

Leadership for Christians – Part 2

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Leadership develops daily, not in a day.

FOUR PHASES OF LEADERSHIP

(Maxwell, "Leadership 101")

1. I don't know what I don't know
2. I know what I don't know.
 - a. English P.M. Benjamin Disraeli – "To be conscious that you are ignorant of the facts is a great step to knowledge."
 - b. In 1969 Maxwell wrote to the top ten leaders in his field and offered \$100 for ½ hour of their time to ask the questions.
3. I grow and know and it starts to show.
 - a. A lifelong learner of leadership. Start paying the price now.
4. I simply go because of what I know.
 - a. President Theodore Roosevelt – boxing analogy. (Pages 18 & 19 "It is not the critic who counts...timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.")

A man of action – Theodore Roosevelt (TR)

While preparing to deliver a speech in Milwaukee, TR was shot in the chest by a would-be assassin. With a broken rib and a bullet in his chest, Roosevelt insisted on delivering his one-hour speech before allowing himself to be taken to the hospital.

Jerry Rice, NFL great. He's called the best man to ever have played wide receiver in football professionally. The real key to his success has been his self-discipline.

"Don't quit," he told himself. "Because once you get into that mode of quitting, then you feel like it's OK." NFL cornerback Kevin Smith says about Jerry Rice, "He's a natural, but he still works. That's what separates the good from the great."

As we concentrate on "doing" the work of leaders let us remember what our great and glorious God says about the cumulative efforts of doing so each day. "Make it your ambition to lead a great life...so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 NIV)

Another Christian pastor has said, "As Christian leaders we must always recall that the power is in the promise and its ability to be accomplished rests on the one who made it; never, never, never, does the outcome rest on the one who simply acts on the promise...Our sense of unworthiness must end if we are to be all that our Lord wants us to be and accomplish all that He wants us to accomplish...By merit of the cross we should step up to the Divine Storehouse with His promissory note in hand and optimistically in Christ await the outpouring of His blessing...As Joshua said to the people of God's choosing, "Sanctify yourselves today and God will do wonders with you tomorrow!"

During a speech that he made in St. Louis, Missouri, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf described how he was suddenly left in command when his commanding officer was suddenly called away. He left Schwarzkopf with two guiding principles of leadership that have proven true.

1. When in charge, take command.
2. Do what's right.

When he was faced with a time of deep disillusion that could have led to his resignation he was also given some valuable advice by Major Tom Whelan. "There are two ways to approach it. Number one is to get out; number two is to stick around and someday, when you have more rank, fix the problems. But don't forget, if you get out, the bad guys win."

As always Scripture has the perfect capsulizing thought on doing the hard work of being a real leader: "Am I trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10)

The main focus of this particular session of our study topic "Leadership for Christians" is "performing." Paul spoke God's thoughts when he said, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

The Second Level of Influence, suggested by authors Brady and Woodward is: **Performing**. This is the level "where accomplish begins." Here is where the "rubber hits the road." They suggest that "becoming a Performer requires a certain mind-set...one must internalize and operate according to several presuppositions."

1. Results come through personal effort.
2. Nothing worthwhile comes easy.
 - a. Robert Straus said of success, "It's a little like wrestling a gorilla. You don't quit when you're tired – you quit when the gorilla is tired."
3. There will always be critics.
 - a. "Confederate General Robert E. Lee said it most succinctly: "It is better to go steadily in the discharge of duty to the best of our ability, leaving all else to the calmer judgment of the future and to a kinder Providence."
4. There will always be strong adversaries.
 - a. As an Olympic athlete once said, "The competition is only there to keep me honest, ensuring that I extract the optimum performance from myself."
5. Attitudes conquer circumstances.
 - a. Zig Ziglar tells us, "Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your attitude."
 - b. "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)
 - c. "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)
6. Performers never can be satisfied.
 - a. "We can never be perfect, but we must never cease wanting to be."
 - b. "Hunger not for success, but for excellence."
7. Performers become relatable.
 - a. "Here again we see the importance of people skills."
 - b. "...in order to maximize his influence, a leader must be relatable."
 - c. "becoming all things to all people."
8. Focus on priorities.
 - a. "...productivity comes from focus. Alexander Graham Bell said, 'Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work at hand. The sun's rays do not burn until brought to focus.'"

