

**FOUNDATION OF FAITH!**  
**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**  
**PART 16**  
**THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP**

This morning we are continuing our series Foundation of Faith as we are looking at the Holy Spirit and specifically the gifts of the Spirit or those spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to the church to edify the church, to bring people to Jesus and to glorify God. In other words, these gifts are given for the profit of all! And so if you would, please turn to Romans chapter 12, and let's begin reading in verse 4 as Paul gives to us some more spiritual gifts that are given to us by the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us, "**For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.**" 12:4-8. And so in this study this morning we are going to be looking at the gift of leadership, or as Paul calls it in I Corinthians 12:28, the gift of administrations or the gift of governments.

Now what is leadership? I am sure we all have ideas and we may even see ourselves as leaders. But we need to understand that not everyone is a leader and yet, Biblically speaking, we are all leaders as Christians because people are watching us on how we lead at home, how we lead at work, how we lead in life, how we lead in the church. And yet, as we are going to see, there is the gift of leadership or the supernatural ability given to some to lead the people of God. So I guess this is for all of us to see and understand. But we also know that there are those times that things don't go as we may have planned as this story illustrates for us. We are told,

In *Everyday Discipleship for Ordinary People*, Stuart Briscoe wrote, "One of my young colleagues was officiating at the funeral of a war veteran. The dead man's military friends wished to have a part in the service at the funeral home, so they requested the pastor to lead them down to the casket, stand with them for a solemn moment of remembrance, and then lead them out through the side door. This he proceeded to do, but unfortunately the effect was somewhat marred when he picked the wrong door. The result was that they marched with military precision into a broom closet, in full view of the mourners, and had to beat a hasty retreat covered with confusion."

"This true story illustrates a cardinal rule or two. First, if you're going to lead, make sure you know where you're going. Second, if you're going to follow, make sure that you are following someone who knows what he is doing!"

- Stuart Briscoe, *Everyday Discipleship for Ordinary People*

Again, we may have many ideas what a leader or leadership is all about and what a leader or leadership is not. But what are the Scriptures telling us and specifically here what is Paul speaking of, what does Paul mean when he speaks of the gift of leadership? The Greek word that Paul uses in Romans 12:8, “**leads**” is PROISTEMI, (pro-is’-tay-mee), which means, “to stand before.” And so we can see that this word carries with it the idea of someone who stands before the people.

Then, in I Corinthians 12:28 the Greek word that Paul uses for “**governments**” is KUBERNESIS, (koo-ber’-nay-sis), which means, “to steer a boat.” And we can see there that Paul is making the point that this gift is manifested in a way that helps to steer people just like someone who is steering a boat is making sure it is still on course, heading in the right direction.

And thus, we see Paul speak of who a leader is in Romans 12:8, “one who stands before the people.” And then what He does in I Corinthians 12:28, “to steer a boat.” Both thoughts encompass what a leader is all about. And a good biblical definition of what a leader is would be one who stands before the people to steer them into and keep them on the right course, to bring them to Jesus. That truly is a godly leader!

Now for many, when they think of leadership in the church what comes to mind is the role of a pastor or elders and it does not apply to them. Folk's, we need to understand that this is not just speaking of the pastor or the elders; it is far more encompassing than that. Those that are over ministries, like Sunday School, Worship, Usher, Sound, and-so-on should all be leading in their ministries. And we must also remember there are leaders in the home, at work, and-so-on. The results when people aren't leading is things become chaotic, no one knows what they are doing. But, the results when people are leading in the various ministries they are in is things function smoothly, that the course has been set and it is easy to follow.

Personally, and I think biblically, as you will see, the church could not function without the gift of leadership or the gift of governments. One of the problems we see today is that the church, the body of Christ is seen as an organization and it is much more than that. The church, the body of Christ is a living organism and it is important for us to understand that. But don't just stop there, as many do. You see, When it comes to organization they see it as worldly and want nothing to do with it.

Interestingly enough, the Dictionary defines an "organism" as "anything resembling a living thing in its complexity of structure or functions." In other words an organism must have some kind of organization to function properly. That just makes sense. If there was no organization in an organism, there would be no life!

The body of Christ is no different. Yes the body of Christ is a living organism, but it is also organized. Think of it this way, in the human body we have a skeletal system. Without it we would be a blob! With it there is form, structure, and working with the muscles we have movement, and-so-on. The body of Christ, without organization, would be a shapeless form, a blob! Structure, organization in the body of Christ allows us to function and move in a way that God wants us to. There is direction!

Even in society, as much as we may not like it, there needs to be organization in the form of government and laws. Without that, with unbridled freedom, you have anarchy. To have freedom you need to have laws and government. Thus, freedom is doing what is right, not what is wrong!

The question that comes up is this. "Who decides what is right and what is wrong?" That is a great question and the answer to that for many is that the world does and it tells us that it is man himself who decides, we make the decisions what is right and what is wrong. Now, because of that we have laws that are constantly changing. At one time homosexuality was wrong; today it is right, according to man. You can even murder people in some parts of the world who don't believe what you believe, and that is right in their eyes, there is nothing wrong with that. Even rape is allowed, believe it or not!

And you can agree with me on this or you can reject this but that is not going to change the reality of what I am about to say. You see, the standards are not set by man, but by God, as much as some would like to argue. From God flows righteousness, truth. It is as Psalm 119 says, **“Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth. . . . You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are truth. Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever. . . . The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. . . . My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.”** Psalm 119:142, 151-152, 160, 172.

And I realize that we are studying the gift of leadership, but I think this is important for us to understand. Please listen carefully to this. You can't have a society that has social order, has peace, has freedom outside of God. As much as some like to argue that, a society that attempts to move away from God will manifest the following characteristics, just as did the nation of Israel in the book of Judges. We read in Judges 21:25, **“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”**

When you take God off the throne of your heart and off the throne of leading this nation, that is the result, everyone does what they want and feel that it is right to do. That is what we are seeing in America today as we move away from God!

Now this may surprise some of you, but our government is not a democracy! Now hear me out before you turn me in as a communist. When you look at the history of our nation, our founding fathers hated democracy and did what they could to prevent this nation from becoming one. You see, in a democracy, if the people are wicked, if they have moved away from God and are doing what is right in their own eyes, they will vote along those lines and make that which is wicked legal. On the other hand, if the people surrender themselves to the authority of God, then yes, a democracy can work. But we are a nation that is far from God, we refuse to surrender to His authority, and thus, we pass laws that are contrary to what God has said.

That is why our government was formed as a republic. A republic is built upon moral absolutes that can't be changed; they can't be overthrown by popular opinion, by popular vote, just as God's Word can't. Do you remember way back in grade school, as the day began and you would stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance? It went like this, "I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America. ***And to the republic, for which it stands,*** one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Notice what it says, it is a republic that this nation was built upon and not a democracy. And as I have said, in a republic the government is built upon moral absolutes, laws that can't be overthrown or voted down by popular opinion. It was a safeguard measure to keep this nation on track, to steer it in the right direction, as our forefathers were standing up for the people, preparing for what future generations might be like, never thinking that our history and our morals would be changed like they have.

Since we have moved away from God we have changed what this nation is all about, being under the one true and living God, and out of that rebellion against God we have deteriorated into a state of confusion where people don't know what to believe, and we are on the verge of anarchy! And yes, our founding fathers were not all Christians and they were not all good, but they sought to lead the nation in the ways of God.

Interestingly enough, Robert Winthrop, who was once the Speaker of the House of Representatives many years ago, said, "Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled by a power within or a power without them. Either by the words of God or by the strong arm of man. Either by the Bible or by the bayonet." Interesting insight he had, and how true his statements are especially today!

Now should we as Christians submit ourselves to the authority, the leadership of man, even when they are wicked? That is an interesting question today, for there is a growing Christian militia that is willing to kill for their rights, they are refusing to submit to the authority of the government, even refusing to pay taxes. And let me say this, they call themselves Christians, but their actions do speak otherwise.



Let's take a look at what the Scriptures say regarding these things. Turn to Romans chapter 13 and let's begin reading in verse 1 to get a clear perspective of these things and once we see how we are to respond to leaders, then we will finish up looking at this gift of leadership.

### **ROMANS 13**

#### **VERSES 1-2**

Notice what Paul is saying here because I think it applies to all of us. Paul is saying that if you have a soul, which all of us do, then we are to submit to those who are in authority over us. Again the question comes up, "What if the leaders are evil?" You still must submit to them unless they force you to do something that is contrary to God's Word or they forbid you to do something that God wants us to do. Two examples of these might be as follows, one to force you to have an abortion, and the other might be that they forbid you to speak of Jesus. At that point we follow what God tells us to do, as we read in Acts 5:29, "**... 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'**"

Now why would God say we are to submit even to wicked leaders? Because, like it or not, God has appointed them into that position for His plan, for His purpose. And thus, when you fight against them you are fighting against God. That does not mean that God approves of their actions, their deeds, nor should we, but we are to respect their position of authority. During the time of Jesus and in Paul's day, the Roman Government was wicked, and you will find no revolt lead against them, the focus was God and a relationship with Him. And God has established human government; He allows them to continue on, which we will see in a few minutes.

And let me also say this. Years ago, after I first got saved, there was great excitement that the Lord's return was very close as we should be excited today, but I think many have lost that excitement. And there was a phone number you could call to get information about what was happening in the world related to prophecy, before we had the Internet. And I would call this line every so often and he started speaking of the persecution that he was facing at work. And then he got fired but he got fired not because of his love for Jesus, but because the time he was spending at work he was not working for his boss but doing ministry stuff. So he was not being persecuted for righteousness sake as he thought but because he was not doing his job. Folk's, we are to obey the laws of the land unless they go against what God has said in His word, I think that is clear. And granted, I do not agree with what our president is doing right now, but I will respect the office of the president!

I think of Daniel in Babylon and I think it was his love for God and his love for the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar that brought this pagan king into a relationship with the true and living God. May we have that kind of love for God and for leaders that they may come to know Jesus by our love!

VERSES 3-4

Human government is needed to keep the laws of the land. In every ordered society there must be authority and there must be submission to that authority or else you will have a state of anarchy. Any government then, is better than no government, as bad as they may be. Thus, if you obey the rules of the land you don't need to fear. If you break the law, then you do have something to worry about. Think about it this way, your driving down the interstate with the speed limit being 65 miles per hour. But you are traveling 90 miles per hour, rationalizing that you are keeping up with the traffic, you don't want to be in anyone's way by going too slow. Sound familiar? And you feel great until you pass that police car with the police officer pointing his radar gun at your car.

And as soon as you pass him, trying to apply the brakes but not looking too suspicious, which you are, a sudden fear builds up inside of you and you begin to look in the rearview mirror to see if his lights are going on and he is coming after you. Why do you feel that way? Because you broke the law! If you went the speed limit, you wouldn't have to fear the law!

VERSES 5-7

We are to respect those in authority over us even though their actions may be evil. It doesn't mean we support what they are doing, but the position of authority that they have. Remember King Saul and how wicked he became, going after David and trying to kill him. And yet in all of Saul's evil, David respected Saul's position as king, not his actions, and thus, David refused to kill Saul, or even ridicule him. That is something that is easy to do, and we must be careful that we don't get caught up in that kind of activity, ridiculing those that are in authority over us. As Paul said in Acts 23:5, "**... 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'**"

And so we see Paul tell us to respect those in authority over us, not only in words we speak, but in the things we do, like paying taxes, obeying the law. If you don't you are fighting against God, who placed or allowed these men, these governments into power. Now I do understand that many have a problem with government or organization, but God has established them. In the angelic realm you have various rankings of angels who submit to those who are in authority over them, and all submit to God. Even Satan, who was the highest ranking angel before he fell, was still respected for his position after his fall, not for his actions, by Michael the Archangel, another angelic ranking.

In Jude 8-10 we read, “**Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.**” Jude said that Michael would not come against Satan because of his position, but the Lord would take care of it. We, again, need to be careful of how we speak of those in authority over us!

As I have said, organization is important, our God is a God of order and we see this in I Corinthians 11:3, this idea of organization. We read, “**But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.**” Notice, in the family, man is the head of the house and he is under the authority of Christ. The woman or the wife is under the authority of her husband. And for all of you who think that is unfair, he goes on to say that Christ, even though He is fully God, even though He is equal with God the Father, has freely submitted Himself to the authority of the Father!

Even look at the week of creation and you will see order, that is our God and to move apart from what God has said will bring disorder to the family, to our lives, to our work environment, to our nation and-so-on!

Now let's take the remainder of our time this morning and look at a godly leader and see what he was all about. The man we will be studying in regards to what leadership is about, what a good leader manifests in his life, is Moses. Now think about that for a minute. Here is a man who lead over 2 to 3 million people from their bondage in Egypt, had a 40 year camping experience with them in the wilderness and most of what he got in return was complaining, murmuring. Not an easy task and yet, when you are called to be a leader you are in it for the long haul. People are not going to like you, they will get mad at you, they will complain about this and complain about that, but in the end, you serve the Lord. And because of that, none of these things should move you from the course that God has set for your life!

Our Scripture reference in regards to the life of Moses and his leadership is found in Hebrews 11:23-29, where we are told, **“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.”**

Now first of all where did Moses learn these leadership principles or really this faith from? Interestingly enough, we are told in Hebrews 9:23 that he learned these things from his parents. And keep in mind that around the age of 5, as Moses grew, by command of Pharaoh, all male Jews were to be put to death, but the parents of Moses hid him for those years. Then his mom placed Moses in an ark and sent him down the river where Pharaoh's daughter saw this child and desired to raise him. It was during those 5 years that his parents instilled in him the things of God, lessons that he would not forget. And Pharaoh's daughter had Moses' mom care for him even though she did not know she was the mother of Moses, again, instilling the things of God in this child!

Not only that, but we also see Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses taught him some organizational skills in regards to leadership. We are told in Exodus 18:12-27, **“Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses’ father-in-law before God. And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. So when Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, ‘What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?’ And Moses said to his father-in-law, ‘Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws.’ So Moses’ father-in-law said to him, ‘The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.”**

**Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God.**

**And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.’ So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves. Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land.”**

Jethro recognized that Moses could not do all the work on his own and he explained to Moses what he needed to do to rectify this work problem. He told him to find men who fear God, men who are of truth, who are not in it for themselves and let them help you in the work. And Moses learned the lesson and he was blessed, those who were raised up were blessed and the people were blessed. Now let’s look at several ways these leadership skills were manifested in the life of Moses, these characteristics that were manifested in his life.



## **LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN THE LIFE OF MOSES**

### **1. FAITH**

The first thing a good leader needs to manifest in his life is faith. And please understand I am not talking about any kind of faith or a faith in anything and everything. I am talking about faith in the true and living God. We see this in the life of Moses here in Hebrews 11:24, **“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”**

Please understand that Moses was next in line to the throne. He could have had it all and yet, when he became of age he decided to choose God and his people over all that Pharaoh could have given him! That was truly faith because with Pharaoh he had it all, he needed nothing and with the Jewish people, his people, he had nothing, they were slaves in Egypt! This was not a blind faith or an empty faith but one that counted the cost and saw the reality of it all, that it is better to trust in God than man!

And thus, to be a great leader it takes faith, a faith in God or as Paul said in Hebrews 11:1-3, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”**

What is faith? Faith, in a sense, gives us evidence of the invisible, of those things we can't see and yet with the same confidence to what we can see with our physical eyes, in fact it should be even stronger than what we can see with our physical eyes. Think about it for a minute. Our senses can lie to us and we can be deceived. Have you ever seen something that looked so good to eat and once you ate it, took a bite of it, you found it to be the exact opposite. Your senses deceived you!

But faith in God, faith in the promises of God are far more secure, in fact they are 100% sure because God cannot lie. Paul, in Titus 1:2 tells us, **“in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”** Then why do we believe so much in what we see with our physical eyes instead of the promises of God? Because we lack faith! And so, faith is living in a hope that is so real it gives absolute assurance to us that it will come to pass.

Faith supports those things we know to be true, the promises of God even though we might not see them with our physical eyes, but through the eyes of faith we believe. And that belief is the evidence or the confidence we need to live what we believe. You see, faith truly begins when all other possibilities end, it is out of our hands and in the hands of God. I like the way George Muller put it, he says, “Difficulties are found for faith to feed on.” We grow by trusting in Him, not a blind leap of faith but a trust in His Word, in His promises, that what God has promised He is more than able to bring to pass.

So if we are to be great leaders we must have faith in God, in His Word and learn then to walk in them, to rest in them. And we truly need people who have this kind of genuine faith in the church today to be leaders, it is that important!

## 2. FIDELITY

The second characteristic a godly leader needs to manifest in his life is there must be fidelity or a commitment to what he believes. We see this played out in the life of Moses in Hebrews 11:25, **“choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”**

What is being spoken of here is fidelity, commitment, integrity. Moses was a moral man and he looked at life through the eyes of faith. You see, he saw the pleasure of sin, how intriguing it was, that there was some attraction to it, but he also knew this was only temporary. And because of that he stood firm, he was faithful unto the Lord, he was not taken out by sin, by immorality!

And let me say this. The reason people are not faithful, the reason there is no commitment, no fidelity to what they believe, the reason that they stumble in sin is they do not have solid relationship with God and thus, the way they treat man, the way they live out their faith shows that. Now some of you may be taken back by what I have said, but that is just the way it is. If your walk with the Lord is strong, if it is solid, then you will not sin!

For those of you who disagree with me, listen to me for a second here before you tune me out and turn me off. If a husband and wife have a strong marriage relationship, if their marriage is solid, I will guarantee you there will be no infidelity, there will be no extra-martial affairs, they have a commitment with each other. You see, affairs occur because of there being this dissatisfaction in the marriage relationship and you may not admit it, but you are looking to have your needs met by someone else and because of that, you sin and that commitment you made is gone!

The same is true with our relationship with God. If it is strong, if it is solid, we are not going to be looking for sin to satisfy us because the Lord will satisfy us! It sounds so simple and it is, but we let Satan rip us off with the passing pleasure of sin instead of walking in integrity, having this commitment to the Lord!

Moses saw this and chose that which was difficult and eternal to that which was easy and yet only temporary. He chose that which would last and bring abundant joy to that which was short-lived and puts you in bondage. We need to have more leaders who will walk in integrity, have this commitment, have this fidelity to the Lord in their life!

### 3. **FORESIGHT**

The next characteristic we are going to look at is foresight. A godly leader must have foresight. Notice what we are told in Hebrews 11:26, **“esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”**

How often we don't see the big picture because we are just looking for what we can get here and now. Moses saw the big picture and yes, things were difficult, but he knew that God had bigger and better things for him than anything in this world.

Listen carefully to what John tells us, the warning he is giving to us because it fits in with what we are talking about. In I John 2:15-17 we are told, **“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”**

Do you see how this world, all it has to offer us, is temporary, it is not going to last. It is all passing away but for those who abide in Christ, those who do not love the world, we will abide with Him forever, no one can take that away from us. That does not mean this life is easy, but it is passing away and that which is eternal is eternal. I know, brilliant, but true!

Leaders must have a vision that sees beyond the difficulties, beyond the problems and looks to the Lord to see them through. You see, we do have insight into the things of God, it is called the Word of God and His promises to us will not fail, they will never fail! Think about it, as a leader, if you do not have foresight but get wrapped up in what you are going through, not seeing the bigger picture, people will see that and they will not be built up by what they see, but they will be discouraged!

We need to have leaders who have foresight in the things of God and look beyond the reproach, the reviling that is seen in this life and look to the reward, look to Christ!

#### 4. **FIRMNESS**

The next characteristic a godly leader needs to manifest in his life is firmness. What do I mean by that? I mean that they need to be firm in what they believe and no matter the cost, they will not buckle. We see this in the life of Moses as we are told in Hebrews 11:27, **“By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”**

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse, **“[Motivated] by faith he left Egypt behind him, being unawed and undismayed by the wrath of the king; for he never flinched but held staunchly to his purpose and endured steadfastly as one who gazed on Him Who is invisible. [Ex 2:15.]”**

Remember 40 years prior to Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt he fled Egypt. Why did Moses flee from Egypt 40 years earlier? Because he feared what the king might do to him, put him to death. Now, 40 years later he returns to Egypt not fearing this earthly king because he knew that the heavenly King would fulfill His promises to him! It is as Solomon said, **“The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.”** The fear of man causes us to do things we shouldn't do and in the end, it truly doesn't save us. You see, being obedient to the Lord, trusting in Him and walking accordingly causes us to be secure. Not that anything bad will ever happen to us, but we are secure in Christ and no one can steal the Lord from us, we will always be with Him and He will always be with us!

Why do we tend to trust in man more than God? Because we believe man gives us tangible answers to our problems while God tells us we need to walk by faith. God wants us to not let the outward circumstances dictate what we are to do. And in the end, when we trust man, we are disappointed, we are in more trouble than when we started, we have not gained the solution or the victory we thought. That is why we are to be firm in our walk with the Lord and not let these outward circumstances drive us like cattle, but let the Lord lead us and then follow Him!

As leaders this can be difficult because you want people to like you and that will not always be the case. You have to do what God is calling you to do and that may offend some, make some angry or whatever. You have to be firm in the faith or you are going to be wishy-washy and that is not good! Even in the face of opposition you need to stand strong, you need to be firm in what the Lord wants you to do!

We need to have leaders who have a firmness, a steadfastness to lead the way in the face of opposition!

## **5. FULFILLMENT**

Another characteristic in a godly leaders life is that of fulfillment and what I mean by that is that they need to not only talk about doing something, they need to take it to its end, they need to finish what they start. We see this in the life of Moses here in Hebrews 11:28 where we are told, **“By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”**

Remember the story in Exodus, as Moses is trying to negotiate the release of the Jews from their bondage in Egypt with Pharaoh, and 9 plagues come upon the Egyptians because of their refusal to let God’s people go. And they still refused and thus, the 10<sup>th</sup> plague was the death of the firstborn in each family. The only way to stop this plague was by placing the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of your home. In fact, the way the Lord instructed Moses to do this would form the shape of a cross as the blood dripped down.

Now what if Moses took that all in, knew what needed to be done and yet, did not do it? Then there would be the death of the firstborn in the homes of the people, including the Jews! But Moses was a man who fulfilled what he was told to do and that should be the goal of every leader, to fulfill the role that God has placed them in, to be obedient to the call of Christ in our lives!

And so, we once again need to see godly leaders who are ones who fulfill the calling of Christ in their lives!

## **6. FREEDOM**

The last characteristic of a godly man that we will look at this morning is that of freedom. Now that may seem kind of strange but let me show you how it was played out in the life of Moses and then we will make the application to our own lives. In Hebrews 11:29 we are told, **“By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.”**

Remember the story, the children of Israel are at the Red Sea and the Egyptian army is coming after them, and on either side of them are mountains and they are trapped with the Mediterranean Sea in front of them. There was no way out! And the people are complaining and God tells Moses to move the people forward as He opens up the Red Sea for them to go through. The children of Israel make it through but the Egyptian army has the waters come crashing down upon them, killing all of them. You see, it was time for the people to move and their leader Moses needed to get them moving and he did! He lead them to freedom!



As leaders we need to do the same. Many times people are feeling closed in, pressured on all sides and the Lord wants His people moving, not stationary and leaders are to lead the way for the people to follow because there truly is freedom in walking where God is calling. On the other end there is only bondage, death and destruction. But even in saying that many refuse to walk and thus, leaders must encourage them and lead them!

Godly leaders must direct their people to freedom, the freedom in Christ, the freedom to go where He is calling!

So we have seen 6 characteristics of a godly leader and they are ***FAITH, FIDELITY, FORESIGHT, FIRMNESS, FULFILLMENT, and FREEDOM!*** Simple and yet very important to learn them and apply them to our lives. And don't get me wrong, there are many other godly leaders in the Bible we can learn from but I felt Moses is the one we could learn from this morning. We could have looked at David, Nehemiah, Paul, Barnabas and others, but I think you get the point of what is manifested in a godly leader, what are the characteristics of a godly leader!

And let me say this. I want you to see what Paul has to say in Romans 12:8 the way we are to lead people. He wrote, “**. . . he who leads, with diligence . . .**” Paul says that when we lead people we are to do so with “**diligence.**” The Greek word that Paul uses is SPOUDE, (spoo-day’), which means, “in eagerness, earnestness” and it carry’s the idea of speed. It is hard to lead the people if you are lazy or if you are doing something halfheartedly. Give it your all, lead with the proper perspective, the proper attitude. Paul said in Acts 20:28 to the Ephesian elders, “**Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**”

Now the world, as they look for leaders, they look for someone who is a visionary, action oriented, a good communicator, knowledgeable, charismatic, not afraid to take risks, object oriented instead of people oriented, egocentric, and indispensable. They call these people SNL’s or Strong Natural Leaders.

But if that is how you pick your leaders you are going to be in trouble. Those characteristics lead to tyrant leaders because power goes to their heads. As the saying goes, “Power corrupts, and absolute power absolutely corrupts!” Remember the story of King Saul; he was the people’s choice. Why? Because he was tall, dark and handsome! They looked at the outward just like the world does and not the heart as God does. And Saul turned out to be a horrible leader!

Now, in saying that, let’s see how well you do at picking a leader. Here is a resume sent in for a senior pastor position. Listen carefully and see if you would hire him. The resume goes as follows,

Gentlemen:

Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and also have had some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I have been a leader most places I've been.

I'm over 50 years of age and have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places, I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing.

My health is not too good, though I still accomplish a great deal. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities.

I've not gotten along well with religious leaders in the towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized.

However, if you can use me, I promise to do my best for you.

- The Apostle Paul

What do you think? Would you hire this guy? When you look at his resume he really does not sound too good. It sounds like he gets into a lot of trouble. I hope you would hire this man because it is the resume, you might say, of the Apostle Paul! You see, we again look at the outward charm instead of the steadfastness in the faith, godly characteristics, which the world might call weak but they are needed in the church today!

As I begin to rap things up this morning, keep in mind that the gift of leadership is a supernatural ability to lead the people of God, it is a spiritual gift. But we are all leaders in one sense or another and we must not forget that. Let me share this with you to show you that leadership is not about glamour, fame, entertainment, but sacrifice, service. We are told,

Cal Thomas found himself called a “Christian leader” by a leading Christian magazine and he wondered what that meant. More speaking engagements? Perhaps an appearance on a Christian talk show?

“It would certainly give me the right to start putting Scripture references under my signed name in books I have written. I would surely sign more Bibles, which I find a curious practice since I didn’t write that Book.”

Thomas wonders if we have reversed things. God’s strength is made perfect in weakness. “In a church I once attended, there was a man of tremendous faith. His wife is an alcoholic, His daughter has psychological problems. He was often poor in health. Yet, week after week, he never complained. He always smiled and asked me how I was doing. He faithfully brought to church a young blind man who had no transportation. He always sat with the blind man, helping him sing the hymns by saying the words into his ear. That man was a ‘Christian leader’ if ever there was one.”

- “Dear God, Please Don't Let Me Be a  
Christian Leader” Fundamentalist Journal

And so, in closing this morning I want you to remember the Greek words that Paul used in Romans 12:8 and I Corinthians 12:28 for “**leads**” or “**government.**” We are to stand before the people and steer them down the right path, down the right course, and keep them on that right course by being an example to them, we are to lead them to Jesus! We are to have faith, fidelity, foresight, firmness, fulfillment and freedom as we stand before the people of God and lead them down the right path, the one that brings them to Jesus!