

Biblical Insights on Spiritual Leadership

Pastor Tom Chambers
Biblical Church Ministries

What is God looking for in those He calls to lead His people into His agenda? We must base everything for our 'thinking,' 'living,' and 'ministering' on a scriptural foundation, since all other ground is sinking sand (Matt. 7:24-27). There clearly is no other foundation (1 Cor. 3:10-15) or source (Jn. 15:1-17) of all-sufficiency (2 Cor. 3:4-6) that we can be wisely and safely rooted in other than Christ (Col. 2:3-10). While the world might have some helpful and practical observations that are true, remember 'all truth is God's truth.' However too many Christians, even pastors, are searching everywhere else for answers and solutions (Ps. 1:1-3) rather than first and foremost, relying on the most reliable, authoritative and absolute truth source... God's unchanging word (Ps. 119). If we really desire the victorious, abundant, and fruitful spirit-filled life, which is obviously the most effective and influential for God's eternal Kingdom, our blue print had better be consistent with what God has already revealed (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4). Just think, every culture, civilization and country worldwide, past, present, and future, has the same scriptural truths to apply. They are applicable to God's people every where for all time.

Therefore, every aspect of spiritual leadership, if it is to maximize its effectiveness for God's glory (1 Cor. 6:20, 10:31), must be committed to Biblical principles and not deviate from God's revealed will. So right now ask God to give you wisdom (Js. 1:5) and reveal what you need to apply (Js. 1:22-25), as you look at the scripture verses- allowing the authority of God's word to speak for itself. As you evaluate yourself use a separate 'journal' to write out your observations and 'plans of action' to implement these principles into your life and ministry. Also use this study resource to train other leaders in your church and ministries.

A Spiritual Leader...

1. Recognizes and lives in submission to the Headship of Christ over His Church.

John 10:11-16	Ephesians 1: 22
John 10:27	Ephesians 4:15
Colossians 1:18	Hebrews 13:20
1 Peter 5:4	

2. Maintains commitment to the scriptural qualifications

Exodus 18:21	Acts 6:3
1 Peter 5:1-6	Titus 1:5-9
1 Timothy 3:1-11	

3. Walks in the power of the Holy Spirit and is lead by God. If you are going to lead God's people you, yourself must be led by God.

Acts 6:3	Gal. 5:16-25
Eph. 5: 18-20	Col. 3:16-17

4. Sets an example. You can't expect others to do what you will not model.

1 Peter 2:21	1Tim. 4:12
2 Thess. 3:9	Phil. 3:17
1 Peter 5:3	Phil. 4:9
1 Cor. 4:16	John 13:15
1Cor. 11:1	Hebrews 13:7
3 John 11	Titus 2:7

5. Has a servant's heart, willing to sacrifice to meet other's needs.
 Matt. 16:20 Acts 20:18-19
 Matt. 20:20-28 1 Cor. 16:15-16
 Matt. 23:1-12 Titus 2:7
 Mark 10:42-45 Phil. 2:3-11
 John 13:3-17
6. Humbles themselves before God.
 Micah 6:8 Js. 4:6-10
 1 Peter. 5:5-6
7. Fulfills responsibilities as Shepherd to the flock. Acts 20:17-37, 1 Peter 5:2-4
Feeds the flock Jer. 3:15; Jn. 21:15-17; Acts 20:28 *Protects* Acts 20:28
Takes care of the church 1 Tim. 3:5; Zech. 11:16 *Exhorts* Titus 1:8
Prays: Acts 6:4; 20:36 Js. 5:14-16 (for the sick) *Watches over* Heb. 13:17
Leads with diligence Rom. 12:8 *Fasts* Acts 13:3
Refutes false doctrine Titus 1:8 *Debates* Acts 15:6-9
Preaches 1 Tim. 5:17; 2 Tim. 4:2 *Reproves with authority* Titus 2:15
Counsels Acts 20:29-31; 1 Thess. 5:12 *Loves the people* Phil. 1:3-11
Studies the Word 1 Tim. 4:6-16, 2 Tim. 2:15 *Instructs* 1 Tim. 6:17; 4:6
Prescribes 1 Tim. 4:11; 5:7 *Teaches* 1 Tim. 5:17; 4:11; 6:2
Contends for the faith Jude 3 and *doctrinal purity*
See Christ's example as shepherd John 10:1-18
8. Guards his own spiritual life. Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 4:16
9. Solves problems Biblically. Acts 15:1-35
 Matt. 5:23-24 Gal. 6:1
 Matt. 18:15-17 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 Phil. 4:2-3 1 Cor. 5:1-13
 1 Cor. 6:1-8
10. Manages his own household well. 1 Tim. 3:4-5,12
 has obedient and submissive children Titus 1:6
11. Determines unified Church policy with others. Acts 15:13-29
12. Approves (or disapproves) of selected deacons. Acts 6:3
13. Ordains others into the ministry. 1 Tim. 4:14; 5:22; 2 Tim. 1:16
14. Sends out missionaries. Acts. 13:1-3; Rom. 10:14-15; Matt. 10:1-42
15. Determines distribution of funds to needs. Acts 6:1-4; 11:27-30
16. Equips others to do the work of ministry Eph. 4:11-12
17. Trains reliable and capable people who will train others. 2 Tim. 2:2
 (Intentional strategy for discipleship) and preserving the harvest!
18. Delegates responsibilities to other qualified men and women (deacons and deaconesses)
 Acts 6:1-6 Rom. 16:1-2
 Phil. 1:1 1 Tim. 3:8-13
19. Understands his purpose and sets goals for self and ministry accordingly.
 Phil. 3:7-14 Rom. 15:15-32
 Matt. 28:19-20 Acts 1:8

20. Understands the Biblical priorities- knows where things fit into their God given order of importance.

Matt. 6:33

Matt. 22:37-40

Luke 10:38-42

Rom. 13:1-6

1 Cor. 12:4- 13:13

1 Cor. 11:3

Eph. 5:15; 6:4- (relationships)

1 Tim. 3:5

1 Tim. 5:18

21. Uses time wisely- has a balanced schedule that reflects spiritual goals, values, priorities, and commitments.

Ps. 39:4

Ps. 90:12

Prov. 4:26

Prov. 6:6-11

Prov. 14:15-16

Prov. 16:3

Prov. 20:18

Prov. 27:12

1 Cor. 14:40

Eph. 5:16

Col. 4:5

James 4:13-16

22. Disciplines himself – knowing that only through concentrated work, practice and perseverance will one's effectiveness and fruitfulness be maximized.

Phil. 4:13

1 Tim. 4:7

Luke 9:23

Josh. 1:8

1 Cor. 15:58

1 Cor. 9:24-29

2 Tim. 2:1-7,15

Heb. 5:14

Col. 1:29

Gal. 6:9

23. Understands spiritual motives and motivations, knows 'why' and 'who' we are really living and laboring for!

Matt. 6:1-18

Rom. 14:12

1 Cor. 10:31

2 Cor. 5:9-11,14

1 Jn. 4:19

Prov. 21:2

Prov. 24:12

Eph. 6:6

Col. 3:17-25

24. Makes wise plans but trusts God and submits them to His sovereign will.

Prov. 4:25-26

Prov. 6:6-11

Prov. 14:15-16

Prov. 15:22, 26

Prov. 16:1, 3, 9, 33

Prov. 19:21

Luke 14:28-32

Prov. 20:5, 18, 24

Prov. 21:5

Prov. 24:3-4

Prov. 24:8-9

Prov. 27:1, 12, 23-24

2 Tim. 2:1-21

Js. 4:13-16

25. Recognizes and prepares for spiritual warfare, not ignorant of Satan's schemes.

Eph. 6:10-18

2 Cor. 2:11

26. Strives to preserve the unity of the Spirit because a 'house divided cannot stand' (Matt. 12:25)
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| 1 Peter 3:8 | Phil. 3:2-4 |
| 2 Cor. 13:11 | Phil. 1:27-30 |
| Rom. 12:5, 16 | Phil. 2:2-4 |
| Rom. 15:6 | Phil. 3:15-16 |
| Rom. 16:17 | Phil. 4:2 |
| Titus 3:10-11 | Eph. 4:3:3-6, 13 |
| 1 Cor. 1:10 | Col. 3:14 |
| 1 Cor. 12:12-27 | Jn. 17:11, 20-23 |
27. Walks and leads in integrity. Ps. 78:72; 1 Kings 9:4
28. Does everything efficiently and in an organized manner. 1 Cor. 14:40; Nehemiah 3 illustration
29. Exposes and resists all tendencies of a dictatorship. 3 Jn. 9-10
30. Avoids harsh use of authority 2 Cor. 13:10
but is firm when necessary 1 Cor. 4:21
31. Rules in the fear of God. 2 Sam. 23:3-4
32. Doesn't seek the approval of men Jn. 12:43
33. Doesn't fear people more than God 1 Sam. 15:24; Prov. 29:25
34. Obeys God rather than man Acts 5:29
35. Seeks to know what is needed in order to make wise decisions Prov. 25:2
Gets the facts Prov. 18:13 listens to others Js. 1:19; Prov. 18:2
36. Values involvement in personal relationships 1 Thes. 2:1-12 notice from Paul's example HOW he related to others.
37. Knows the importance of prayer in decisions Lk. 6:12-16
38. Is accountable to others Heb. 3:13
39. Admits when he's wrong quickly asks forgiveness and seeks to change Matt. 5:23-24; Prov. 28:13
40. Recognizes, appreciates and commends others 3 Jn. 12; Rom. 16
41. Is committed to personally developing Christ like character 2 Peter 1:1-11, 2 Cor. 3:18
42. Is an effective communicator
Speaks the truth in love Eph. 4:11-15
Requests instead of demands Philemon 8-10
Communicated in person and in writing 1 Tim. 3:14-15
Proclaims the word and the gospel in boldness Acts 4:13, 20, 29-31
Speaks what is right Prov. 22:17-18; 23:15-16
Thinks before he speaks Prov. 29:20; 18:13; 17:27-28
Always ready to give right answers 1 Peter 3:15; Prov. 12:18; 10:11-12
Speaks God's truth with authority Matt. 7:29; 28:18; Lk. 4:32, 36
uses real life illustrations Matt. 13:3, 34, 35, 53
43. Is compassionate and gentle
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| Mark 1:41 | Matt. 9:35-38 |
| Heb. 5:2-3 | Matt. 11:28-30 |
44. Is teachable and approachable Prov. 1:5, 7-8; 5:1; 7:1-3; 8:32-36, 9:8-9; 10:8; 12:15; 13:1; 15:5, 10, 12, 31; 16:20; 18:2; 19:20, 27; 21:11; 22:27; 23:12; 28:9; 29:1, Acts 16:14; 17:10-12, 17; 18:7-11, 24-28.
45. Exercises authority for edification of believers not destroying 2 Cor. 10:8
46. Recognizes God's purpose and strength even in their weaknesses 2 Cor. 12:5-10
47. Confronts and exposes sin in the church and follows the procedures for restoring or removing those in sin (for the unity, maturity and purity of the church) Gal. 6:1; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13

48. Follows Christ and is a fisher of men Matt. 4:19
49. Is an ambassador of Christ 2 Cor. 5:18-21
50. Fulfills the ministry of reconciliation 2 Cor. 5:18-21
51. Does the work of an evangelist 2 Tim. 4:5
52. Is not ashamed of the gospel Rom. 1:16
53. Approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel 1 Thes. 2:4
54. Is a laborer into the Lords harvest Matt. 9:35-38; Jn. 4:34-38
55. Preaches the gospel Mark 16:15; Rom. 10:14-15... boldly Eph. 6:19-20
56. Gets the gospel to those who haven't heard Rom. 15:20-21
57. Knows the necessity of preaching the gospel (woe is me if I don't) 1 Cor. 9:16
58. Is an effective witness Acts 1:8; Lk. 24:46-48
59. Makes reproducing disciples Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2 and sends them out Lk. 10:1-24
60. Has the same vision that Christ had for building His church Matt. 16:18 and reaching the world.

Matt. 28:18-20	Jn. 20:21
Mark 16:15	Acts 1:8
Luke 24:47-48	

Practical Applications for Improving Your Leadership Abilities

1. Continue adding your own Biblical insights and definitions to this list of what spiritual leaders and ministry are all about.
2. Keep observing leaders (from the past, present and future) and evaluate them through the eyes of scripture. What's good and bad? What can you apply or avoid in your own life?
3. When listening to what people want in a leader or pastor, remember, they are not always right (1 Sam. 8:1-9; 10:26-27; 15:24). We need to be in unity and consistent with God's revealed will.
4. Do a study on 2 Corinthians which reveals numerous principles on leadership from Paul's personal ministry. (Also see Acts and his other epistles.)
5. Study other Biblical examples (good and bad) of leaders – the patriarchs, priests, judges, prophets, kings, apostles... Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, David, Solomon, Daniel, Nehemiah... Make your own observations and what you need to apply, then follow the Steps to Change (on page 6).

Team Ministry

1. Study the Biblical Examples of team ministry: Moses (Ex. 17-18) Christ and the disciples in the Gospels, Peter and John Acts 2-4, and Philip Acts 8; Acts 10, Paul and Barnabas Acts 13-14, Paul and Silas Acts 15-16 (Timothy) Priscilla and Aquila Acts 18, Timothy and Erastus Acts 19; Paul and others Acts 20. Note their commitment, communication, relationships, unity, goals and ministry...
2. In Nehemiah 3, he organized all the resources and people together which resulted in an incredible example of team work! He defined the job descriptions, work to be done, and delegated the responsibilities. He planned the work and worked the plan! He also committed all the work to the Lord (3:1). Also, he knew the names of everybody involved and kept records noting their specific achievements, giving each one credit for doing their part. He kept them all united and focused on their tasks, encouraging them to maintain faith in God (2:20; 9, 14, 20; 5:9, 13; 8:10). (In fact start in chapter 1 and observe how his sensitivity to the needs of the people moved him to get the facts, seek God, define the problems, move in a solution oriented direction, and make a plan of action. Facing his

fears, he communicated his vision, burden, and passion to others (2:2-20) and moved forward by faith in spite of the opposition!) Scripture reveals so much practical information for us to follow!

3. Observe the purposes and advantages of team ministry

1Cor. 12; Eph. 4:3-16; Eccl. 4:9-13; Deut. 17:6; Matt. 18:15-19;
 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Cor. 3:7-8; Jn. 4:37-38; Acts 6:1-7; Prov. 11:14;
 Prov. 15:22; Prov. 24:6; Heb. 10:24

Productive team ministry means Spirit led, commitment and work on everyone's part to Biblical unity, love and communication. All need clearly defined goals, priorities and plans of action in which there is prayerful evaluation and accountability. Each one must discipline themselves and persevere to faithfully fulfill their God given responsibilities consistently with Gods will, for the glory of God(Eph. 4:1- 6:24).

Steps to Change

1. Analyze your own spiritual gifts, qualifications, character qualities, effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses... ask others for their input. Ps. 26:2; Ps. 139:23; Matt. 7:3-6; 1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5
2. Prayerfully identify and prioritize the areas in which you need to change and improve.
 - humble yourself Js. 4:6-10
 - ask for wisdom Js. 1:5
 - confess 1 Jn. 1:9; Ps. 51
 - repent 2 Chron. 7:14; Prov. 28:13
3. Discover the Biblical solutions, scripture revealing God's will on the matter.
 - 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ps. 119
 - What exactly must you 'put off' and 'put on' according to Ephesians 4: 20-32
4. Write out a specific plan of action defining what you must do. Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 3:3; Acts 15:23
 The more practical and detailed you are about "the who, what, when, where, how, and whys", of your plan, the more lasting the changes will be.
5. Pray the changes into your life daily. 1 John 5:14-15; Matt. 26:41
 Depend on the Holy Spirit to produce the changes in your life (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16-25)
6. Do it... Js. 1:22-25! Commit yourself to action/ obedience to God (Lk. 22:42)
 Discipline yourself 1 Tim.4:7
 The power comes in the doing Phil. 4:13
7. Perseverance- continue consistently- don't give up!
 Gal. 6:7-9; 2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Thess. 3:13
8. Accountability (Heb. 3:13) Have someone check up on you, help, encourage, and pray with you.
9. Stay connected to the Source (Jn. 15:1-11)
 Remember you must be receiving from the Lord before you can give to others.