

## Episode 002

# Leadership: The Key Is God (Part 2)

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## Introduction

Our first leadership episode was entitled Leadership: The Key Is God and I shared about the fundamental importance of God in our Christian leadership. Yet at the same time, it is also fundamentally important for us to recognise that the key to our leadership is ourselves. So our second episode topic is Leaders: The Key Is You.

King David chose to anchor his leadership upon God, and it made all the difference. Yet it is important to note that it was a decision made by David himself. His choices were the key. In the same way, you are the key to what kind of leader you become.

Let's unpack this thought with a few principles.

## 1. The Key is to Embrace Your Leadership Call

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- One of the greatest obstacles in our personal leadership growth is the fear of accepting God's call to leadership. The Bible is full of men who balked when God first called them. Moses, Gideon, Barak and others. Yet when they finally embraced it, it began their journey to great leadership.
- We may be thinking that we were never cut out for leadership. That we were not born to be a leader. Nothing could be further from the truth. The reality is leaders are made, more than born.



- I was never born a leader. I did not aspire to leadership nor took any role that smelt of leadership for the first 15 years of my life. I avoided it like the plague. I preferred to be unseen. Incognito. Until the realisation hit me that if I ever am going to do anything significant with my life, I must get involved in leadership in some form or other. That begun my journey towards leadership.
- Perhaps some of us are fearful of the cost. I will be frank. There will be costs. Perhaps very high costs. Yet I see it totally differently. It is opportunity costs. The cost of investing in something over another.
- I started out aspiring to be a great engineer. To build great feats of engineering. Monuments to my engineering skills. But soon after becoming a Christian, I realised that God will eventually destroy this world with fire. So much for monuments! I came to the realisation that only eternal things matter.
- For that reason, I have since chosen to invest in eternal outcomes. To invest in winning souls. To invest in multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ. To invest in multiplying God's church. The cost? My worldly ambitions. My life. Those are small compared to the exceedingly greater eternal outcomes. It is like investing all of my 2 pennies that I may gain \$2 billion.
- Did you know that God calls all of us to at least some form of leadership?
- If you want to be a husband to your wife, you are called to lead her! If you want to have a family and be a parent, parenthood is about leadership over your children. This applies to both husband and wife. If you want to rise up in your career, you will likely need to supervise or manage others. That involves leadership. If you want to be involved in disciple-making, that involves leadership as you have to lead someone spiritually.



- To really follow Jesus and grow in Christlikeness, you have to also grow in Christ-leadership likeness. For Christ is a leader through and through.
- To run away from leadership is to run away from God's general call to every Christ-follower. Leadership is our calling. The only question is what type of leadership.
- Embrace God's call to leadership!
- Some quick tips to help you discover your leadership call:

1. Ask God to reveal it to you. God may not reveal it to you at a burning bush. But God will likely reveal it to you over time as you faithfully serve Him.
2. Consider your SHAPE. Rick Warren suggested looking at your Spiritual gifts, Heart passions, Abilities, Personality and Experience. These often indicate what God has been shaping you towards.
3. Be open to mature discerning leaders who may see in you what you have yet to see.



## 2. The Key Lies With You (Not Someone Else)

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- The greatest thing you can influence and change is yourself. So take responsibility.
- Too many people avoid personal responsibility. They try to blame their parents, their upbringing, their circumstances, etc. They put the onus on someone or something else. Except themselves. Unless we take personal responsibility, we will not take the necessary actions to improve our situations.
- The same applies to our leadership. The growth and development of our leadership lies squarely on our feet. We cannot shift the responsibility to our boss, our colleagues, or mentor or our circumstances. Will we point the finger at our boss and complain that he did not give us the opportunities? That our colleagues made it difficult? That our mentors were not up to scratch? We must take personal responsibility to grow as a leader despite all the obstacles and limitations around us.
- The story of Joseph in Gen 37 – 50, should greatly inspire us. Kidnapped by his own brothers and sold into slavery in a foreign land. Maliciously accused of rape and thrown into prison. Forgotten by those he helped thereby losing all hope of appeal. Talk about obstacles. Most would have been crushed by the trauma of rejection by our own family. Yet Joseph became one of the greatest leaders of his time, rising to being Pharaoh's right hand man. Joseph made choices. He knew the key was God. He knew the key was himself.



- The road to great leadership begins with you. You are the raw material. Let God mould the raw material. Apply ourselves to bend as God leads. Be soft in the hands of God like clay in a master potter's hands.
- Some quick tips:

1. Take responsibility, be intentional for what knowledge you gain. The attitudes and character that you develop. The skills that you hone and master.
2. Take responsibility for learning from your journey of life. You may not be able to control your life journey fully. But you can determine what you learn along the way.



### 3. The Key is to be the Best Leader You are Meant to Be

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- Once you embrace God's call to leadership and resolve to take ownership for leadership, don't stop there. Aim to be all that God intended you to be. Aim to be the best leader God intended you to be. Never settle for mediocrity. Never settle for just make-do. God never did a single mediocre thing in His eternal existence. Therefore, don't let mediocrity define us.
- Don't just be a leader bidding his time for the 5pm checkout time. Don't be a leader just so we can say we did our bit. Don't be a leader whose heart is somewhere else.
- Be the type of leader God wants you to be. The call of leadership may be in your home. It may be in the marketplace. It may be in a ministry or church.
- It may be a fivefold leadership. It may be an administrative leadership. It may be a soup kitchen leadership.
- Whatever the area of leadership, be the best leader you were meant to be. Do it as unto the Lord, giving Him all the glory.
- Throughout every ministry that I serve the Lord in, I always sought to give my best. Because it is always for God. Even as a teacher of God's Word, I am still learning. Not only learning from studying God's Word. But also learning how to better study and understand God's Word. How to communicate God's Word. Because I desire to be excel in my ministry.



- Let me suggest some quick tips:

1. Desire for excellence. In your own leadership and in others around you. Not in a driven, performance way. But simply because it is good to be excellent as it gives glory to God.
2. Desire to learn from others who have shown excellence in leading. Be inspired by them.
3. Be willing to make adjustments in your leadership so that you can improve.

## Conclusion

We are the key to our own leadership. We have to push past every limitation, every inadequacy, every fear or insecurity in our hearts to embrace God's call to leadership. Only we can take full responsibility for our development as a leader. And when you do so let's aspire to be the best leader we can be!





## Discussion Questions

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1. How fully have you embraced your leadership call in God? What could be holding you back?
2. How much ownership and responsibility are you taking for your leadership development? Why?
3. How intentional are you in seeking to be the best leader you can be? What can help you be more intentional?

## Actionable Steps

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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 you take to fully embrace your leadership call?
2. What specific actionable steps can you take for your leadership development?
3. What specific actionable steps can you take to be the best leader you can be?







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