

The Spiritual Leader's Inner Life

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The Leader's Self- Perception

- ▮ Self-image is how you see yourself
- ▮ How you perceive yourself is a strong determiner of how you will respond to people and situations
- ▮ Spiritual leaders see themselves primarily as servants, not leaders.
- ▮ Leading is a tool that God has entrusted to the leader with which to serve others.

Dealing with Ego

- ▮ Ego has to do with who we are as people – our core nature, our very selves
- ▮ Jesus had an ego, an identity, a self.
- ▮ We are not to get rid of the ego or self, just the old nature within our personhood

Dealing with Ego

Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV – “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Sense of Identity

- ▮ A spiritual leader must have a strong sense of identity to lead well.
- ▮ Finding that value and identity in God through Christ is the best way to avoid human motivations.
- ▮ Galatians 1:10 NIV – “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Healthy Leader Ego

- ▮ **Ego Size** – The size of a leader's ego has to do with whether or not that person is willing and able to deny his or her desire for ego feeding (attention, control, rewards, limelight)
- ▮ A small ego is equivalent to true humility.

Healthy Leader Ego

- ▮ **Ego Strength** – has to do with self-esteem or sense of value.
- ▮ A weak ego is a sign of low self-esteem
- ▮ A strong ego is a sign of high self-esteem.
- ▮ Leaders need a certain level of self-esteem to avoid being the pawns of followers and competing influencers.
- ▮ Strong self-esteem helps in weathering the conflict that comes with leading into change

Healthy Leader Ego

- Goal of the servant leader: **A small, strong ego**
- Jesus had the same ego when he cleansed the Temple by turning over the money-changers tables as He did when He washed the dirty feet of His disciples.

Healthy Leader Ego

- The leader with a small, strong ego and spiritual and emotional maturity, is the one people love to follow

The Prayer Life of a Spiritual Leader

- ▮ People who are gifted at leading tend to find the process of being still before God a great challenge!
- ▮ They would rather do something and hope God blesses it.
- ▮ Leaders tend to be go-getters who are tempted to rely on their own gifting.
- ▮ Most spiritual leaders have to work hard at their prayer life

The Prayer Life of a Spiritual Leader

- ▮ John 17:9-12, 15-21
- ▮ First, spiritual leaders pray for their teammates
- ▮ Second, spiritual leaders pray for themselves to be good leaders and providers for their team, organization, or church.
- ▮ Third, spiritual leaders pray for the end users, the customers, or congregants

The Prayer Life of a Spiritual Leader

2 Chronicles 20:1-5 NIV -- After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi). Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard

The Prayer Life of a Spiritual Leader

- ▮ True spiritual leaders pray as a first response instead of as a last resort.
- ▮ When time is of the essence, prayer is not wasted effort.
- ▮ Spiritual leaders go to God first, knowing that their best chance for long-term success is to discover Gods' will.
- ▮ *How is your prayer life? Where do you need to grow?*

Struggles with Prayer

- ▮ *Why is it so hard for spiritual leaders to pray?*
- ▮ Leaders tend to be **self-reliant** and **action-oriented**
- ▮ Psalm 37:7 NIV – “Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.”

Struggles with Prayer

- ▮ Leaders tend to have many **demands on their time**
- ▮ “Survival of the fastest”
- ▮ The tyranny of the urgent

Struggles with Prayer

- ▮ A spiritual leader doesn't consider prayer, solitude, and meditation as preparations for leading. These activities are actually a *part* of vibrant leading!
- ▮ When there is more to do, more time is needed for prayer!

Mentoring Constellation



Struggles with Accountability

- ▮ Leaders struggle with developing adequate, effective **accountability**
- ▮ Percentage of energy and time a leader should invest in:
 - ▮ Leading up (those over you)? **20**
 - ▮ Leading down (those under you)? **20**
 - ▮ Leading laterally (team members)? **10**
 - ▮ Leading inwardly (developing yourself as a leader)? **50**

Struggles with Sexual Temptation

- ▢ The two most common reasons spiritual leaders drop out of ministry is discouragement/burnout and sexual infidelity
- ▢ Leaders often have strong libidos
- ▢ Leaders experience significant stress
 - ▢ The stress for success
 - ▢ The stress of success

Struggles with Sexual Temptation

- ▮ Leaders are often given a romantic aura of sexual energy by followers.
 - ▮ Leaders draw more attention than other because of their exposure
 - ▮ People see and hear leaders in the limelight and feel as though they know them
 - ▮ Followers create one-way relationships with leaders
 - ▮ While the leader looks at a follower as merely a team member, the follower may load the relationship with sexual overtones
 - ▮ Any private attention that the leader gives the follower can ignite this energy

Struggles with Sexual Temptation

- ▮ The addictive power of leadership can cause leaders to flaunt their influence over others.
 - ▮ People who hold power can be attractive to others, simply because they possess power
 - ▮ When a leader consciously or unconsciously picks up flirtation signals from others, he or she may feed off this attention.

Avoid Misusing Sexual Energy

- ▮ 2 Timothy 1:14 NIV – “Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you— guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”
- ▮ Mind your fences
 - ▮ Time spent with team members of opposite sex
 - ▮ Establish formal protocols about private communications, meetings, travel, and counseling

Avoid Misusing Sexual Energy

- ▮ Create accountability with people who have permission to confront you.
 - ▮ Nathan and King David
- ▮ Be careful with internet
- ▮ Admit you are vulnerable!

Hurry- Sickness

- ▮ Constantly speeding up daily activities
- ▮ Multi-tasking
- ▮ Clutter
- ▮ Superficiality
- ▮ An inability to love
- ▮ Sunset fatigue ("When we are just too tired, or too drained, or too preoccupied, to love the people to whom we have made the deepest promises.")

Burn-Out Checklist

- ▢ Inconsistent devotional life (loss of the sense of the presence and peace of God)
- ▢ Inability to manage daily schedule (regularly working more than eight hour days)
- ▢ Inconsistent day off (at least once per week)
- ▢ Lack of recreational interests and regular exercise (2-3 times per week)

Burn-Out Checklist

- ▢ Frequent fatigue, discouragement, depression (prone to sickness)
- ▢ Lack of enjoyment in life and ministry/work (frequent thoughts of quitting)
- ▢ Frequent friction with family or friends (easily frustrated and angry)
- ▢ Frequent friction with boss and staff/coworkers (easily impatient and judgmental)

Burn-Out Checklist

- ▮ Growing number of uncompleted tasks, projects (unkept appointments and commitments)
- ▮ Disconnection relationally with mentor (lack of accountability)

Burn-Out Checklist Scoring

- ▮ 0-2: You are okay, but make sure that you are guarding and maintaining your intimacy with God
- ▮ 3-6: You are in danger. Evaluate yourself honestly and take remedial action necessary to regain intimacy with God
- ▮ 7-10: You are in crisis! Stop what you are doing as soon as possible (even if it means resigning), get help, and take whatever remedial action necessary to regain intimacy with God

A Sabbath Rhythm

- ▮ The ancient Hebrews fostered a rest and remembrance by the practice of Sabbath, a day structured within their week not only to cease from work, but also a day given to actually remember God's sovereign work in the world.
- ▮ "The world can run without me for at least twenty-four hours."
 - ▮ We have to let go of our sense of control
 - ▮ God is in charge. God is running the world

Two Sabbath Passages

Exodus 20:8-11 NIV -- ⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Two Sabbath Passages

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 NIV -- ¹²“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. ¹⁵Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

Two Sabbath Passages

- ▮ The Exodus passage places the Creation story behind the Sabbath commandment
- ▮ The rhythm of work and rest is rooted in the Creation story
- ▮ The Deuteronomy passage places the Exodus story as the backdrop to the commandment
- ▮ The Sabbath was also to be rooted in an awareness of God's deliverance of the Hebrews from Egyptian captivity

The Meaning of Sabbath

- The Sabbath day is to be a weekly reminder of both God's creative and redemptive work in the world
- "Together these two renderings of the Sabbath commandment summarize the most fundamental stories and beliefs of the Hebrew Scriptures: Creation and Exodus, humanity in God's image, and a people liberated from captivity. One emphasizes holiness, the other social justice. Sabbath crystallizes Torah's portrait of who God is and what human beings are most fully meant to be." – Dorothy Bass

The Meaning of Sabbath

- ▮ “Sabbath is time for sacred rest; it may be a holy day... a Sabbath afternoon, a Sabbath hour, and Sabbath walk—indeed, anything that preserves the visceral experience of life-giving nourishment and rest.” – Wayne Muller
- ▮ *How do you practice Sabbath?*
- ▮ *What growth is needed in your practice of Sabbath?*

Conclusion

Psalm 46:10 NIV -- He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."