

Leadership Lessons Level 2

Becoming a Leader



from the Inside Out

Titus 1:6-9

Biblical Qualifications for Christian Leaders

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Leadership Definitions from Leadership Lessons Level 1 Participants 2/99

(Although we are using the masculine pronoun "him" in the following to simplify and unify the definitions . it is not to imply that there is a difference in essential leadership qualities between men and women.)

A leader is an individual whose disciplined example of words and actions is so Christ-like that it compels others to follow and be influenced by him to become more Christ-like themselves.

A leader is one who draws *ō* rather than trying to drive *ō* people toward the full life God has for them.

A leader is a person who gives his life as a showcase for the handiwork of God.

A leader is a person who is godly, who sets and lives high moral standards, mentors and encourages others to be their best even if they surpass him, all the time with his mind on an eternal perspective but focused on individual people.

A leader is a person who is grounded and growing, who breaks the trail for and guides the way for a group of people both directly and by example.

A leader is a person who through example, guidance, and self sacrifice can motivate others to become growing Christians following God.

A leader is a person who is in humble subjection to the commands and exhortations of God's Word and is yielded to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The leader possesses the spiritual gift that permits the leader to influence and provide guidance to his group of individuals. He is a co-laborer and an example. He selects proper examples to model his ministry after. His personal life will be an example that pleases the Lord and supports his ministry. He is a godly steward of his time, finances, and resources. He is totally committed to his divinely called task.

A leader is a person who is a godly, disciplined follower of Christ who is committed to be a servant, and leads by being an example with a humble, gentle spirit, who desires to teach others (II TIM. 2:2) with respect and honesty and as a result accomplishes the responsibilities given to him from God.

A leader is a person who leads by example, takes a servant attitude, allows followers to excel & even pass him by, is a follower, is accountable, follows Christ

A leader is a person who is disciplined to imitate Christ, strengthens the faith of others, and never forgets to be a servant

A leader is a person who takes God's word, applies it to his life, and turns that around and guides the people around him by being an example.

A leader is a person who, by word and deed, helps others to become more like Christ, as he himself strives to do the same.

A leader is a person who encourages his followers, but he himself is also a good follower. He is one who listens well and acts only at the proper time. He lives by example and is strong and truthful. He puts others before himself and expects no accolades when he is done. A leader is all of this and more, but only if his foundation is on Christ.

A leader is one whose hands are in two places; one in the pierced hand of Christ, and the other in the hand of those who need a help to stand.

Descriptions of a Biblical leader:

is someone who is faithful, loyal, obedient, always seeking direction from God, unthreatened by others, willing to help without seeking any gain, seeking fellowship with Christian brothers, focused on an eternal perspective, always open to others and their needs, honest, fair, even-keeled, secure in belief and not easily distracted. I also feel the leader serves.

A qualified spiritual leader is a loyal, disciplined, obedient servant of God. Seeking to mold his leadership abilities from the word, and fellowship with other Christian leaders. A spiritual leader needs to be open to criticism but not argumentative, showing restraint. It is essential to be direct, honest, fair and clean thinking. He must earn the trust of the church, and people he is leading.

A person who is faithful, unselfish in his ways, content with what he has, compassionate, secure in his beliefs, controlled in his actions and thinking, actively seeks the truth through scripture, stands firm in his faith with a desire to grow and will not be swayed by worldly ways.

Opposite of a Biblical Leader

Someone who has unconfessed sins, disrespectful children, seeking self glorification, always on the edge, influenced by unhealthy choices, always sees the glass as half empty, always wanting more, attitude of if I help you, what can you do for me, ungodly influences, focused on right now and not tomorrow, unfair, not honest, wavering with decisions that need to be made and never taking a stand for what is right.

Self-seeking, dishonest and greedy. Displaying a lack of control in habits, a lack of discipline for God and his word. He cannot be fair, clean thinking or caring because he is not close to God. He is argumentative critical, impatient and unrestrained. Above all, he cannot be trusted and is not someone whom I would fellowship with. He is the person we are praying for, not praying with.

A person who has no loyalty to anyone or anything, thinking only of what he can gain personally by whatever means, surrounding himself with like-minded people and people he can control and manipulate to achieve his personal goals, having no patience or compassion and bending the scriptures however necessary to justify his actions for personal gain.

“THE BEST LAID PLANS...”

In his interesting little book, **The Leadership Secrets of Jesus** (Honor Books), Mike Murdock says some riveting things about the importance of planning in leadership. *Although this is likely more management than leadership, here it is anyway:*

Planning is the starting point for any dream or goal that you possess. What is a plan? A plan is a written list of arranged actions necessary to achieve your desired goal....God always honored men who planned.

Noah planned the building of the ark.

Moses, the great deliverer who brought the Israelites out of Egypt, took time to plan the tabernacle, and found the best team members available to help him.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived on earth, took time to plan the building of the temple.

Nehemiah planned the rebuilding of the wall and was a masterful delegator.

**Your Bible is the plan of God for you, the world, and eternity....
Use it!**

- 1. Make a list of things to do every day of your life.**
- 2. Write six things you want to accomplish that day.**
- 3. Focus your total attention on each task.**
- 4. Assign each task to a specific time....**
- 5. Think of each hour as an employee.**
- 6. Delegate a specific assignment to each hour....**
- 7. Write out your plan on a clean sheet of paper.**

Successes are usually scheduled events.....failures are not!

The secret of your future is hidden in your daily routine."

THE JAR AND THE ROCKS – A Time Management Parable

A while back I was reading about an expert on the subject of time management. One day this expert was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will never forget.

As this man stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed Mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?"

Everyone in the class said, "Yes." Then he said, "Really?"

He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

Then he asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel.

Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?" "No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim.

Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

What are the 'big rocks' in your life?

A project that YOU want to accomplish?

Time with your loved ones?

Your faith, your education, your finances?

A cause? Teaching or mentoring others?

Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you'll never get them in at all. So, tonight or in the morning when you are reflecting on this short story, ask yourself this question: What are the 'big rocks' in my life or business? Then, put those in your jar first.

Leadership Lessons Level 2

Biblical Leadership: Essentials and Examples

Review from Leadership Lessons Level 1

“A leader is, before a leader does!”

LEADER: A definition

A leader is a person who **influences** others through **example, encouragement,** and **guidance** to become what **he himself is** ..a **growing** follower of Jesus Christ fulfilling God's purpose as a **saint** in God's image, a **servant** in the church and a **witness** in the world.+

Principle #1

A Leader is reproducing himself, not just accomplishing a task!

“A leader is, before a leader does!” I Cor. 11:1

Q: If, as a leader, everyone in church followed my example, what would the result be?

Principle #2

The Foundation of Leadership is the personal life of the Leader!

Reproduction requires reliability+ I Cor. 11:1 I Tim. 4:12-16

Q: What kind of model do I present in my own personal life?

Devotional Life	(Living by the Truth)
Home Life	(Living in Relationships)
Time Use & Schedule	(Living by Priorities)
Spiritual Gifts	(Living by Design)
Finances	(Living within my Means)
Convictions	(Living with a Clean Conscience)

Principle #3

Being a Leader means always being a follower!

☞ growing as a saintō .servantō ..witnessō +

Q: Am I following Christ and growing in my personal life as a

Saint – is my character becoming more Christ-like?

List areas of your life that are progressing

List areas of your life that need a lot of change

Servant – am I faithful, active and productive in ministry in the church?

List the ministries you are active in

List some ministries you would like to investigate for potential future ministry

Witness – am I actively praying for and pursuing relationships with lost people to win them to Christ?

List people you have shared the gospel with in the last 5 years.

List people you have won to Christ in the last 5 years

List people you are actively pursuing friendships with to reach them for Christ

List people you should pray for and begin to pursue for Christ

Biblical Leadership – Essentials and Examples

The Pastoral office (also referred to at times as Bishop and also as Elder) is the primary leadership position in the New Testament church. Although most %Christian leaders+will not occupy this office, yet the qualifications recorded in scripture form a measurable and practical guide for examining essentials for biblical leaders.

THE UNBRELLA TERM BLAMELESS- Means: WITHOUT HANDLES

The Qualifications of Spiritual Leaders Titus 1:6-9

“A Titus 1 Man”

Family Qualifications

Husband one wife
Faithful children

Which Meansō ò ò
Faithful husband
Obedient children

Job Qualifications

not self willed
not soon angry
not a drunk
not a striker
not greedy
hospitable
loves good men
sober
just
holy
temperate
holds the truth

not demanding & stubborn
understanding, patient
not abusive, undisciplined
not a fighter, argumentative
content, lives by faith
loves to care for people
godly friends, appreciates others
wise, thoughtful
fair, impartial, honest
separated to God, purity
self controlled, disciplined
well taught, solid in doctrine

Create a complete description of a biblical leader using the concepts found in the Titus 1 passage above.

What results would likely follow this kind of leadership model?

Thoughts on Character

%ame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings, those who cheer today will curse tomorrow; only one thing endures . character+ Horace Greeley

%No change of circumstances can repair a defect of character+ Ralph Waldo Emerson

%You can tell the character of every man when you see how he gives and receives praise+ Seneca the Younger

%Our character is built by what you stand for, your reputation by what you fall for+Anonymous

%The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it+Anon.

%A crisis doesn't make a person; a crisis reveals what a person is made of+Anon.

%As the excellence of steel is strength, and the excellence of art is beauty, so the excellence of mankind is moral character.+ A.W. Tozer

THE CHARACTER ISSUE: Integrity and Humility (Chuck Wood)

My contention is that there are four absolutely essential aspects of leadership: character, relationships, vision, and passion. Character is listed first in my approach because it looms larger than any of the other aspects. Independent Baptist fundamentalists have already been treated to too many demonstrations of the disastrous effects of character flaws and failures!

The subject of character is a broad one. Bill Gothard lists fifty character qualities, and others have suggested additional traits or aspects thereof. There are two, however, which I believe to be absolutely essential to leadership. One of them is very obvious; the other is not.

Integrity is a subject that includes many additional sub-categories under its expansive definition. Honesty, dependability, transparency, truthfulness, straightforwardness, etc. are all aspects of integrity. It would be impossible to over- stress the importance of this amalgam of qualities in the life of the leader. Integrity is essentially what makes the difference between good and bad leaders and leadership.

The other necessary quality is not nearly so apparent. It is, of all things, humility! Humility is an interesting trait, and it is not at all what is usually put forth by way of definition. A humble man knows who he is, but he also knows who He is. He is quite aware of his abilities and talents, but he is also fully aware of the Source of all that he is able to do. Therefore, a humble man is never arrogant. He doesn't believe that he is right all of the time or even completely right any of the time. He recognizes the rights of others, including the right to have and express opinions. He stands ardently for truth, but he defines truth as that which can be squarely based on a clear interpretation of the Word of God or on a principle that is obviously drawn from the Word of God. He realizes that he has great importance to God, but he sees God as more important than self.

One concomitant of humility has to do with the individual's view of the relative importance of God and God's work. A truly humble man recognizes that God is more important than he is and that God's work is more important than anything that pertains to him. Therefore, he will not force his own way in the context of the local church (if he cannot persuade, he will not force, except in the most unusual circumstances), and he will not seek his own vindication, especially if that vindication would bring reproach on the name of the Lord or the reputation of His work.

Integrity is obviously in short supply in our world. Emboldened, no doubt, by the example of our nation's number-one politician, many have allowed dishonesty, immorality, deceitfulness, and other virtues to "come out of the closet." The real tragedy, however, is that Christianity has often kept pace with society in these dubious pursuits. It is even more regrettable that independent Baptist fundamentalism has suffered its own famine of integrity in recent years.

If one would lead in such a way as to hear a "well done" at the end of the road, he needs to settle the character issue at the very outset. If a man lacks integrity, let him follow but not lead. If an individual lacks humility, let him "stay by the stuff" lest the name and work of the Lord be dealt mortal blows by self-will's posing as the Spirit-leading.

Describe, Discuss, and Analyze these Qualifications
What's the meaning? Why the importance?

1 Husband of one wife

Faithful Husband

2 Faithful children

Obedient, Respectful Children

3 Not self willed

not demanding, stubborn

4 Not soon angry

understanding, patient

5 Not a drunk

not abusive or undisciplined

6 Not a striker

not a fighter, argumentative

7 Not greedy

content, lives by faith

8 Hospitable

loves to care for people

9 Loves good men

godly friends, appreciates others

10 Sober

wise, thoughtful

11 Just

fair, impartial, honest

12 Holy

separated to God, purity

13 Temperate

self controlled, disciplined

14 Holds the truth

well taught, solid in doctrine

Five Levels of Leadership.

J o h n Maxwell's "Developing The Leader Within"

The five levels are:

1. **Rights** - People follow you because **they have to**
2. **Relationships** - People follow you because **they want to**
3. **Results** - People follow you because of what you have done **for the organization**
4. **Reproduction** - People follow you because of what you have done **for them**
5. **Respect** - People follow you because of **who you are and what you represent**

Maxwell further states in relation to #5, "Few make it." He does not mean by that statement that all who are below level #5 are failures. Instead, he is saying that everyone starts at level #1. As we grow in leadership, we will progress up the levels. Maxwell also cautions against trying to skip over any level. We must grow from one level to the next.

What level am I on?

Do I want to progress?

What steps do I need to take to reach the next level?

From your present viewpoint, what are the 3 most important Character qualities in the list of 14.

1

2

3

Now, give several reasons for choosing those 3.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS: Maxwell proposes that vision includes four aspects

1. Awareness - the ability to see

He then demonstrates how to increase your awareness, especially your awareness of what God wants to do in and through you:

“Choose to believe that the Holy Spirit wants to do your day with you.

“Learn to take a "precious pause" in the midst of all your excitement and pressure

“Saturate your mind with Scripture - Knowledge is learning what God has said and done;

Perspective is understanding why God has said or done it.

2. Attitude – The Faith to Believe

“Never tell a person that something cannot be done. God may have been waiting for centuries for somebody ignorant enough of the impossibilities to do that very thing.”

“Eugene Peterson paraphrases Romans 4:18-21 as follows: "When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway - deciding not to live on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do, but on the basis of what God said He would do. Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, 'It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child.' Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise, asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, and sure that God would make good on what He had said."

“There are many factors which influence your ministry which you have no control over: your background, nationality, age, giftedness. These were determined by the sovereignty of God. But there is one important factor that you do have control over: how much you choose to believe God.

“Saying, 'It is impossible,' is not an excuse. Today we are doing thousands of things our grandparents knew to be impossible.”

3. Action – The Courage to Do

Churchill said, "There comes a moment in everyone's life, a moment for which that person was born. That special opportunity, when he seizes it, will fulfill his mission, a mission for which he is uniquely qualified. In that moment, he finds greatness. It is his finest hour."

Comments about courage:

“Courage rises when the cause is greater than the circumstances; courage falls when the circumstances are greater than the cause.

“The leadership position doesn't give us courage, but courage may give us the leadership position. Great leaders display courage based on passion, not position.

“When we fail to have courage, Jesus encourages us to deal with our failure.

“Our flesh encourages us to live in the comfort-zone. God encourages us to live in the courageous zone.

“Henry Blackaby in Experiencing God says: "Some people say, 'God will never ask me to do something I can't do.' I have come to the place in my life that, if the assignment I sense God is giving me is something I know I can handle, I know it probably is not from God. The kind of assignments God gives in the Bible are always God-sized. They are always beyond what people can do because He wants to demonstrate His nature, His strength, His provision, and His kindness to His people and a watching world. That is the only way the world will come to know Him."

Maxwell's "lessons on the courageous zone":

“Courage begins with fighting the battles over my own character, self-discipline, and will.

“Courage will be called for almost immediately in a leader's life. It's lonely at the top so you had better know why you are there.

“Courage means making things right, not fixing things up. Courage deals with principles, not perceptions.

“Courage by the leader usually translates into commitment by the followers.

“My life has expanded in proportion to my courage. Courage: the power to let go of the familiar.

4. Achievement – The Hope to Endure

“Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."

“James wrote, "Blessed in the man who endures temptation, who perseveres under trial; because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him"

“The word "endure" means to "hold up under fire; having the ability to withstand hardship, adversity or stress; to remain firm under difficulty, without yielding."

“"The nose of a bulldog is slanted backwards so he can continue to breathe without letting go." - Churchill

“When nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it - but all that had gone before.

If this type of material is of interest to you, may I suggest a subscription to the INJOY Life club? John Maxwell produces something of this nature each month, and I have yet to be really disappointed in the material. You can contact INJOY at 800-333-6506. If you are really serious about leadership, you won't regret your call.

THE GOSPEL COMMANDMENTS OF LEADERSHIP

The following "Ten Commandments" by an unknown author, have been adapted and supplemented with Scripture passages to further enhance their great truths.

I. People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love and trust them anyway.

"Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."

II. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

"But whereunto shall I liken this generation?...For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners."

III. If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Strive to succeed anyway.

The crowds who cheered Him on Sunday and called Him "King" were the same who on Friday cried, "Crucify Him!" Even the priests said, "We have no king but Caesar."

IV. The service you render today will be forgotten tomorrow. Serve people anyway.

"Were not ten lepers cleansed; but where are the nine?"

V. Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division."

VI. The biggest man with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest man with the smallest ideas. Think big anyway.

".....they began to inquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing...and there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest."

VII. People pretend to love the "little" people but sell their souls to the "big" people.

Fight for the "little" people anyway. "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."

VIII. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

"Judas, one of the twelve, went ...unto Jesus to kiss him... the Disciples forsook Him and fled."

IX. People really need help, but may attack you if you do help. Help people anyway.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to...preach...they heard these things...and thrust him out of the city."

X. Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.

"Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus, who is called the Christ?... they said, Barabbas."

The Qualifications of Spiritual Leaders Titus 1:6-9

“A Titus 1 Man”

Family Qualifications

Husband one wife

Faithful children

Job Qualifications

not self willed

not soon angry

not a drunk

not a striker

not greedy

hospitable

loves good men

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Which Means

Faithful husband

Obedient children

not demanding & stubborn

understanding, patient

not abusive, undisciplined

not a fighter, argumentative

content, lives by faith

loves to care for people

godly friends, appreciates others

wise, thoughtful

fair, impartial, honest

separated to God, purity

self controlled, disciplined

well taught, solid in doctrine

Create a complete description of a biblical leader using the concepts found in the Titus 1 passage above. (Expand it into practical areas based on the concepts above)

What results would likely follow this kind of leadership model?

**Another way of looking at Biblical Essentials for Leadership
Titus 1:6-9**

Describe the **antithesis** of the **Titus 1 Biblical leader**. Based on your study of the 14 attributes of a Biblical leader, **describe the unbiblical leader**.

Describe the predictable results if this kind of person were in leadership in the church?

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Describe the opposite of the “Titus 1 man” described above.

Unfaithful, harsh, stubborn, impatient, abusive, argumentative, greedy, unfriendly, ungodly companions, erratic, immature, dishonest, impure, undisciplined, compromises the truth of scripture

Describe the predictable results if this kind of person were in leadership in the church?

He would destroy the church!

Lincoln on Leadership by Donald T. Phillips (Warner Books).

(Review by C. Woods)

Although I am convinced that Lincoln was a Christian, this is not a Christian book as we normally think of that genre. It was **written for the secular business field**, and there is no particular evidence in the book that the author is a Christian. In spite of those factors, however, it is a phenomenal book, and it should be read by everyone who is involved in Christian leadership.

The most outstanding aspect of the work may lie in the fact that it purports to address leadership and actually does what it claims to do. As I have stated in the past, most secular (and many Christian) books on leadership actually deal with management. In fact, there is almost nothing here on management.

Assuming the fact that Lincoln was the outstanding leader of the nineteenth century in our nation - a claim which most would readily accept - the author proceeds to dissect that leadership and expose that which made such a common man so great. He succeeds admirably, in my estimation, and paints a picture of a man from whom most of us could learn a great deal.

Lincoln reveals an ultimate "**people person**," who seized the moments afforded him by the circumstances which he faced.

The author makes much of Lincoln's character, detailing such aspects as his **unquestioned integrity, his courage, his decisiveness, his sense of security, and his almost superhuman determination.** A significant portion of the book is devoted to demonstrating Lincoln's **relational skills.** He excelled in such areas as **trusting people** (until given proof that he could no longer do so), **being available, providing encouragement, using persuasion rather than coercion, allowing for delegation accompanied by sufficient authority, and refusing to retaliate.** **Undergirding all of these "people skills" was a marvelous and highly directed sense of humor.** Phillips also details **Lincoln's vision and sense of destiny, pointing out that he was possessed of an incredible ability to see the big picture and maintain perspective even in the midst of incredible conflict** (almost chaos). Lincoln was not only able to see the big picture, but he was **also intensely results-oriented, a quality which kept him doggedly to the task of making dreams into realities.** His **communication skills were also exceptional** (especially for a man who was lacking in education even by the minimal standards of his day) and finely honed. He was a story-teller without peer, a master of extemporaneous speech (although even his extemporaneous utterances were not without careful thought, preparation, and organization), a clear writer, and one who labored to be understood (Phillips points out that **his oft-remarked simplicity was actually the product of a purposeful determination** rather than the result of lack of education or intellectual ability). His sense of when to speak, when to be silent, and when to stop speaking also contributed greatly to his success as a communicator.

In my view, Lincoln has always towered above all else on the political landscape of America. Reading Lincoln on Leadership has actually enhanced and increased my esteem for this great giant of a man. Any pastor or Christian leader cannot help but benefit from a closer acquaintance with what made this man probably the greatest of the American Presidents and doubtlessly among the most effective of national leaders. Twelve dollars and a couple of hours will prove a very wise investment in leadership enrichment. It's yours for the taking in Lincoln on Leadership.

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

I've learned...

that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

that you can keep going long after you can't.

that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

that either you control your attitude or it controls you.

that regardless of how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion fades and there had better be something else better and stronger to make it last.

that heroes are people who do what has to be done when it needs to be, regardless of the consequences.

that money is a lousy way of keeping score.

that often the people you expect to kick you when you're down are the ones to help you get back up.

that sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

that true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance— same goes for true love.

that just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

that no matter how bad your heart is broken the world doesn't stop for your grief

that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

that you shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret. It could change your life forever.

that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different— same goes for hearing.

that your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.

that even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.

that credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.

SUGGESTED READING FOR LEVEL THREE

**36 Steps to Christian Leadership, D.E. Hoste OMF International
ISBN 0-85363-801-2**

On Being a Servant of God – W.W. Wiersbe Baker Books

The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make – Hans Finzel Victor Books

The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership – J. Maxwell Nelson Pub.