

Practical Skills For Spiritual Leaders

Fulfilling the Call



Review

- We have learned some important concepts.
 - Spiritual people can be organized.
 - Some things, though, must be diligently maintained.
 - We must maintain our vision and values, submission to and dependence on the Holy Spirit, and a walk of faith.
 - We must also respond when He calls us.
 - Maintaining these things requires balance.
- Much of this course concentrates on getting organized.
- This lesson reinforces the need to be spiritual.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Peter Drucker (Managing the Non-Profit Organization) offers the following advice to effectively manage non-profit organizations.
 - Remain committed to your mission.
 - Rely on leadership.
 - Think strategically.
 - Keep looking for ideas.
 - Get help.
 - Expect trouble.
 - Make decisions.
- Mr. Drucker's advice is intended for many types of non-profit institutions, including churches.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Remain committed to your mission.
 - The first job of a leader is to define the mission of the institution.
 - Businesses exist to provide products.
 - A not-for-profit institution, whether it be a school, hospital or church, exists for the sake of its mission.
 - Too often churches jealously compare themselves to businesses.
 - Jealousy distracts you from your mission.
 - Keep doing what you do well.
 - Know what that is. Do it better.
- Keep doing what you believe in. Keep looking for opportunities to accomplish your mission.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Rely on leadership.
 - Business managers are judged primarily by financial results.
 - Not-for-profit leaders are judged most by their ability to lead others to accomplish their mission.
 - This is especially true of church leadership.
 - Managing money is always important.
 - In the church, though, leadership is more important than financial performance.
 - Good leaders aren't threatened by the strength of others.
 - Good leaders constantly communicate.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Think strategically.
 - Strategy is more than planning.
 - Strategy looks for and recognizes opportunity.
 - The church needs a mission, firm conviction, and strategies to achieve its vision.
 - Strategies convert intentions into actions, are action-focused, are something to work for.
 - Adjustments will undoubtedly be needed.
 - But mission, conviction and vision cannot be sacrificed.
 - You might compromise on implementation; never compromise on goals.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Keep looking for ideas.
 - There is no lack of ideas in not-for-profits.
 - This highlights the strength of not-for-profits.
 - They aren't in it for the money, but for the cause.
 - There is usually no lack of ideas in the church either.
 - Church traditions provide stability, but can also thwart innovation.
 - Conviction is not negotiable, but tradition for its own sake can be harmful.
- Act on those ideas.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Get help.
 - Don't try to do the work of the Lord all by yourself; get help.
 - Getting help allows you to stay focused on the bigger issues.
 - What kind of help you get is important though.
 - Here are some suggestions when picking people to help you:
 - Concentrate on their strengths more than their weaknesses.
 - Match their strengths to the immediate need.
 - Look for integrity.
 - People want to help; let them!

Maintaining Your Vision

- Expect trouble.
 - The most important task of an organization's leader is to anticipate crisis.
 - Non-profits have trouble making hard choices.
 - Everything is a righteous or moral cause.
 - Giving up things that don't produce results is difficult.
 - This is especially hard when we are talking about people's salvation.
 - Commonly we say, "It's worth it if we reach just one soul."
 - The people and money you commit to one cause means you can't use those people and that money for another (opportunity cost).
- While we value every soul, we strive to reach as many souls as we can.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Make decisions.
 - To stay on course, you must make decisions.
 - You don't have to make every decision yourself.
 - There are many others capable of making good decisions.
 - Ineffective leaders spend too much time on easy or irrelevant decisions.
 - Effective decision makers concentrate on the important decisions.
 - You must make decisions, and focus on what's most important.

Maintaining Your Vision

- Decision involves risk.
 - With risk comes opportunity.
 - Look at the opportunity first, then the risk.
- There are three kinds of risk:
 - Risks you can afford
 - Risks that are irreversible
 - Risks you must take
- Affordable risks can easily be reversed.
- Risks that are irreversible are high risk.
- Some risks must because your mission depends on it.

Walking by Faith

- No one fulfills their calling without struggle.
 - Hebrews 11 lists great heroes of faith.
 - When struggle comes, remember these things:
 - Faith requires perseverance.
 - There are still things that you know.
 - Keep pursuing your vision.
 - Good plans don't eliminate struggle.
 - Struggle makes you better.

Walking by Faith

- Faith requires perseverance.
 - Salvation is an issue of endurance (Mt. 10:22).
 - When our struggle makes us weary, we must renew our resolve (Is. 40:28-31).
 - It is God's untiring strength that gives us power.
 - Even when the strong fall, the Lord will sustain the faint.
 - If we can depend in faith on the Lord, we will be renewed.

Walking by Faith

- There are still things that you know.
 - You know what the Lord has done in you.
 - He transformed your life, when He filled you with His Spirit.
 - That testimony is unshakable; the experience is real.
 - Even in the midst of struggle, you can still have confidence in what the Lord can do through you.
 - You know the things the Lord has put in your heart to do.
 - The anointing of the Holy Spirit gave you that vision.
 - The Lord put it in your heart.
 - Don't let discouragement take it away from you.

Walking by Faith

- Keep pursuing your vision.
 - One danger of struggle is pulling back.
 - In the heat of battle, the cost is weighed.
 - While questioning, we often stop and consider whether we will continue.
 - While we wait, responsibility is not fulfilled.
 - Don't let inaction and irresponsibility steal your dream.
 - Don't let discouragement steal it either.
- He will be faithful to the vision He gave you if you will trust Him (Ps. 37:5).

Walking by Faith

- Good plans don't eliminate struggle.
 - A good plan helps you prepare for it.
 - Drucker said a leader's most important task is anticipating crisis.
 - A plan that assumes no problems is foolish.
 - This is why you have to monitor progress.
 - Don't quit; adapt!

Walking by Faith

- No matter how good the plan, there are still things you won't know.
 - If you knew it all, it wouldn't be faith (He. 11:1):
 - You can't anticipate everything.
 - you always have to struggle with your will.
 - God cannot reveal some things to us until we're ready.
- You will always be plagued to ask "Why?"

Walking by Faith

- Keep going through the struggle.
 - Being organized doesn't remove our dependence on the Spirit.
 - As soon as you stop depending on the Holy Spirit, you are carnal.
 - We cannot trust in our own wisdom.
 - Our responsibility is to develop a plan of action.
 - It is our response to the leading of the Spirit.
 - We do not replace that leading with our own organization.
- Even the most organized of spiritual people must still walk by faith.

Walking by Faith

- Struggle makes you better.
 - God tests us for His purpose (Mal. 3:3).
 - Our struggles refine us just like precious metals.
 - The metal is strengthened, the value increased.
 - Refining purges those things that diminish value.
 - Submitting to this refinement is an act of righteousness.

Fulfilling Your Call

- We want to be effective for one purpose: to fulfill what God puts in our hearts to do.
 - Spiritually effective people see things differently.
 - Many see visions only as dreams waiting to unfold.
 - The spiritually effective see a vision as a call to obey.
 - God expects us to accomplish the things He puts in our hearts.
 - It is not just a dream; it is a vision of His will.
 - If the Lord put it in your heart, He has called you to do it.
- Action is a necessary part of obedience.
- Planning and organization are tools to help us accomplish the Lord's will.

Fulfilling Your Call

- Each of us has a calling.
 - When God lays something on your heart, act on it!
 - When struggle comes, stick with it!
- Make it your goal to more effectively fulfill what God puts in your heart to do.