

Episode 001

Leadership: The Key Is God (Part 1)

Introduction

In the Old Testament times there were 2 contemporaries. One succeeded as king in Israel after the other. King Saul and King David.

Their leadership were like light and day. King Saul founded his leadership upon himself. While King David founded his leadership on God. Both had drastically different paths and outcomes in their lives.

At the end of the day, how would you like your leadership to be characterised by?

As Christian leaders, our leadership must be founded upon a totally different basis to secular leaders. For the ultimate key to the success of our leadership lies not upon how brilliant we are, how skilful we are, how determined we are. For our business is the business of the Kingdom of God.

A fundamentally spiritual business. True success will be found by applying first and foremost the principles of Heaven rather than the principles of this world. Our greatest rewards will also come in the Kingdom of God, rather than from the transient rewards of this world.

With that introduction, let me unpack how God should be our leadership key.



1. The Key is to be Founded Upon God

- Is our leadership man-centred or God-centred? The answer to this question is perhaps more complicated than many realise. For wicked and deceitful is the human heart (Jer 17:9) and sometimes we may blind ourselves to the truth of this answer.
- King Saul, after all, started with God's anointing. He was specifically chosen by God through the prophet Samuel (1 Sam 9-10). Samuel who never made any prophetic mistakes. He looked right for the part and probably was the best option at that time. Saul showed wisdom and restraint in his early dealings. He found early success and soon had the allegiance of the entire nation.
- But eventually things turned and went downhill in his reign. In closer examination, we find that despite the anointing he initially received, his leadership was never truly God-centred. And in following years became more and more self-centred. Until, sadly, God was only an appendage he wore for appearances.
- David too started being anointed by the prophet Samuel (1 Sam 16). He found incredible success at an early age. Far surpassing Saul, to Saul's jealousy. David faced many years of intense persecution from King Saul, spending years in hiding. Yet through it all, he somehow retained integrity and a right heart before God.
- King David later became arguably the greatest king in Israel and certainly the most famous. Despite significant stumbles along the way.
- The key difference between David and Saul is that David chose to anchor his life, his leadership in God. No matter the challenges, the highs and lows in his life – whenever it came to the crux, he chose God's way. David always came back to this anchor. This made the decisive difference in his leadership. And his standing before God.



- What about us? What kind of leadership will we aspire to? I pray we will resolve to be God-centred, to be founded upon God.
- If we are deeply honest with ourselves, the truth is all of us have degrees of mixture in our hearts. It is extremely difficult to ensure every aspect of our leadership is God-centred. We are, after all, flawed human beings.
- There will often be the tension in our hearts. God's way or our way? It is not always that we choose our way out of rebelliousness. Sometimes it is due to ignorance, indifference, impatience, insecurities, etc.
- The key to effectively leadership in God is whether we choose to fully anchor ourselves and our leadership in Him.
- Let me give a few quick tips in doing so:

1. Resolve to give God the highest priority. To please Him the highest.
2. In your understanding, let God and His Word be your standard. Build your convictions upon His Word.
3. Keep the chain to the anchor as short as possible. We will have moments and even seasons where we wander from the anchor for a variety of reasons. Resolve to keep it short so that it pulls on us very quickly. Accountability is one key.
4. Keep your hearts soft to God. Otherwise, even a prophet Nathan will not get through to our hearts.



2. The Key is to be Empowered by God

- If we are to rise to greater heights. If we are to rise above our limitations. If we are to see greater influence and impact. The key is to be empowered by God.
- We can be self-empowered or God-empowered. The more we are God-empowered, the more we can rise above ourselves.
- It is important to learn and develop in our leadership knowledge and skills. But if we only rely on these then we are empowered by self. When we seek to be empowered by God, our leadership will rise to a whole different level. Because the anointing carries us higher, further, greater.
- God's anointing brings favour beyond the natural. We see this in all the Bible characters who trusted God. His divine backing opens doors where no doors exist.
- Even natural talent is enhanced by anointing. Eg: In Ex 31, craftsmen were enhanced with greater skill by anointing. When natural is complemented with supernatural.
- God's supernatural giftings brings us to a level of functioning that our natural cannot. Consider the impact that the prophets, apostles and evangelists had because of God's supernatural empowerment.
- Lai Ling and my ministry have definitely been enhanced by God's anointing and supernatural giftedness. There is no way we could have been as effective nor accomplished as much, except for God's empowerment.



- I encourage you to seek to be anointed by God, even to a greater degree. If you do not yet function in at least 1 supernatural gift described in 1 Cor 12:1-10, then I urge you to seek God desperately to empower you.
- Let me give a few quick tips to experiencing more of God's empowerment:

1. Desire and ask God for supernatural gifts that you may use it to better serve Him (1 Cor 12:31).
2. Be baptised in the Holy Spirit. This empowerment from God opens the door to the supernatural realm (Acts 1:8). The initial baptism is only the beginning, the first step to far more in God. You have to walk deeper in.
3. Deepen your faith in God. The journey to greater empowerment and supernatural requires greater faith, greater courage, greater risks. A study of Bible characters who stepped out into the miraculous is very eye-opening.
4. Faithfully use what God gives. God will anoint the faithful with more.



3. The Key is to be Led by God

- We may anchor our leadership in God. We may be empowered by God. But what will make all the difference is when we are led by God.
- Samson was anointed with mighty strength. Solomon was anointed with incredible wisdom. Yet they were not led by God. Eventually they bore the consequences.
- Some of the greatest miracles, greatest achievements in God came about as leaders were led by God. Think of Moses and the Red Sea. David and Goliath. Paul and Barnabas missionary trips. Philip and the city of Samaria.
- Yet it is not easy to be led by God all the time. Even the prophet Elijah, in a moment of weakness under intense pressure, allowed his emotions to lead him rather than the Spirit of God.
- Strong capable leaders are very competent at leading and the danger is we default to ourselves to lead. I know this of myself, as I can rely on my wisdom too much sometimes. We need to be self-aware of such tendencies and keep it in reign.
- Strong capable yet meek godly leaders intentionally seek God's leadership. Because we realise that God obviously knows far more than we do. Further, He has greater and better plans than we have.
- How much are we being led by self or God? How much do we want to be led by God?



- Some quick tips to be better led by God.

1. Pray and commune with God regularly. There are no short cuts here.
2. Learn to better discern God's voice, God's leading. Experience matters as there are no second-hand experiences here. You have to take your own journey of faith with God to gain the experience.
3. Pray with others who can hear God together with you. It provides you some check and balance. I am truly blessed to have a prophetic wife. She helps me tremendously.
4. Seek to understand how God leads us. A biblical understanding helps ground us about God's ways.

Conclusion

There are numerous books and articles on Christian leadership today. But at the end of the day, it all boils down to this. God is the key to effective, anointed leadership. May we choose to be founded upon Him, empowered by Him and led by Him.



Discussion Questions

1. How much have you anchored your life and leadership upon God? In what ways specifically?
2. In what specific areas of your life and ministry is there clear evidence of God's empowerment? Is that sufficient?
3. In what ways specifically have you been led by God? Can you be led more?

Actionable Steps

Following questions are to prompt us on suitable actions. Importantly, come up with steps you will take to make progress. Give them datelines and priority.

1. What specific actionable steps can we take to more deeply anchor in God?
2. What specific actionable steps can we take to be more empowered in God?
3. What specific actionable steps can we take to be led more by God?





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