

Be the Leader You Were Meant to Be by LeRoy Eims, Victor Publishing, Colorado Springs, CO, 1975. (37 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols.)

1. Strict Judgment for Leaders.

Before people take on response leadership responsibility, they should weigh the matter carefully. “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly” (James 3:1). Leaders will be held in more severe and stricter judgment than their followers. That one thought should give us pause. [Page 9]

2. God Shows Us His Will.

Sometimes you will know God's will immediately. Other times you will have to wait until God makes it plain to you. But be assured of this--God will show you. Our Father in heaven is well able to communicate to His children. God will confirm His will in the matter to you. He does not want us to spend our lives in uncertainty. [Page 10]

3. God's Purpose Is People.

When we understand that God's *method* of accomplishing his plan and purpose is *people*, we will begin to understand our role in the kingdom of God. [Page 11]

4. Ignore Hindrances When God Calls You to a Task.

So when God calls you to a task, let neither a sense of inadequacy or a “poor background” hinder you from following His lead. “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose” (Philippians 2:13). [Page 17]

5. Glorifying God.

If I am ever to accomplish my ultimate goal in life, to glorify God, I must be transformed more and more into His image, to become like Christ. [Page 20]

6. Assimilating God through His Word.

We must get into the Word and the Word must get into us. We get into the Word by hearing it preached, reading it, studying it, and memorizing it. We get the Word into us through meditation. By meditating on it, we assimilate the Word of God into our spiritual lives. Like physical food, it is not what we take in that affects us but what we digest and assimilate. That's meditation. To meditate is to go deeply into the Word, to revolve it in our minds, to go below the surface. “Oh, how I love your law. I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97). [Page 21]

7. God Uses His Word to Communicate to Us.

God wants us to communicate with us through His Word. If we take time to meditate, we will experience the depth and the greatness of the message, and the spirit of God will speak to us and affect our lives. And here's an important point. It is God who does it, and not the words printed on paper. God uses His Word as a means, as an instrument to communicate Himself to us. "I am lay low in the dust; renew my life according to your Word" (Psalm 119:25). Note that it was God himself who could breathe new life into the psalmist. He used His Word as an instrument to do it. [Page 22]

8. Being a Person of the Word.

Leaders who are worth their salt and who truly lead others spiritually must be a person of the Word. [Page 23]

9. Others Viewing a Life of Obedience.

A life of obedience by leaders is the greatest motivation to the people who follow them. They see their lives and are challenged to greater heights of commitment and obedience. [Page 27]

10. The Word, Prayer, and Obedience.

The three elements of fellowship are the Word, prayer, and obedience. They are imperative for leaders. Leaders need to experience the power of God in their lives and ministries on a day-by-day basis. [Page 27]

11. Being Above Reproach.

Leaders must set an example in their own behavior that matches the standard of Scripture: "The overseer must be above reproach" (1 Timothy 3:2) [Page 30]

12. A Leader Must Live a Pure Life.

If the Christian leader tries to put on an outward show with no inward fortification of purity and holiness before God, one day a test will reveal his or her true nature in character. Thus, the leader *must* live a pure life. [Page 30]

13. Permissible , but Not Beneficial.

"Everything is permissible for me"-- but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible for me' but I will not be mastered by anything" (1 Corinthians 6:12). On the basis of that verse, I can ask myself: is it helpful? Is whatever I'm about to do helpful to me *physically*, or will it harm me? Does it help me *mentally*, or does it tend to get my mind on things that draw me into sin? This helped me get guidance with regard to

motion pictures, TV programs, and certain books and magazines. And does it help me *spiritually*? Does it help me grow, or does it hurt my spiritual development? [Page 32]

14. Humility in the Person God Uses.

A humble spirit is the hallmark of the person God uses. God requires it in His servants. “I am the Lord that is My name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols” (Isaiah 42:8). When His people deviate from the path in this regard and get proud, God has a way of bringing them back to the straight and narrow. [Page 34]

15. Genuine Praise.

How does a leader maintain a humble spirit before the Lord? Many things are involved, of course, but one stands out. To walk humbly before God, a leader needs to live a life of genuine *praise*. [Page 39]

16. Being God’s Kind of People.

The inner life of leaders will either make them or break them. If they neglect the cultivation of purity, humility, and faith, they are in for big trouble. On the other hand, if they set themselves to be God's kind of people, “The eyes of the Lord will range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him” (2 Chronicles 16:9). By God's grace you can be such a leader. [Page 43]

17. Serving Others.

To serve God we must serve others, as Jesus did. Leaders must offer their own lives on the altar of God to be consumed in the flame of God's love, in service to others. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers” (1 John 3:16). [Pages 44-45]

18. Servant’s Heart and Sensitive Spirit.

These two things, then, a servant heart and a sensitive spirit, are crucial for a good leader. If you are to lead, these characteristics must be an integral part of your life. “So give Your servant a discerning heart to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours?” (1 Kings 3:9)[Page 50]

19. God Is Excellent.

God's name is excellent. “Oh Lord, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens” (Psalm 8:1). “Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens” (Psalm 148:13).

God's loving kindness is excellent. “How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings” (Psalm 36:7).

God's greatness is excellent. “Praise the Lord. “Praise God in his sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens” (Psalm 150:).

God's salvation is excellent.

“Surely God is my Salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; He has become my Salvation.” With joy will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: “Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world” (Isaiah 12:2-5).

God's work is excellent. “Listen, oh heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth...I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just” (Deuteronomy 32:1-4).

God's way is excellent. “As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him” (2 Samuel 22:31).

God's will is excellent.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in the view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12 :1-2) [Pages 52-53]

20. Showing Initiative.

The second characteristic of a successful leader is initiative. Leaders don't wait for things to happen; they help make things happen. They are out at the point of the action. That's one reason some people shy away from leadership responsibilities. They know that “they who lead the band must face the music.” One of the necessary traits of leaders is that they will be willing to do just that. [Page 57]

21. A Basic Leadership Quality.

It is obvious that initiative is a basic quality of leadership. [Page 58]

22. A Leader's Pentant for Creativity.

The third reason some leaders excel is that they are creative. They are not afraid to try new and different things. When you look at the lives of the apostles, you will not find

the monotony and stiffness that characterize so many lives today. This difference may be traced to the very nature of God as contrasted to human nature. [Page 62]

23. Excellence, Initiative, and Creativity.

Three things, then, we must seek from the Lord. One is the sense of excellence. This means for achieving excellence, once we've made it our standard, is to relax in the arms of Jesus and let Him live His life through us. He's the only one who "did all things well". The second is initiative. Here again the Lord himself is our greatest example. To learn from Him as we seek to do His work is the most productive path we can follow. Third is a creative spirit. Again, openhearted fellowship with Jesus Himself is the best means of seeing creativity developed in our lives by the Spirit of God. [Page 65]

24. Having Focus.

Leaders must manifest the spirit of wholeheartedness so that those who follow them will have their hearts in the work. [Page 69]

25. Wholeheartedness, Singlemindedness, and Fight.

These three things, then, are essential for making an impact as a leader. We must be wholehearted, singleminded, and have a fighting spirit. Programs may continue without these, but leaders whose lives are to be used of God to produce much lasting fruit will see that they have all three. [Page 79]

26. Seed Thoughts.

This is another lesson I have learned from Lorne Sanny. He usually saw things before the rest of us Navigators. He would begin to plant seed thoughts. He would toss out an idea or ask a question that would get us thinking along certain lines. Then when the plan was actually proposed, some of us had been thinking about it so long that we thought it was our idea!

Changes can be made. New ideas will be adopted. New directions can be instituted. But it often takes time. People resist change. So fall in step with them, walk with them in their direction for a while, and then gradually ease them into new and more productive paths. [Page 82]

27. Doing a Task for God.

When you undertake a task for God, remember three things:

1. Get at it.
2. Trust God for the help you need.
3. Focus on objectives, not obstacles.

Of course, obstacles and difficulties can be very real and very serious. We can't expect them simply to go away just because we think positively. In the next chapter we will discuss how to resolve difficulties. [Page 100]

28. Faithfulness in Little Things.

Two scriptures I share with people in trying to help build faithfulness into their lives express principles that Jesus taught his disciples. First is the importance of *faithfulness in little things*. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much” (Luke 16:10). The person who cannot see the importance of doing a small job faithfully will be the same person who fails in larger tasks. You can tell much about people by watching how they set up chairs for meeting or greet people as they arrive. It is quite easy to detect whether or not their hearts are in it. People who do a sloppy job in lining up transportation for a class weekend retreat will do the same kind of job when there has to run the retreat. [Page 108]

29. Maintaining a Climate of Love, Peace, and Unity.

Most leaders agree that good communication is needed and at the same time is tremendously difficult. The problem is compounded by the fact that in many cases the real source of dissension and division is the devil. One of his chief tools in disrupting the program of the church and stopping the thrust of the gospel is to get Christians fighting among themselves. Leaders must do everything they can to maintain a climate of love, peace, and harmony among their people. And that takes effort. “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:23). [Page 110]

30. Suffering with Joyfulness and Thanksgiving.

The Apostle Paul told the Colossians to respond to extended suffering with joyfulness and thanksgiving! “Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light (Colossians 1:11-12).

As we read these passages, we see why trials and troubles are to be welcomed with thanksgiving and joy. It is through them that God builds Christian character. Endurance and staying power are produced in our lives. They must not lose sight of God's way of doing things. Endurance is a basic quality essential to leadership, and this is God's method of making it a part of us. A tree raised in a hot house is perfectly healthy but is tall and spindly. A tree that grows where the wind blows hard sinks its roots down deep. It is rugged, strong, and has staying power. That's what leaders need.

When trials come, they strengthen our faith, and the experience produces confidence in God for the future. [Pages 112-113]

31. God Has His Own Timetable.

One of the most helpful Scriptures to keep in mind during difficult days is given to us by Isaiah: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9). As we pray for deliverance, we must keep in mind that God has His own timetable and ways. [Page 114]

32. Wanting This World.

Covetousness makes leaders lose their perspective--their lives become focused on *this* world. [Page 120]

33. The Treasures of This World.

I once heard an evangelist brag that he could preach for two weeks and never wear the same suit twice! The scandal of people who heap up treasure to themselves has been a blight on the ministry. [Page 121]

34. Wanting This World.

I recall an incident with a young man who aspired to leadership in the cause of Christ. He and I were having a discussion at the Bible school from which he was to graduate that spring. He had done well academically and seemed to have great potential for God. I asked him what he was going to do upon graduation. He grew reflective, and I could see he was thinking deeply. I began to wonder what he was going to say. Did he aspire to be a missionary in some remote jungle? Would he risk his life to take the Gospel behind the Iron Curtain? My imagination ran wild.

Finally he looked at me and in earnest and serious tones said, “I think I’ll buy a Buick!” My heart sank. I was dumbfounded! Here was a man with the potential for God service whose mind was taken up with the passing glitter of this life. [Page 121]

35. Doing Right When No One Sees You.

Paul says, “I serve the Lord with great humility and with tears” (Acts 20:19). He was serving God, not people. It is easy to slip into the sin of doing our best when someone important is watching and will commend us, but let things slide when just ordinary folks are around.

My wife is a constant challenge to me in this regard. The way she sets the table is a classic example. She does it in the same way for family as she does for company.

Occasionally we will have a missionary or Christian leader in for dinner. She puts on no airs on their behalf. Whether guests are present or not, there is always a centerpiece. Peanut butter, jelly, jam, pickles, mustard, catsup, olives, relish--anything she serves is always present presented tastefully in a serving dish rather than from the jar or bottle. Milk does not come to the table in a carton. The table never looks like a junkyard filled with jars, boxes, and bottles. The napkins and silverware are placed properly whether for company or just family. She never just "throws it on." She keeps our home as unto the Lord and tries to do her best for Him at all times (not as the pattern for others, but as a personal conviction). [Page 127]

36. Covetousness, Self-glory, and Discouragement.

Three things can be the downfall of a leader: A covetous heart, a craving for self-glory, or discouragement. The enemy of our souls has been using these in the lives of men and women since Adam and Eve fell. There is no human defense against them. Satan knows how to circumvent, sweep aside, and destroy our human defenses.

But God wants to deliver us and will if we trust Him. As an old man, David could look back over his years of experience with God and say, "Yours, oh Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory in the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours...Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise Your glorious name (1 Chronicles 29:11,13). [Page 130]

37. It Takes One, to Make One.

The influence of leaders on their associates is an interesting thing to observe throughout the Bible. For example, how many giant killers were in Saul's army? None. When Goliath defied the armies God, they quaked in fear (see 1 Samuel 17:11). David, who came to bring food to his brothers, sized up the situation, and went out in faith, and killed the giant.

After David, the giant killer, became King, how many giant killers arose in Israel? Quite a few. They were almost a constant commodity in the army under David's leadership.

At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, one of the descendants of the Rephaites, and the Philistines were subjugated. In another battle with the Philistines, Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod. In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot—twenty-four in all. He also had descended from Rapha. When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. These were the descendants of Rapha in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men (1 Chronicles 20:4-8).

Why do you suppose there are no giant killers in Saul's army? One reason, I'm sure, was because Saul himself was not one. However, under David's leadership they were numerous. Why? Because David was one. This illustrates a tremendous principle of leadership, a principle which runs throughout the Bible. *It takes one to make one.*
[Page 132].