli Capella*



Peter Confronts His Hearers

Acts 2:36-37 - “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, **this Jesus whom you crucified.**”³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”



Paul's Diligence and Zeal

2 Corinthians 11:23-29 - Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—**with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.** ²⁴ **Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.** ²⁵ **Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;** ²⁶ **on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;**



Paul's Diligence and Zeal

2 Corinthians 11:23-29 (cont'd) - ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

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- 3. Inquiring of God**
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7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leaders Inquire of God Because They Are Under Authority

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a **servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle**, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

James 1:1 - James, a **servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ**, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 Peter 1:1 - Simeon Peter, a **servant and apostle of Jesus Christ**, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:



Leaders Inquire of God Because They Are Under Authority

Jeremiah 3:15 - “And I will give you **shepherds after my own heart**, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

Jeremiah 10:21 - For **the shepherds are stupid and do not inquire of the LORD**; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.

Amos 8:12 - They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to **seek the word of the Lord**, but they shall not find it.



Israel and Judah Looking to Egypt Instead of God

Isaiah 30:1-3 - “Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD, “**who carry out a plan, but not mine**, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; ² who set out to go down to Egypt, **without asking for my direction**, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! ³ Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation.”

Zephaniah 1:6 - “those who have turned back from following the Lord, **who do not seek the Lord or inquire of him.**”



King Josiah Inquiring of God

2 Chronicles 34:22-28 (NLT) - ²² So Hilkiah and the other men went to the New Quarter of Jerusalem to consult with the prophet Huldah. She was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, the keeper of the Temple wardrobe.

²³ She said to them, “The LORD, the God of Israel, has spoken! Go back and tell the man who sent you, ²⁴ ‘This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this city and its people. All the curses written in the scroll that was read to the king of Judah will come true. ²⁵ For my people have abandoned me and offered sacrifices to pagan gods, and I am very angry with them for everything they have done. My anger will be poured out on this place, and it will not be quenched.’



King Josiah Inquiring of God

2 Chronicles 34:22-28 (NLT) - ²⁶ “But go to the **king of Judah who sent you to seek the LORD** and tell him: ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the message you have just heard: ²⁷ You were sorry and humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this city and its people. You humbled yourself and tore your clothing in despair and wept before me in repentance. And I have indeed heard you, says the LORD. ²⁸ So I will not send the promised disaster until after you have died and been buried in peace. You yourself will not see the disaster I am going to bring on this city and its people.’” So they took her message back to the king.



Leaders Are Undershepherds

1 Peter 5:1-5 - 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: ² **shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly**, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ **And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.** ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

King David's Leadership Characterized by Inquiring of God



A characteristic feature of David's biography is his frequent seeking of the Lord's direction. As a man after God's own heart who's under God's authority, David inquired of the Lord nine times in the Scriptures, serving as a model for Christian leaders.

**David, 1504
Michelangelo**



David's Leadership Characterized by Inquiring of God

1 Samuel 23:1-3

1 Samuel 23:4-5

1 Samuel 23:10-11

1 Samuel 23:12-14

1 Samuel 30:8-9

2 Samuel 2:1-2

2 Samuel 5:17-21

2 Samuel 5:22-25

2 Samuel 21:1



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

1. Foundational Matters
2. Zeal As Requirement
3. Inquiring of God
4. **Spiritual Fountains**
5. Strength Not Weakness
6. True Servant Leadership
7. True Pastoring
8. False Shepherds
9. Leading Others



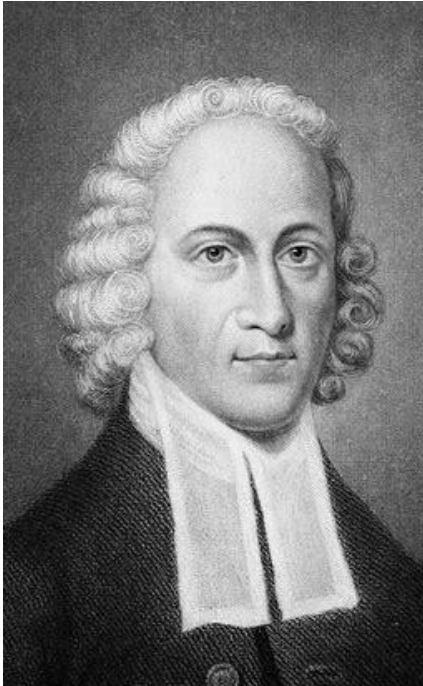
7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Multiple Ways of Describing

- “Anointing” - common Charismatic phraseology
- “Extraordinary Supplies of Divine Grace from Heaven” - from Jonathan Edwards
- “Spiritual Fountains” - many Biblical references

Whatever name is used, presence of the Holy Spirit is acquired the same way: by energetically, self-sacrificially, zealously seeking God in fasting, prayer and repentance for days and weeks. Outsourcing revival doesn't work.

7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light



“The state of the times extremely requires a fullness of the divine Spirit in ministers, and we ought to give ourselves no rest till we have obtained it. And in order to [do] this, I should think ministers, above all persons, ought to be much in secret prayer and fasting, and also much in praying and fasting one with another. It seems to me it would be becoming the circumstances of the present day, if ministers in a neighborhood would often meet together and **spend days in fasting and fervent prayer among themselves, earnestly seeking for those extraordinary supplies of divine grace from heaven, that we need at this day.**”

Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758)
American Pastor and Theologian

Developing One's Spiritual Fountains



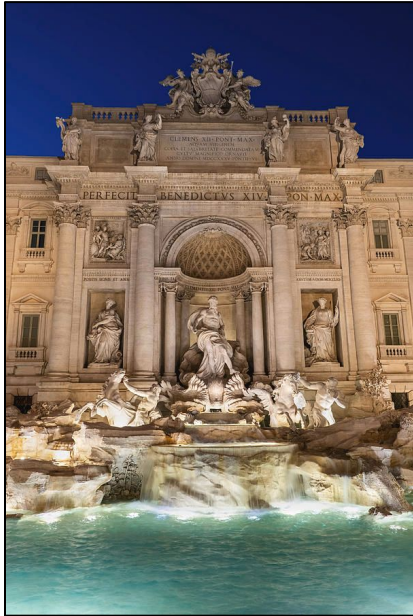
Mulinde saw little to no fruit in evangelism or calling Christians to repentance.

“The Lord said, “Two people can say the exact same thing and the impact is vastly different because I am with one of them.””

Mulinde and friends got away to seek the Lord for 90 days.

John Mulinde
Founder of World Trumpet Mission, Uganda

Developing One's Spiritual Fountains



Jeremiah 2:13, 14 - Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, ¹³ for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, **the fountain of living waters**, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Trevi Fountain at Night in Rome



Developing One's Spiritual Fountains

Jeremiah 17:13 - “O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the **fountain of living water.**”



Developing One's Spiritual Fountains

John 4:14 - “But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him **a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**”

John 7:37-38 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart **will flow rivers of living water.**”



Developing One's Spiritual Fountains

Psalm 36:9 - For with you is **the fountain of life**; in your light do we see light.

Revelation 21:6 - And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from **the spring of the water of life** without payment.”

Revelation 22:1 - Then the angel showed me the **river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne** of God and of the Lamb.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Matt Bennett's Experience

- 1990's Fasting twice for 40 days, and many additional times
- 2009 Similar intensity in seeking after God

Strength of minister to call leaders to seek god in prayer, righteousness, etc. Many are afraid and don't have courage to call to daily 2 hour prayer meeting, or repentance in all things, or fasting regularly or longer special - true fasting, not privation)



Biblical Examples

- **21-Days of Seeking God** - Daniel (Daniel 10:1-21)
- **40-Day Fast** -
 - Elijah (1 Kings 19:4-8),
 - Moses (Deut 9:6-12, 18, 25, 26; 10:10 - twice dry fast),
 - Jesus (Luke 4:1-15)



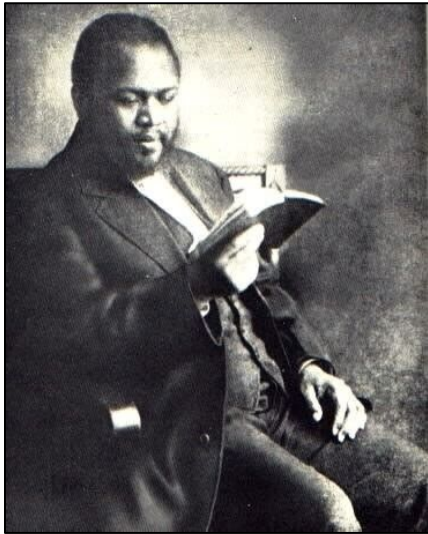
Jesus Christ As The Example

Luke 4:1, 2 - And Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness**² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

Luke 4:14, 15 - And Jesus **returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee**, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.



William Seymour's Spiritual Fountains



Prior to and during the Pentecostal Awakening of 1906, William Seymour spent months on and off seeking God in prayer and fasting all day.

William Seymour (1870-1922)
Holiness Preacher and Leader of the Azusa Street Revival

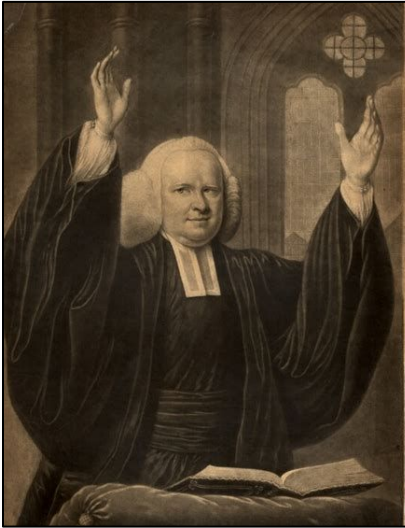
Healing the Land Team in Fiji Islands



The 25 member team periodically fasts for 40 days and maintains a 24-hour prayer chain in addition to daily multi-hour gatherings to seek God together.

Savenaca Nakauyaca
Leader of Healing the Land Team, Fiji Islands

Developing One's Spiritual Fountains



“Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.”

George Whitefield (1714 - 1770)

Anglican Minister and Revivalist of the Great Awakening



Developing One's Spiritual Fountains



“I would seriously recommend to you, when settled in the ministry, the celebration of extraordinary seasons of devotion. If your ordinary prayers do not keep up the freshness and vigor of your souls, and you feel that you are flagging, **get alone for a week, or even a month if possible. We have occasional holidays, why not frequent holy days?**”

Charles Spurgeon (1834 - 1892)
19th Century English Pastor



There needs to be very deliberate initial efforts to fill one's spiritual fountains, but then repeated episodes of drawing close to God for spiritual strengthening and grace for the work ahead.

Perseverance is everything.

Persevering Leadership is Essential



George Otis, Jr, documentarian of many revivals around the world, notes that a consistent and key feature of transformational revival is persevering leadership. The book of Acts recounts kingdom expansion that took place over 30 years. There were ups and downs, mighty works and severe persecution, but they persevered in devoting themselves to seeking God to advance the kingdom of God.

George Otis, Jr.
American Revival Documentarian and Author



Evan Roberts' Extraordinary Perseverance



From age 13 until 26, Evan Roberts earnestly sought God for outpourings of the Spirit, and when the Spirit came, over 100,000 came to faith in a year!

Evan Roberts (1878 – 1951)
Welsh Evangelist and Revivalist



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

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Strength in Christian Leadership

1. The Call and Need to Be Strong

1. Definition of Weakness
2. Weakness vs. Strength
3. Implications for Christian Life



Christians are to be *Strong* or *Weak*?

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in **weakness**.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my **weaknesses**, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with **weaknesses**, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am **weak**, then I am **strong**.



The Call and Need to Be Strong

Deuteronomy 11:8 - “You shall therefore keep the whole commandment that I command you today, that you may **be strong**, and go in and take possession of the land that you are going over to possess,



The Call and Need to Be Strong

Joshua 1:6-9 - “**Be strong and courageous**, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only **be strong and very courageous**, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**”



The Call and Need to Be Strong

1 Kings 2:1-3 - When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, ² "I am about to go the way of all the earth. **Be strong, and show yourself a man,** ³ and keep the charge of the LORD your God, **walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses,** that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn,"



The Call and Need to Be Strong

2 Chronicles 32:6-8 - And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, ⁷ “**Be strong and courageous.** Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. ⁸ With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.



The Call and Need to Be Strong

Haggai 2:2-5 - “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ³ ‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? ⁴ Yet now **be strong**, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. **Be strong**, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. **Be strong**, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. **Fear not.**”

Abraham Grew Strong in His Faith



Romans 4:20 - No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he **grew strong** in his faith as he gave glory to God,

Abraham Receiving the Three Angels, 1667
Bartolome Esteban Murillo



The Call and Need to Be Strong

1 Corinthians 16:13, 14 - Be watchful, **stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.** ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

Ephesians 6:10-20 - Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.** ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.



The Call and Need to Be Strong

2 Timothy 1:6, 7 - For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,⁷ for God gave us a spirit **not of fear but of power** and love and self-control.

1 John 2:14 - I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because **you are strong**, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.



The Call and Need to Be Strong

1 Peter 4:11 - whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the **strength** that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



Strength in Christian Leadership

1. The Call and Need to Be Strong
2. **Definition of Weakness**
3. Weakness vs. Strength
4. Implications for Christian Life



Definition in English of *Weak* from *Merriam-Webster*

1: lacking strength: such as

a: deficient in physical vigor : FEEBLE, DEBILITATED

b: not able to sustain or exert much weight, pressure, or strain

c: not able to resist external force or withstand attack

d: easily upset or nauseated

// a *weak* stomach

2 **a:** mentally or intellectually deficient

b: not firmly decided : VACILLATING

c: resulting from or indicating lack of judgment or discernment

d: not able to withstand temptation // the spirit is willing but the flesh is *weak*

3: not factually grounded or logically presented // a *weak* argument



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Definition in English of *Weak* from *Merriam-Webster*

- 4 **a:** not able to function properly // *weak* eyes
 b. **(1):** lacking skill or proficiency // tutoring for *weaker* students
 (2): indicative of a lack of skill or aptitude // history was my *weakest* subject
 c: wanting in vigor of expression or effect // a *weak* translation of the poem
- 5 **a:** deficient in the usual or required ingredients : DILUTE // *weak* coffee
 b: lacking normal intensity or potency // a *weak* radio signal // a *weak* strain of virus
- 6 **a:** not having or exerting authority or political power // *weak* government
 b : INEFFECTIVE, IMPOTENT



What Does *Weak* Mean in These Contexts?

- 1 Corinthians 4:10-13
- 2 Corinthians 11:23-30
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- 2 Corinthians 13:3-4

In these contexts, “weak” means: To be under affliction, including insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities (2 Cor 12:10)



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Christians are to be *Strong* or *Weak*?



Hebrews 11:32-34 - And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were **made strong out of weakness**, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Daniel in the Lion's Den, 1918
Henry Ossawa Tanner



***Weakness* in the Modern Sense**

- **Modern Sense** - When used in its modern sense, *weakness* is a negative condition to be avoided. Modern definitions of the word *weak* include timidity, fear, failure, feebleness, and inability to withstand temptation. These are not celebrated in the Bible and are not marks of godly leaders.
- **Biblical Sense** - When used in the Bible, the word refers to affliction, deprivation and persecution which yields increased humility, dependence on God, devotion to Him, and therefore increased strength! This can happen when fasting, but also happens when involuntarily experiencing adversity.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Christians Are to Be Strong.

To be strong is lauded everywhere in the Scriptures. Christian leaders are to be courageous, strong in faith, devoted, holy, persevering and zealous for God.

Strength is an important aspect of leadership, so it's essential to remember how prized it is in the Scriptures, and to cultivate it.

Call all in Christian ministry to a Daniel Spirituality or stronger.

Strength and Boldness in Leadership



“Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.”

Augustine (354 - 430 A.D.), Bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa (now Annaba, Algeria)



Strength in Christian Leadership

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7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leaders, Even More than Other Christians, Are to Be Strong

- Strength to be strong in the Lord
- Strength to encourage and rally others to high expectations and standards (may be vilified, or rejected for this)
- Strength to stand against enemies when disparaged and undermined
- Strength to rebuke Christians at times
- Strength to confront false teachers and withstand their attacks
- Strength to persevere in difficult times
- Strength to be Warriors and Laborers



Strength and Boldness in Leadership



“The Lord was pleased to strengthen us, and remove all fear from us, and disposed our hearts to be as useful as possible.”

Richard Allen (1760-1831)
Founding Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

Strength and Boldness in Leadership



“A Christianity without a passion to turn the world upside down is not reflective of apostolic Christianity.”

Carl F. H. Henry (1913 - 2003)

American Christian Theologian and Intellectual

Strength and Boldness in Leadership



“A nation will not be moved by timid methods.”

Luis Palau (1934 - 2021)
International Evangelist From Argentina



Christian Leaders Are to be Warriors

Isaiah 42:13 - The LORD goes out like a **mighty man, like a man of war** he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

Exodus 15:1-3 - Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

³ **The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.**

Christian Leaders Are to be Warriors



Judges 6:12 - And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, **O mighty man of valor.**”

Napoleon Crossing the Alps, 1802
Jacques Louis-David



Christian Leaders Are to be Warriors

Psalm 144:1,2 - Blessed be the LORD, my rock, **who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;** ² **he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.**



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Christian Leaders Are to be Warriors

Ephesians 6:10-11 - ¹⁰ Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.** ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Paul Tells Timothy to be a Strong Leader



Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima
Photograph by Joe Rosenthal

2 Timothy 2:1-13 - You then, my child, **be strengthened by the grace** that is in Christ Jesus,² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.³ **Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.**⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

Paul Tells Timothy to be a Strong Leader



2 Timothy 2:1-13 (cont'd) - ⁵ **An athlete** is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the **hard-working farmer** who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Man of the Soil
Raffi Jacobian



Paul Tells Timothy to be a Strong Leader

2 Timothy 2:1-13 (cont'd) - ⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ **for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal.** But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰ Therefore **I endure everything for the sake of the elect**, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.



Christian Leaders Are to be Laborers

Matthew 9:35-38 - And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.**”



Christian Leaders Are to Require Their Staff to Seek God

Required Devotional Patterns - Christian leaders should make high requirements of their own staff and pastors, including calling them to Daniel, Shepherd or Pauline Spiritualities or something similar.

Rebellion May Happen - Some lay leaders or even vocational ministers may rebel against being required to live a Biblical level of devotion, and they need to be let go, because the hour is too desperate to tolerate self-indulgence. If leaders do not call the next level of leaders to strong devotion, then the rest of the church or body of Christians will not follow. Who is more important to please? One's direct employees or the Lord Himself?



Christian Leaders Are Not to be Fearful

- Not fearful of persecution and harassment
- Not fearful of denying oneself and taking up the cross
- Not fearful of what the Holy Spirit may tell to do
- Not fearful of what other Christians leaders will say or do
- Not fearful that some of own top leaders may leave



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Which Represents the Christian Life?

Self-Centered Believer



God exists to make me happy and give me an “abundant life.”

Christ-Centered Laborer



I exist to please God and fulfill His purposes.



How Do We Grow Strong in Him?

- Humble ourselves with the help of fasting.
- Frequent and fervent prayer.
- Immersing ourselves in the Scriptures.
- Repenting of all sins.
- Obeying Him in every regard.
- Joining with others to seek Him.
- Persevering day after day.



Strength in Christian Leadership

- 1. The Call and Need to Be Strong**
- 2. Definition of Weakness**
- 3. Weakness vs. Strength**
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7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

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What is *Servant Leadership*?

- **Definition** - “Servant Leadership” term occurs nowhere in the Bible, making it tricky to define.
- **Authority for Well-Being of the Followers** - It’s the use of authority for the good of the group, and not for exempting leaders from self-sacrifice and difficulties. It’s *not* the spiritual gift of service, even though that is a noble gift.



What is *Servant Leadership*?

- **Going to the Cross** - Jesus' washing of the feet in John 13:1-20 is a beautiful example of love that should be emulated by all Christians, leaders and followers alike. But it's not presented in the Scriptures as the antidote or the opposite of "lording it over." The antidote of the "lording it over" mindset is not washing the feet of others, but going to the cross.
- **Definition of "Servant Leadership"** - It is paying the price of leadership, i.e. self-denial and willingness to experience persecution, and therefore the fulfillment of the command not to "Lord it Over."



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Definition of *Lord it Over* from Merriam-Webster

: to act in a way that shows one thinks one is better or more important than (someone)

// She knows she's very smart and *lords it over* her younger brothers.

// He got the only A in the class and was *lording it over* his classmates.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Meaning of *Lording it Over* in the Bible

- **Greek Word** - Same Greek word (katakyrieuō) is used in 1 Peter 5:3, Matthew 20:15 and Mark 10:42 (Greek word used in a different way in Acts 19:16)
- **Same Greek Word** - “not domineering over those in your charge” = “not lording over them”
- **Sacrificing** - Leaders are to sacrifice as much, if not more than those they lead, not using their position of leadership to gain an easier life than their followers.
- **Setting the Example** - Leaders are to set the example for their followers in speech and conduct.



Meanings of *Lording it Over* and *Servant Leadership*

Matthew 20:20-28 - Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹ And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” ²² Jesus answered, “**You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?**” They said to him, “We are able.” ²³ He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.



Meanings of *Lording it Over* and *Servant Leadership*

Matthew 20:20-28 (cont'd) - ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over them**, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you **must be your servant**, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to **be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**”



Meanings of *Lording it Over* and *Servant Leadership*

Mark 10:35-45 - And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”³⁶ And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?”³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”³⁸ Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. **Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?**”³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”



Meanings of *Lording it Over* and *Servant Leadership*

Mark 10:35-45 (cont'd) - ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles **lord it over them**, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. **But whoever would be great among you must be your servant**, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ **For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**



Meanings of *Lording it Over* and *Servant Leadership*

1 Peter 5:1-5 - 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: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ **not domineering over those in your charge**, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

What *Lording it Over* Does Not Mean

- **Refraining from Rebuking and Correcting** - Does not mean that leaders are not to rebuke and correct, sometimes harshly. In the life of Jesus and in the ministry of Paul in particular, it's seen that Christian leaders are to indeed rebuke and correct in addition to encourage.
- **Having Low Expectations** - Does not mean that there are not specific, high expectations. Good leaders in ministry as well as other professions call their followers to high standards.
- **Refraining from Unpopular Decisions** - Does not mean that consensus leadership is necessarily the ideal. Leaders may sometimes make decisions by consensus, but good leaders will always occasionally make unpopular decisions.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leaders Pay the Price - Internally and Externally

Internally - by their own volition denying themselves by such means as humbling themselves through intense fasting, denying themselves recreational activities to mourn, pray and seek God, giving radically generously, pursuing self-sacrificial vocations such as ministry or humble vocations that directly benefit others.

Externally - staying faithful even when hardships are externally imposed on them such as derision, rejection, persecution, harassment, or even physical dangers.



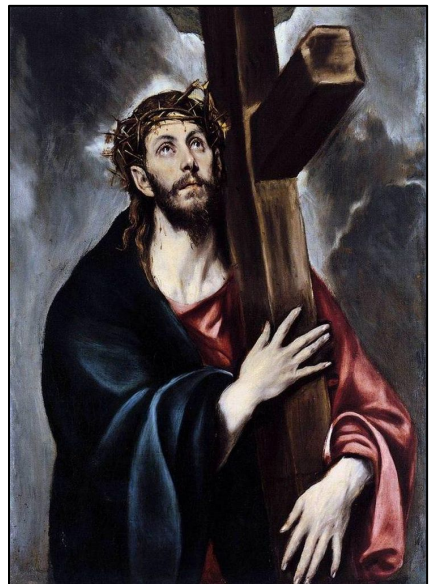
7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leaders Pay the Price - Internally Imposed

2 Chronicles 7:14 - if my people who are called by my name **humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

No Outsourcing Revival - Leaders are not to try to “outsource revival,” that is calling others to rigorous prayer, fasting and repentance without leading the way. The leaders should fast long periods of time, take weeks or months away to seek God for His direction and power.

Leaders Pay the Price - Internally Imposed



Matthew 16:24-26 - Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** ²⁵ **For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.** ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Christ Carrying the Cross, 1580
El Greco



Leaders Pay the Price - Internally Imposed



“He has made that cross for us to carry; so dare we say, “We will not carry it”?”

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)
English Pastor and Author

Leaders Pay the Price - Internally Imposed



John 15:13 - “Greater love has no one than this, that someone **lay down his life for his friends.**”

Passion of the Christ, 1515
Hieronymus Bosch



Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

Mark 10:29-31 - Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, **with persecutions**, and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”



Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

John 15:18-23 - “**If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.** ¹⁹ **If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.** ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also.



Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

John 16:1-4 - **“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.”**



Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

Acts 14:19-23 - But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.** ²⁰ But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. ²¹ When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and **saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.** ²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.



Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

Colossians 1:24, 25 - **Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,**²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed



2 Timothy 2:3 - **Share in suffering** as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851
Emanuel Leutze



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

2 Timothy 3:10-13 - You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ **my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.** ¹² **Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,** ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4:5 - As for you, always be **sober-minded, endure suffering,** do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.



Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

2 Corinthians 11:21-33 - To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—**with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.** ²⁴ **Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.** ²⁵ **Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;** ²⁶ **on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people,**



Leaders Pay the Price - Externally Imposed

2 Corinthians 11:21-33 (cont'd) - danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? ³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² At Damascus, **the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me,** ³³ but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.



Leaders Pay the Price! Internally and Externally Imposed

- **Costless Christianity** - Lord, we repent of a costless Christianity!
- **Remembering What He Paid for Us** - Perhaps we think we can live a costless Christianity, because we don't know or remember the cost Jesus paid at the cross.



Examples of *Servant Leadership*, i.e Paying the Price

That is, doing difficult, costly, self-sacrificial actions for the well-being of others, and the advancement of the kingdom.

1. Voluntarily fasting, praying fervently for fillings of the Spirit for God's purposes.
2. Participating in initiative evangelism
3. Risking rejection, persecution, harassment and abuse for the sake of Christ
4. Giving generously and sacrificially
5. Becoming a missionary in a hostile land
6. Staying up all night to pray and fast - Denying ourselves the pillow, getting up early to seek God's face!
7. Calling others to repent



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

1. Foundational Matters
2. Zeal As Requirement
3. Inquiring of God
4. Spiritual Fountains
5. Strength Not Weakness
6. True Servant Leadership
7. **True Pastoring**
8. False Shepherds
9. Leading Others



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Merriam Webster Definition of “Pastoral”

- 1: of, relating to, or composed of shepherds or herdsmen
- 2: **a** : of or relating to spiritual care or guidance especially of a congregation
// pastoral counseling
b: of or relating to the pastor of a church
// pastoral duties

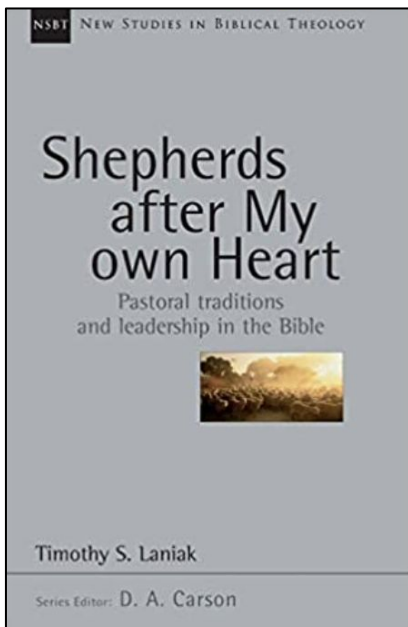


7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Responsibilities of Shepherds

- **Guiding** - Gaining and giving direction, vision casting, strategic thinking, serving as change agent, demonstrating courage and giving encouragement, inspiring, giving correction and rebuke, organizing for kingdom impact
- **Providing** - teaching, healing, deliverance, resourcing, facilitating friendship, motivating, giving resources
- **Protecting** - Comforting, defending against false doctrines, identifying and confronting followers as well as false shepherds.

An Academic, Historical Look at *Shepherd*



Shepherds After My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible by Timothy S. Laniak is a powerful, helpful biblical theology of what it means to be a shepherd.

- [Introduction \(5 pages\)](#)
- [Concluding Observations and Reflections \(3 pages\)](#)



Definition of “Shepherd” or “Pastor” in Ancient Contexts

Ancient Usage - “Shepherd” or “Pastor” is a term for deities, monarchs and military leaders in ancient Mesopotamia, including Sumeria, Akkadia, Assyria, Babylon and Egypt. In the Bible it’s often used for monarchs like King David.

Modern Usage - In modern usage, the term “pastoral” has pacified connotations, devoid of the more masculine characteristics of the role. Today when someone seeks to be “pastoral” they usually mean gentleness, kindness and compassion. Rarely is the word used with its Biblical connotations of strength, confrontation, decisiveness, and bravery.



Practice of Correcting and Rebuking

1 Corinthians 4:14-15 - I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but **to admonish you as my beloved children**.¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

2 Corinthians 13:10 - For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be **severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up** and not for tearing down.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Practice of Correcting and Rebuking

2 Corinthians 12:19 - Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and **all for your upbuilding, beloved.**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-14 - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and **admonish** you,¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, **admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak,** be patient with them all.

Practice of Correcting and Rebuking in Pastoral Epistles



1 Timothy 3:14, 15 - I hope to come to you soon, but **I am writing these things to you so that,** ¹⁵ **if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God,** which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Pastor: Servant of GOD
Andrew Nichols



Practice of Correcting and Rebuking in Pastoral Epistles

1 Timothy 5:17-21 - Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” ¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ **As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all**, so that the rest may stand in fear. ²¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to **keep these rules** without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.



Practice of Correcting and Rebuking in Pastoral Epistles

2 Timothy 2:24-26 - ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ **correcting his opponents with gentleness**. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.



Practice of Correcting and Rebuking in Pastoral Epistles

2 Timothy 4:1-5 - I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.** ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be **sober-minded, endure suffering**, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.



Practice of Correcting and Rebuking in Pastoral Epistles

Titus 1:9-13 - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also **to rebuke those who contradict it.**¹⁰ For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party.¹¹ **They must be silenced,** since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.¹² One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”¹³ This testimony is true. **Therefore rebuke them sharply,** that they may be sound in the faith,

Titus 2:15 - Declare these things; **exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.**



Practice of Correcting and Rebuking

- **More than Encouragement** - It's well known that part of the role of Christian leadership is to encourage those under one's influence, but what's not appreciated today is the need for correcting and rebuking. The leader who loves his followers will not only encourage, but will also correct and rebuke.
- **Not Allowing Abuse to Stop It** - Will those in authority sometimes abuse the role and be overly harsh? Yes, and that's to be stopped and corrected when it happens. However, it's not to serve as a reason not to be faithful to the Scriptural teaching to encourage, admonish, correct and rebuke as a way of life.



Preparing the Flock for Correcting and Rebuking

- **Taught Not to Take Offense** - Christians are to be taught to expect this from pastoral leadership. It's essential that they not take offense. Like coach John Wooden teach again and again.
- **Maturity to Be Acquired** - If they take offense, they will never mature. God has a bias for agency and he has called pastoral leadership to correct and even sometimes rebuke. It's not Christian to neglect this but cowardice and failure of obedience. These are the ways of God. Deciding "you are not going to play Holy Spirit" sounds godly but is a deception. The body of Christ suffers because of this. Teach them to test and weigh against the Scriptures what is said.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

1. Foundational Matters
2. Zeal As Requirement
3. Inquiring of God
4. Spiritual Fountains
5. Strength Not Weakness
6. True Servant Leadership
7. True Pastoring
- 8. False Shepherds**
9. Leading Others



False Shepherds

Few subjects are more unpopular than the Biblical call to address the problem of false shepherds. Out of lack of knowledge, lack of zeal, or the fear of man, many ministers avoid what the Lord requires, causing many sheep to be devoured.



False Shepherds

Revelation 2:18–20 - “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ “ ‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ **But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.’”**

The Dangers of False Shepherds



Acts 20:29-30 - “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.”



False Shepherds Defined

- **Catchall Term** - False Shepherd is a catchall term for false prophets, false Christs, false apostles and false teachers. The term false shepherd is not in the Bible, but the other terms are.
- **Falsely Present Themselves** - They present themselves as true shepherds (Christian Ministers) (Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:12-14)
- **Are Not Christian** - They are unequivocally not Christian by virtue of their life and doctrine (Matthew 7:16-23; Titus 1:16; 2 Peter 2:1).



Typical Characteristics of False Shepherds

1. Deny Only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11:4; 2 Peter 2:1, Jude 4)
2. Given Over to Sensuality (2 Peter 2:2, 10, 14; 18; Jude 4, 8)
3. Greedy (Titus 1:11; 2 Peter 2:3, 14, 15; Jude 11)
4. Will not Suffer for the Faith (overly focused on winsomeness) (Luke 6:26; 2 Timothy 4:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:22-29)
5. Often Arise From the True Flock (Acts 20:29-30; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 2:19)
6. May Perform False Signs (Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22; Ezekiel 13:9)
7. Will Boast They are Just as Legitimate as True Shepherds (2 Corinthians 11:12)



Who Is Not a False Shepherd?

- **Christian Lay Person or Leader Who Has Sinned**
 - Abraham - Lied to Abimelech; Moses - Struck the rock; King David - Adultery and murder; Peter - Denied Jesus three times
 - “A righteous man may fall seven times and rise again” (Proverbs 24:16).
- **Christian Minister with Underdeveloped Doctrinal Understanding**
 - Need to Be Open to Correction if Growing
 - May Have Legitimate Different Doctrinal View

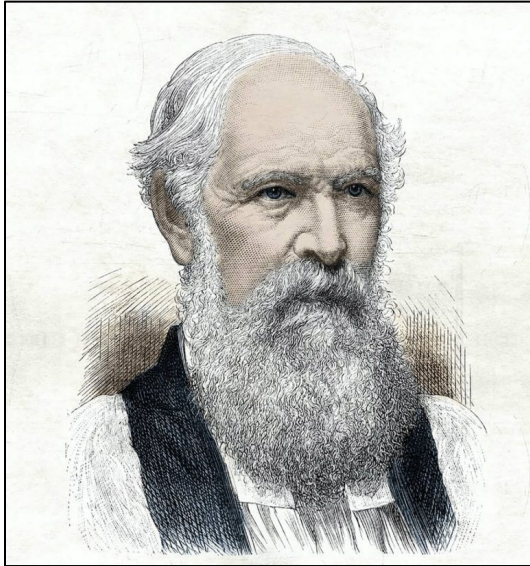


Who Is Not a False Shepherd (cont'd)?

- **Christian Who is Learning How to Use the Gift of Prophecy**
 - May Give Wrong Application (as per Paul and Jerusalem)
 - God May Change His Mind
 - School of the Prophets were in Process of Training and Learning

- **A Non-Christian or Non-Christian Leader**
 - A Muslim Imam
 - A Rabbi
 - A Hindu Priest

False Shepherds Are To Be Confronted



“There is one thing which is even worse than controversy, and that is false doctrine tolerated, allowed and permitted without protest.”

J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)
English Anglican Bishop



How Shepherds are to Protect Sheep from False Shepherds

- **Teach True Doctrine** - Teach Christians (and strengthen them in the faith, i.e. encourage, heal, provide deliverance, etc.)
- **Warn Christians** - Warn Christians that false shepherds are around and will continue to come.
- **Confront False Shepherds** - Address false shepherds and their teachings directly publicly and/or personally. Another emasculation of Christian leadership is the failure to address false shepherds.
- **Shrug Off Accusations from False Shepherds** - False Shepherds will periodically accuse true shepherds of being false shepherds and otherwise denigrate them. Know that this will surely come and be ready.

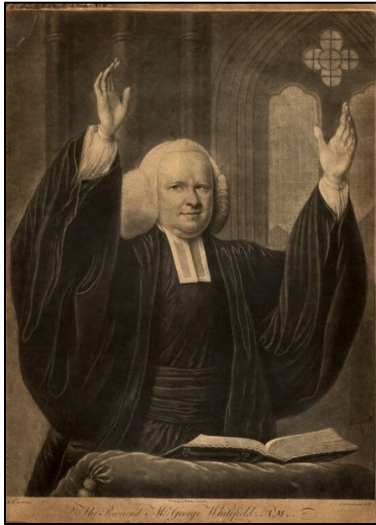
Confronting False Shepherds Characteristic of Revivals



Many are aware of the most famous sermon of the Great Awakening, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” but unaware of the second most famous sermon. Preached by Gilbert Tennent, the sermon, “The Danger of an Unconverted Ministry” (see www.christianunion/unconvertedministry) rebuked so-called ministers who believed Christian doctrines but who had never experienced the “new birth.”

Gilbert Tennent (1703-1764)
Presbyterian Minister, Original Trustee of Princeton University

Confronting False Shepherds Characteristic of Revivals



According to scholar Thomas Kidd, George Whitefield said, “and if I want to convince Church of England Protestants, I must prove that the generality of their teachers do not preach or live up to the truth as it is in Jesus.’ Whitefield did not care if this tactic affronted many of his fellow priests.”

George Whitefield (1714 - 1770)

Anglican Minister and Revivalist of the Great Awakening



Judge Without Hypocrisy

Matthew 7:1-5 - “Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”



Scriptural Passages Concerning False Shepherds

- Matthew 7:12-27
(especially 15-20)
- Matthew 23
- Matthew 24:9-28
- 2 Corinthians 11
- 1 Timothy 1
- Titus 2
- 2 Peter 2
- Jude
- Acts 20:18-20
- 1 Timothy 1:18-20 (Hymenaeus and Alexander)
- 2 Timothy 1:15 (Phygelus and Hermogenes)
- 2 Timothy 2:14-19 (Hymenaeus and Philetus)
- Revelation 2:18-29



Epithets for False Shepherds

- “false prophets” (Matthew 7:15; Matthew 24:11, 24) (Jesus to false shepherds) (2 Peter 2:1) (Peter referring to false shepherds)
- “ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “hypocrites” (Matthew 23:7, 13, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “child of hell” (Matthew 23:15) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “blind guides” (Matthew 23:16, 24) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “blind fools” (Matthew 23:17) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “blind men” (Matthew 23:19) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “blind Pharisee” (Matthew 23:26) (Jesus to false shepherds)



Epithets for False Shepherds

- “whitewashed tombs” (Matthew 23:27) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “sons of those who murdered the prophets” (Matthew 23:31) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “serpents” (Matthew 23:33) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “brood of vipers” (Matthew 12:34, 23:33) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “false Christs” (Matthew 24:24) (Jesus referring to false shepherds)
- “foolish ones” (Luke 11:39) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “concealed tombs” (Luke 11:44) (Jesus to false shepherds)
- “you are of your father the devil” (John 8:44) (Jesus to false shepherds)



Epithets for False Shepherds

- “fierce wolves” (Acts 20:29) (Paul referring to false shepherds, speaking to Ephesian elders)
- “false apostles” (2 Corinthians 11:13) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “deceitful workmen” (2 Corinthians 11:13) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “dogs” (Philippians 3:2) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “evildoers” (Philippians 3:2) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “empty talkers” (Titus 1:10) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “deceivers” (Titus 1:10) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “liars” (Titus 1:12) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “evil beasts” (Titus 1:12) (Paul referring to false shepherds)



Epithets for False Shepherds

- “lazy gluttons” (Titus 1:12) (Paul referring to false shepherds)
- “false teachers” (2 Peter 2:1) (Peter referring to false shepherds)
- “irrational animals” (2 Peter 2:12) (Peter referring to false shepherds)
- “creatures of instinct” (2 Peter 2:12) (Peter referring to false shepherds) (Jude 1:10) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “born to be caught and destroyed” (2 Peter 2:12) (Peter referring to false shepherds)
- “blots” (2 Peter 2:13) (Peter referring to false shepherds)
- “blemishes” (2 Peter 2:13) (Peter referring to false shepherds)
- “ungodly people” (Jude 1:4) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “unreasoning animals” (Jude 1:10) (Jude referring to false shepherds)



Epithets for False Shepherds

- “waterless clouds” (Jude 1:12) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “twice dead, uprooted” (Jude 1:12) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “wandering stars” (Jude 1:13) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “grumblers” (Jude 1:16) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “malcontents” (Jude 1:16) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “loud-mouthed boasters” (Jude 1:16) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “scoffers” (Jude 1:18) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “worldly people” (Jude 1:19) (Jude referring to false shepherds)
- “devoid of the Spirit” (Jude 1:19) (Jude referring to false shepherds)



Problem of False Shepherds

- **So Many Epithets** - Forty-three epithets for false shepherds in the New Testament alone! Western Christianity has made an idol out of “tone” and “winsomeness.”
- **Reasons for Restraint** - Why in your view do Christian ministers today refrain from imitating Jesus and the Apostles in using such harsh language against false shepherds?



Addressing False Shepherds



“He who wants to win the world for Christ must have the courage to come in conflict with it.”

Titus Brandsma (1881 - 1942)
Dutch Carmelite Friar, Catholic Priest and Professor of Philosophy



Addressing False Shepherds

1 Timothy 1:3-7 - As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.⁵ **The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.**⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion,⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Addressing False Shepherds



Titus 1:9 - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to **rebuke those who contradict it.**

Disputation of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 1494
Paolo Caliari



Protecting the Sheep from False Shepherds

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 - I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! ² For **I feel a divine jealousy for you**, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. ³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Do you have a divine jealousy?



Protecting the Sheep from False Shepherds

2 Corinthians 11:29 - “Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? **Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger?**”

Do you burn with anger when people are led astray by false shepherds?



Be Prepared When Confronting False Shepherds

- **Attacks From Fellow Christians and Christian Leaders** - Christians and Christian leaders may attack you when you exercise your true shepherd responsibility of identifying and confronting false shepherds. They will do it and commend themselves for being like Jesus.
- **Misuse and Abuse** - This will be misused by some. They will quote these same Scriptural passages, and call us false shepherds. Jesus and the Apostles were called false shepherds by others, so of course it will be the same for us. Are you ready for that? Should we not identify and rebuke false shepherds because some will misuse this authority against us?



Be Prepared When Confronting False Shepherds

So they attacked the true shepherds and prophets of God before you in the Old Testament, New Testament and church history. Be glad!

Conclusion of Gilbert Tennent's Sermon - "I shall conclude the discourse with the words of the Apostle Paul from 2 Corinthians 11:14–15: 'And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light: Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.'"



Beware False Shepherds



“False prophets are to be found in the circles of the most orthodox, and they pretend to have a fervent love for souls, yet they fatally delude multitudes concerning the way of salvation.”

A.W. Pink (1886 - 1952)
English Bible Teacher and Theologian



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

1. Foundational Matters
2. Zeal As Requirement
3. Inquiring of God
4. Spiritual Fountains
5. Strength Not Weakness
6. True Servant Leadership
7. True Pastoring
8. False Shepherds
9. **Leading Others**



Remember When Leading Others

“Strong men create good times, good times create weak men, weak men create hard times, and hard times create strong men”



Leading Others to Seek God

- **Extreme Challenge** - For an American Christian pastor to call their staff and congregants to seek the Lord as He requires takes courage, zeal, perseverance and strength.
- **Seeking God with Incredible Zeal** - He will succeed if he himself seeks the Lord with incredible zeal first, to gain the grace and direction to succeed.
- **Teaching Needed** - He usually needs to provide Biblical teaching to remove obstacles and provide motivation.
- **Experiences Needed** - He needs to provide them powerful experiences with God.
- **One-on-One's Needed** - He needs to personally one-on-one with key leaders, motivate, correct, challenge, rebuke, encourage and inspire.



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

What Christian Leadership Is NOT

- Depending on church growth practices instead of inquiring of and obeying the Lord
- Compromising or neglecting difficult aspects of leadership
- Being permissive or non-confrontational
- Failing to call followers to high standards or sacrifice
- Choosing popularity over what's needed
- Lacking discipline or focus
- Avoiding self-sacrifice
- Taking on responsibilities that belong to deacons

Leaders Calling Other Leaders and Laypeople to Seek God (1/2)



Zechariah 8:20-23 - “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹ **The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts; I myself am going.’**”

The Flight of the Prisoners, 1896
James Tissot

Leaders Calling Other Leaders and Laypeople to Seek God (2/2)



Zechariah 8:20-23 (cont'd) - ²² Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. ²³ Thus says the LORD of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

The Flight of the Prisoners, 1896
James Tissot



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Cast Vision and Raise Faith

- **Bible** - Many Scriptural Examples
- **Church History** - Many Examples from Church history, especially in the U.S. and U.K.
- **International Church** - Many Examples in the current international church including East Asia, South Asia, Pacific Islands, South America, and Africa



Leadership When Outpourings of the Spirit Happen

- **Good Leadership Takes Action** - Listen to the Spirit and take action
- **Discerning Works of God** - Essay titled *Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God* by Jonathan Edwards. (see christianunion.org/distinguishingmarks)



7. Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

Leadership in Advancing the Kingdom of Light

- 1. Foundational Matters**
- 2. Zeal As Requirement**
- 3. Inquiring of God**
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- 5. Strength Not Weakness**
- 6. True Servant Leadership**
- 7. True Pastoring**
- 8. False Shepherds**
- 9. Leading Others**



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

Psalm 33:12



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