

Leadership 101

Lesson 3 Preparing to Lead

New Life Pentecostal Church

Preparation

Success comes to those who are prepared to sail when their ship comes in. Much disillusionment in life has been experienced by those who 'too late learned' the value of preparation. It has been said that nobody plans to fail, but many have failed to plan. Preparation involves research, training, and organization. Preparation means planning, process and persistence.

Prepare thy work without, And make it fit for thyself in the field; And afterwards build thy house. Proverbs 24:7

Solomon is simply saying 'do first things first'. A task as important as providing for a roof over your head must take second place for the planting of the first harvest. A nice house with no income from the field will spell disaster and starvation for its owner once the pantry is empty. Knowing the correct order to do work can be as simple as learning to 'follow the directions' in a pre-existing process. Every generation would like to think that its situation is so unique that the 'old ways' will no longer work. They cast off the wisdom of ages and elect to go through the 'Schools of Hard Knocks for a low level degree in life 101. Preparation can save years of 'figuring it out the hard way'.

Wisdom in Leadership

God typically 'works through us' and in so doing that He uses our gifts, our willingness and our energies. While working through us, God will 'direct our steps', either by means of special guidance or by the use of 'Wisdom to do the work'.

Wisdom hath built her house; she hath hewn out her seven pillars: She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens: She crieth upon the highest places of the city, Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: As for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding. Proverbs 9:1-4

Through wisdom is a house built; And by understanding it is established; And by knowledge are the chambers filled with all precious and pleasant riches. Proverbs 24:3-4

Wisdom is acquired in many ways, experience, study, mentoring, etc. it is highly imperative to success that a person has wisdom or at least the common sense to know that they lack it.

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to everyone generously without a rebuke, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good life that his works are done in humility born of wisdom. James 3:13

Failure is the reward for those who disregard the need to be diligent in these matters. There is no escaping connection between 'failure to do the work up front' and the dissatisfactory end results received.

I went by the field of the slothful and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man. Proverbs 24:30-34

Leadership is a Trip

Momentum

Automobiles have different gear sizes to go from zero to 5, from 5 to 20, from 20 to 50, etc. You cannot use the gear ratio designed for 20 to 50 to move a car that is at a dead stop. We shall discuss levels of leadership in a following chapter, but suffice it to say that leadership at all levels is smoothest when you go through the gears one by one. Without momentum a leader and his following are not going anywhere, they are just standing around.

Direction

It is impossible to steer a parked car. Many people will try to change directions when they have no momentum and therefore become discouraged at each attempt. I propose that momentum first be gained first before any far-reaching change in course is attempted. Speed is good if you are going in the right direction. Speed is good if you need to change direction.

Navigation

Navigation is more than steering, it is charting a course. Forward speed and the ability to steer are only of value if you know where you are going. Navigation is the science of 'knowing how to get there'. Navigation is planning.

Mission

'God's Goals' with 'your Go' = A Mission.

Without a goal, when you aim at nothing you are sure to hit it (nothing).

Jesus said 'Go into the entire world'; He provided a big enough map for all to navigate on - except those equipped with an 'excuse button'.

People want to follow a leader on a mission. Without a mission you will only lead people around the barn. Without a sense of Mission, a leader will not succeed. A mission can be 'life-long' or short term. We call those who go into the field 'missionaries' but the fact is 'the world is the field and we should all be on a mission.'

He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;
the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom;
Matthew 13:37-38

Getting started

Depending upon your personal Leadership Ability (see Leadership 101 lesson 2) you will start to attract a following to your cause once you get underway. Do not look for others on their own missions to 'jump on your band wagon', you need to first find your own following (or rather your own following will find you). As your Leadership Ability grows you may 'lead a pack' if you are able to attract leaders to your mission. Servant leadership is based upon 'how many can I help' rather than 'how big a following can I acquire' (see intro lesson ppt). If your mission is to enhance your life, then you need to review the intro lesson again!

He that loveth (phileo - sense of duty toward) father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. **And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.** Matthew 10:37-42

Your Mission and the NLP 'Enable Structure'

The Action Steps in Leadership 101 **lesson 1** (Cell groups) encouraged you to become involved in the smallest level of reproduction (the cell). We studied the value of bringing your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors (Oykos) into your cell for the purpose of leading them to Christ.

We studied how to grow dynamic teams/cells in **lesson 2** (Team Dynamics) by increasing our Leadership Ability Quota.

Now in this lesson we are learning that both Mission and Momentum are vital if we ever plan to 'get going' and 'get there'. New Life Pentecostal Church can provide you with a framework to help you fulfill the call of God upon your life. New Life Pentecostal Church has structured the Wednesday night **Enable Meetings** to give guidance where your individual Mission can gain Momentum.

1. **Cell Activities** - where outreach, group dynamics, teaching and training can all happen at a very personal level.
2. **New Youth Activities** – where leadership growth through planned events provide evangelistic and educational opportunities to our youth.
3. **Family Training Activities** – where trained teachers provide the guidance while involved family members reinforce the lessons imparted to our children.
4. **Structured Curriculum Classes** – where ongoing training and direction is provide to keep each leader in sync with the NLP goals and Mission preparation opportunities.

Defining Your Mission

Churches do not stand before God in the judgment day, people do. You and I will someday stand before the Bema of Christ (Judgment seat) to have our life work reviewed. Only one life so soon will be past, only what has been done for Christ will last. Wealth decays, careers vanish, but the Kingdom of God is eternal. Do not take the call of God upon you life lightly.

For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. I Corinthians 3:9-15

It has been said that you can determine if someone is a leader by how they think. Servant Leaders think about others and their mission more than they think about themselves. Monitor your thoughts for a few days. What occupies your mind? Do you seek entertainment? Are you consumed by your job? Do you ever strategize in your mind on how to do the will of God in your life?

*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your **mind**.*
Matthew 22:37

You will begin to get more clarity on your life mission as you become prepared to lead. Leadership preparation is not learned solely in the classroom just as you cannot teach a man to swim only with the lessons in a book. As some point we need to get our feet wet.

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Eph 6:15

Notice that your feet are to be shod with preparation. To get going - get ready, and to get ready - get going. All advanced manager training will tell you that to get something done, give

it to a busy person, for they have not time to make excuses. Busy people have momentum. The professional student is a common phenomenon the college campus. This is the student who is ever learning, but never getting a job.

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 3:7

Our churches are filled with professional student who have read, studied and investigated the truth that we love, but they have fail to come to the knowledge that truth is of no value unless it is told. They **hold the truth** when they are actually supposed to share the truth.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Romans 1:18

Action Steps

Make plans to share your faith with someone over the next few weeks. Make it foundational to your mission that sharing your faith will always be a part of what you do and who you are. Monitor your thoughts; make sure that these that action steps come into our mind. If not, ask God for a renewed mind.

Use the red light prayer we learned in the introduction lesson to get you going.

Stop - plan and pray how you will share Christ with someone

Yield – to the direction that God gives to you

Go – with confidence that your testimony will be received as a cup of cold water to a thirsty soul.