

Leading with the Holy Spirit - Brynmawr

- Leadership as a gift
- Ingredients of leadership
- Importance of Character
- Holy Spirit developing Godly Character
- Listening to the Holy Spirit
- Prophetic leadership

Leadership as a gift

Rom 12:6 *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

- Leadership is a gift alongside prophesying, faith, serving, teaching etc.
 - Think of Gideon – Judges 6:34 *“Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.”*
- Honour those who are leaders – received from God
- Pursue God for increase in Leadership.
 - Not essentially about title, position, label etc.
 - Give ourselves or seek from others
- Gifting needs testing – who will follow you?
 - Try taking responsibility for one or two people – in church – outside church
 - Pray for them, spend time with them...
- Gifting needs affirming
 - Talk to your leaders about it – what do they see in you? How can you develop
- To grow in leadership requires dependence of God – seeking him – asking him

Ingredients of Biblical Leadership

In his book *Courageous Leadership*, Bill Hybels outlines four C's which are essential ingredients for leadership :-

1. **Courageous** – not natural courage, but God given.
2. **Competence** – God will gift each of us differently. He'll place other gifts alongside the gift of leadership, and each of us will have a different flavour and different style to the way we lead. What we've got in our heart to accomplish will also look different, but together these will come together to move God's purposes forwards.
3. **Chemistry** – Biblical leadership is team-based. In the Bible, there are 79 references to leader, but 120 references to “leaders”. Elder is used 6 times – Elders 188. As much as these times are for teaching & impartation, we want them to be about team-building as well. Camaraderie, togetherness, loyalty, friendship.
4. **Character** - It's more about who you are than what you do. This is the plumb line by which everything else is measured by and determines our effectiveness as leaders.

Importance of Character

1 Samuel 16:7 - *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

- Many times in the bible we see that God chooses and uses people based not on outward appearance, but on the state of their **character**, or as the bible calls it 'heart'.
- King David is a prime example - where Samuel is specifically instructed not to anoint based on outward appearance.
- So he follows the prompting of God (who examines the heart) and leads Samuel to David, who had not even been considered by his own father.

God is more than capable of using people in **weakness**, but he looks for those with a heart that is surrendered to him.

- The **state of our hearts** is of utmost importance – more than our accomplishments or competence.
- whilst **no-one is perfect** and our characters are continually being shaped by God, our character will ultimately determine what purposes God can entrust to us.

The bible uses the term 'heart' to describe the state of the inner person, their non-physical qualities and traits, both good and bad.

- Matt 12:34 - *'Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks'*

The character of your heart is central to who you really are as a person - your thoughts, motives, attitudes, emotions, opinions and behaviours, in both good and difficult times.

- Proverbs 27:19 – *'As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man'*

Q. What kind of leader do you want to follow?

- Says one thing – does another?
- Rude, unkind, proud...

Character is fundamental to Godly leadership

Forming Godly Character

We don't start with good character. We don't not bring a reliable character to the Christian life.

- Gal 5:24 - *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."*

We had a "flesh" or "sinful nature". Hostile to God and dead to spiritual things. This can't be changed by human effort.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!'*

This has been changed by Jesus, and is being changed by him.

- Romans 6:11 – *'So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.'*

'Consider' here is to count, or to reckon – to line yourself up with the truth.

Romans 12:2 - *'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.'*

So forming Godly character needs a co-operation between **our will** (don't conform) and **God's working** (renewing of mind).

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Gal 5:16-25 – “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever ¹⁸ you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

“Live by the Spirit”

- Route to freedom from fleshly desires
- Overcoming the conflict that Jesus has won.

“Fruit of the Spirit”

- My sister
- Trees don’t strain to bear fruit – natural consequence of being healthy

“Keep in step with the Spirit”

- Linda and I, walking together. Get used to keeping in step.
- Regular contact with the Holy Spirit

If our life of leadership is one of keeping in step with the Spirit – that’s what we’re leading others to as well. We’re not leading others just to rules and laws - but to keeping in step with the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit leading us

The Holy Spirit works in us

- The Holy Spirit gives us **power** from God, A1:8 “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes...”
- He gives us spiritual **gifts** (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Romans 12 :6-8)
- He produces good **character** in us (Gal 5:22-24)

The Holy Spirit leads us

Acts 13:2 *While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’*

- He speaks to us, calls us and appoints tasks to us

Acts 16:6-7 “Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.”

- He directs us
- *The Convent School*

John 14:26 “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

- He teaches us and reminds us of what we know
- Brings scripture to life
- He brings Jesus to us

CONCLUSION

It is a gift and a privilege to be able to lead people into more of God

- Caring for Christians
- Bringing people to salvation
- Taking a lead for kingdom values – home, workplace, or neighbourhood.

Leadership is a gift of God which needs to be constantly empowered by his Holy Spirit.

Worship him, meet with Him and pray.