

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 10th 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 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 led 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!

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 tells us of this in Acts 20:28 as he spoke 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.**"

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 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 as we stand before the people of God and lead them down the right path, the one that brings them to Jesus! That is godly leadership and it is a gift of the Holy Spirit!

What the Bible says about . . . Gifts of the Spirit Part 14

13. THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP

Paul, in Romans 12:3-8 speaks of more spiritual gifts and one of these gifts is the gift of leadership! Paul calls it in I Corinthians 12:28, the gift of administrations or the gift of governments. 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.



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 is 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, they 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!

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.

In I John 2:15-17 John gives to us this warning of what this world has for us and what God has for us. And you can 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.”**

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!

The man we will be studying in regards to what leadership is about, what a good leader manifests in his life, is Moses. And there are many others in the Bible, but let’s look at 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.

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 Pharaohs 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 in Exodus 18:12-27.

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.