

Developing Leaders Who Are Led

**Growing Christian Leaders Series
Manual 8**

by
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The “Growing Christian Leaders Series” is the result of weekly topics which were prepared and e-mailed over a period of years. This series is especially designed for those who are already Christian leaders; to give them Biblical principles for the development of additional godly spiritual leaders. Because they give Biblical principles for growth in spiritual leadership, they are also helpful for Christians that want to grow and become godly spiritual leaders.

Mark 10:43-45 says, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” In these verses, Christ taught that godly spiritual leaders do not have the attitudes of leaders in the world. Worldly leadership is based on power and authority and is designed to benefit the leader and place him above others. In contrast, godly spiritual leadership is designed to help every Christian reach their full potential in Christ. The following three statements give a summary of three styles of leadership.

If we drive people, we will drive them until they can get out of our way.

If we lead people, we will be able to lead them as far as we have gone ourselves.

If we serve people, we will help each person develop their full God-given potential and equip each person for the ministry that Christ has prepared for every Christian.

In the world, people often measure success by the amount of things that they accumulate before they die. However, they are unable to take any of those things with them when they die. Mark 8:36-37 says, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Success produces rewards until we die, but it produces nothing for eternity.

In contrast, God measures effectiveness by our faithfulness and obedience. Matthew 6:19-21 says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Effectiveness produces eternal rewards. Mark 10:29-30 says, “So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.’” 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” The Growing Christian Leaders Series is designed to make your life count for eternity by bringing glory to God.

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1.

Leaders are Driven by Fear or Led by Love

When Adam and Eve sinned, it changed their relationship with God, within and with others. In their relationship with God, they experienced separation. After Adam and Eve sinned, God came to fellowship with them in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:8 tells us how they reacted, “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” Sin had broken their relationship with God and so they hid when they heard the voice of God.

Sin also changed their relationship within. Since they no longer had a relationship with God, Adam and Eve focused their attention on themselves. As Adam focused his attention on himself, he experienced fear, guilt and shame. Genesis 3:10 says, “So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” In these verses, we see that:

- ◆ Adam was now controlled by fear – “I was afraid”
- ◆ Adam was now controlled by guilt – “I was naked” (see also Genesis 2:25)
- ◆ Adam was now controlled by shame – “I hid myself” (see also Genesis 3:7)

Sin also changed their relationship with others. Their relationships with others were now controlled by blame. When Adam was confronted with his sin, he immediately blamed God and blamed Eve. Genesis 3:12 says, “Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’” We see that he:

- Blamed God – “the woman who YOU gave to be with me”
- Blamed Eve – “she gave me of the tree, and I ate”

Eve followed the example of her husband. Genesis 3:13 says, “And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What *is* this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ Here, we see that Eve blamed the serpent for deceiving her. The New Testament confirms that she was deceived in 2 Corinthians 11:3 and 1 Timothy 2:14.

Many people ask why Adam was held accountable for sin in Romans 5:12 since Eve ate first. That verse says, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” The answer to that question is found in Genesis 3:6. That verse says, “So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” Here, we see that Adam was standing right there with her and did nothing to protect her from deception. 1 Timothy 2:14 adds, “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.” In addition to not protecting his wife even though he was standing right there with her, Adam also chose to sin.

Once Adam sinned, every person was driven by fear. This can be seen both when a person is a young child and when a person has become a world political leader. Only Christ can change a leader from being driven by fear to being led by love. We can become led by love. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 tells us, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” Over the next several topics we will be talking about how we develop leaders who are led by love.

Christ is our greatest example of One who leads by love. Christ gave us a parable in John 10 to help us understand what it means to lead by love. John 10:2-4 says, “But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” In these verses, we see several

things about a shepherd or leader who leads by love:

- A shepherd calls his own sheep by name
- A shepherd leads his sheep
- A shepherd goes before his sheep
- A shepherd has sheep that choose to follow him
- A shepherd has a voice that is known by the sheep

First, a shepherd calls his own sheep by name. A leader who is led by love takes time to get to really know the people he is leading. He gets to know as much as possible about them so that he can pray effectively for them. Paul shows the importance of calling people by name in Romans 16. Although Paul had never been to Rome, Paul named 27 people by name to whom he sent greetings. In addition to those 27, he also mentions various family members of several.

Second, a shepherd leads his sheep. Today, most people drive sheep. However, we see here that Christ says the shepherd leads the sheep. One of our team members who has helped lead the Bible Institute for 35 years grew up herding sheep. Many years ago I asked him what it takes to lead sheep. He said that in order to lead sheep a shepherd must spend time with a sheep from the time it is a lamb. He added that during that time the shepherd must play with the lamb, care for the lamb, feed the lamb and just spend time with the lamb. When that lamb becomes an adult sheep, it will follow the shepherd wherever he goes. Then, I asked what it takes to drive sheep. The answer was, "A few good dogs." In order to lead others, a leader must have a personal concern for each one.

Third, a shepherd goes before his sheep. Here, we see that a leader does not expect others to do what he is not doing. Sometimes I meet a pastor who says his job is to feed the sheep and that they are supposed to do the leading of others to Christ. Such a statement is often followed a few minutes later by the statement that it is hard to get people to share the Gospel with others. A spiritual leader who is leading by love will be showing others how to lead people to Christ instead of just telling them that it is their duty.

Fourth, a shepherd has sheep who choose to follow him. The sheep want to go with the shepherd and be where he is because the shepherd is sharing his life with the sheep. Christ often chose to invite people to just spend time with him. Some chose to respond to that invitation while others did not. In John 6:66-69, we read, "From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also want to go away?' But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" The disciples chose to follow Christ because of the relationship that He had built with them. They followed His example and were learning to imitate His conduct.

Fifth, a shepherd has a voice that is known by the sheep. Later in the passage Christ illustrates the difference between a shepherd and a hireling. One who is hired does not care for the sheep. In contrast, Christ says in John 10:14-15, "I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep." Here, we see that Christ compares His relationship with the sheep to His relationship with the Father. A spiritual leader will have his voice recognized by those that he leads because they recognize that he will help them to get to know the Father better. They also recognize that the leader is willing to sacrifice for them.

A leader who is driven by fear will drive others. A leader who is led by the love of Christ will also lead others and help them grow in their understanding of the love that Christ has for them. That is what makes it possible for them to really take root in Christ and in His love. Colossians 2:6-7 says, "As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him

and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” Leaders who are led by love will be able to help others:

- Receive Christ Jesus as Lord
- Learn to walk in Christ
- Learn to take root in Christ
- Learn to be built up in Christ
- Learn to become established in the faith
- Learn to live a life of thanksgiving

The reason why a leader can help people learn these things is because he has learned these things for his own life. Instead of telling people what to do, he will be showing them by his own example. Such leaders transform the lives of those who follow them instead of just providing leadership.

As spiritual leaders, our goal should be to see the Lord transform the lives of those that we are leading. That will happen as we allow the Lord to lead us in our own lives. May the Lord richly bless you as you show others how to be led by the Lord in love because you are being led by love.

Understanding Why Worldly Leaders are Driven by Fear

As we look at leaders in the world, we see that most of them have become very driven people. As a result, they in turn drive others instead of providing real leadership. In order to understand how to be an effective godly leader, we first need to understand why that is not true of most leaders.

That fear is very obvious with some leaders. A good example is Herod. In Matthew 2:1-3 we read, “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.” In verse 16, we see the result of that fear caused Herod to kill innocent babies to try and protect his power.

We see a similar example of fear in Acts 13:44-45. Those verses say, “On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.” Here, we see that the Jewish religious leaders in Antioch of Pisidia were fearful that they would lose their power that they were exercising through religion.

We could show many other examples of worldly leaders who were driven by fear from Pharaoh to Pilate. However, the focus of our topic today is, “Why are worldly leaders driven by fear?” In order to understand why leaders are driven by fear, we need to go back to the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3:10 Adam answered God, “So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’” Adam had sinned and because of sin, the inner motivation for his life became fear, guilt and shame.

1 John 4:18 tells us that only one thing can reverse that fear. That verse says, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Paul said, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” As we compare these verses we see that only the love of Christ can change our motivation from fear to love. That is why all worldly leaders are driven by fear. Some try to hide that fear while with others it is very obvious.

A worldly leader who is motivated by fear is actually driven by that fear. When we are driven by fear, we will drive others instead of leading them. This fear often drives a leader to find something in which he can take root. In the New Testament we are given four roots. Two of these roots are positive and two of these are negative.

The longer a worldly leader exercises leadership, the more likely it is that one of these negative roots will develop in his life. Hebrews 12:15 says, “Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.” Here, we see that one of the negative roots that may develop is bitterness. This verse tells us that this root will cause at least two problems:

- Bitterness will cause trouble.
- Bitterness will cause many to become defiled.

We notice that bitterness has both an inner result and an outer result. The word that is translated “trouble” means, *to excite, disturb, trouble or annoy*. Here, we see what bitterness does within every person that becomes bitter. Things that happen in life begin to disturb and annoy a bitter

person. As a result, that person cannot enjoy inner peace whether that person is a leader or not.

Every person also has an influence on others. Those who are in positions of leadership have an influence on many more people. However, this verse tells us that the bitter person will cause many others to become defiled. Here, we see the outward result of a person becoming bitter. A bitter leader will cause large numbers of people to be defiled. As a result, it is very obvious that a leader who becomes bitter because of the fear in his life will have a very negative impact on others.

That brings us to the second negative root in the New Testament. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Notice that a person does not have to be rich to have a root of the love of money. Instead, the verse says that they desire to be rich. Here, we see that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. That root will:

- Cause many to desire to be rich
- Cause many to fall into temptation
- Cause many to be caught in a trap
- Cause many to turn to foolish lusts
- Cause many to turn to harmful lusts
- Cause many to turn to things that destroy them
- Cause many to turn to things that bring eternal destruction
- Cause some to stray from the faith because of greediness
- Cause some to torture their soul with sorrows

The more people a person is leading, the more destructive this root will be. Those who desire to be rich begin to use and destroy other people to get what they want. As a result, this root is just as destructive or even more destructive than the root of bitterness. Political leaders, business leaders and all other leaders have a great negative influence on the lives of others when a root of love for money takes root in their lives.

As we look back at the wars that have happened throughout history, we see that one or both of the roots mentioned above usually drove the leaders who caused those wars. They were driven by fear and they stirred up this fear in others. Often this fear was motivated by bitterness or love of money that had taken root in the lives of those leaders.

Although this helps us to see why worldly leaders are driven by fear, it also helps us to realize that fear can be replaced by the love of Christ. As 1 John 4:18 says, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” One of the things that we want to help every new Christian do is begin to move from fear to love.

1 John 4:17 tells us, “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.” One of the first things that we want to help the new Christian to learn is that he no longer needs to fear the day of judgment. As the new Christian begins to understand the love of Christ, he will begin to realize that he has no reason to fear that day.

Then 1 John 4:19-21 tells us, “We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he

who loves God *must* love his brother also.” Here, we see that love is our response to the fact that God loves us. That is why we need to help all new Christians realize how much God loves them.

As new Christians learn how much God loves them, they will begin to be led by the love of God rather than driven by the fear that is the result of sin. As they learn to be led by love, it will begin to have a powerful impact in their lives. First, they will begin to have greater inner peace. Second, they will begin to minister to their families in love rather than fear and that will begin to have an impact on their families. Later, it will be a basic foundation for helping them develop as leaders who are led.

The Lord calls us to lead others to grow in their understanding of how love will cast out their fear. As they grow in that understanding their lives will be changing from the inside. However, that love will begin to show itself in their contacts with others. May the Lord richly bless you as you help others begin to move from fear to love.

3.

Understanding Why Many Christian Leaders are Driven by Fear

In our last topic, we discussed why worldly leaders are driven by fear. We also saw that Christ wants to help Christians learn to act out of love. That brings us to an important question. Why is it that many Christian leaders are driven by fear? That will be the focus of our topic today. Then in future topics, we will look at the Biblical principles to help developing Christian leaders learn to be led by the Holy Spirit so that they will lead others rather than drive them.

In Galatians 2:11-13, we see a time when Peter was driven by fear. Those verses tell us, “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.” In these verses, we see that:

- ◆ Peter became fearful of other Christians
- ◆ Peter withdrew himself from other Christians
- ◆ Peter separated himself from other Christians
- ◆ Peter was fearful of those Christians who followed the Jewish dietary restrictions
- ◆ Peter caused other Jews to also act as hypocrites

First, we see that Peter became fearful of other Christians. One of the things to notice is that it was other Christians who caused this fear and not unbelievers. Acts 15:13 indicates that James was the leader of the church at Jerusalem. The Jews in Jerusalem still followed the dietary restrictions of the Jews even though they had become Christians. Acts 21:20 tells us, “And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, ‘You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law.’” Notice that the Jews in Jerusalem were all still zealous for the law even though they had agreed in Acts 15 that the Gentiles were not under the Jewish law.

Second, we see that Peter withdrew himself from the Gentile Christians and no longer ate with them. This is the same Peter who spoke to Cornelius in Acts 10:28, “Then he said to them, ‘You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.’” However, here we see that fear caused him to withdraw from Gentiles because of his fear of the Jewish brothers from Jerusalem. The word that is translated “withdraw” speaks of one who is timid or fearful and afraid to say what they believe. Peter was acting out his inner fears as he withdrew from the Galatian Christians.

Third, we see that Peter separated himself from the Galatian Christians. Here, we see that Peter was creating a boundary or barrier between himself and the Gentile Christians. This immediately created an “us” and “them” attitude. Later when James wrote to the Jews who were scattered in other countries he told them that such an attitude is sin. James 2:8-9 says, “If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.” That is the reason why Paul publicly rebuked Peter in Galatians 2:11.

Fourth, we see that Peter was fearful of other Christians that he thought might not accept the freedom that we have in Christ. This was true even though he was the one who had originally told the Jews in Jerusalem about the salvation of the Gentiles. In Acts 11:17-18, Peter said, “‘If therefore God gave them the same gift as *He* gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?’ When they heard these things they became silent; and they

glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’” Here, we see how easy it is for Christian leaders to act out of fear.

Fifth, we see that Peter also caused other Jews to act as hypocrites. Here, we see the impact of a leader. When a leader acts out of fear and sins, that leader will also lead others to commit sin. Even Barnabas who had already spent one ministry trip traveling with Paul was influenced to follow the example of Peter. Here, we see the tremendous negative impact of a spiritual leader who is driven by fear. It will even have a negative impact on other spiritual leaders.

Romans 7:14-25 gives us an example of what happens when Christians, including Christian leaders, act in fear because they are depending on their own strength. In those verses, we see that the words “I”, “me”, “my” and “myself” are used 37 times. This is the passage on “I” trouble. Romans 7:19 gives the summary of how we act when we depend on our own strength. That verse says, “For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice.” Then, Romans 7:24 tells how we feel because of what we do in our own strength, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” It is no wonder that Christian leaders who are depending on their own strength and acting out of fear most of the time feel so discouraged.

Now, we need to go back to the question, Why are many Christian leaders driven by fear? The answer to that question is found in the teaching that Christ gave to His disciples the night before He was crucified. In John 15 Christ compared Himself to a vine and us to the branches. In John 15:4 Christ said, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

In John 18:10, Peter was standing next to Christ when the Jewish religious leaders came to arrest Christ. Because he was standing next to Christ, Peter was very bold. John 18:10 says, “Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.” As Christ was arrested and led away, Luke 22:54 says, “And Peter followed afar off.” John 18:17, 25 and 27 go on to tell us that instead of Peter being bold, Peter denied Christ three times. Here, we see the results of failing to abide in Christ. When we depend on ourselves, we will always act out of fear.

That is why Christ promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to live within us. In John 14:16-17 Christ promised, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” Then, in Acts 24:49 Christ told the same disciples, “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Christ knew that the disciples would act in fear if they depended on their own strength. As Christians we are powerless in our own strength. We will only act with boldness at those times when we are yielding to the Holy Spirit.

This is seen clearly in the book of Acts. In Acts 1:8, Christ said, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Here, we see that Christ was going to send the Holy Spirit to provide the power to be witnesses. We see the results of depending on the Holy Spirit in Acts 4:29-31. Those verses say, “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

When we depend on our own strength, we will not act with boldness. We saw that illustrated by

Peter the night that Christ was arrested. We also saw that illustrated by Peter in Galatians 2:11-13.

Paul reminded Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” Here, we see that Paul chose to remind Timothy that we do not need to act out of fear. Our human spirit will be controlled by fear when we depend on our own strength. However, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and when we yield to the Spirit and depend on the Spirit this verse says that we have:

- The Spirit of power
- The Spirit of love
- The Spirit of a sound mind (self-control)

First, when we yield to the Holy Spirit, we will be able to act in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the basic reason why Christians can act in love instead of fear. They do not have to depend on themselves. Instead, they can ask Christ to give them His power. In each situation where we pray and ask Christ to give us His power, we will act in the power of the Holy Spirit instead of our own strength.

Second, we see that we have been given the Spirit of love. Ephesians 4:15 says, “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.” In this verse, we see that the Spirit also gives us the power to speak the truth. The Spirit also guides us as we speak the truth so that we are able to speak the truth in love instead of fear. When we speak the truth in love, we will build bridges to others rather than barriers.

Third, we see that as we yield to the Holy Spirit that we are able to exercise self-control. This means that we ask the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom to make wise choices and then carry out those choices. Many people can talk but there are no actions to carry out what they say. In contrast, the Holy Spirit guides us to make wise choices and then gives us the power to carry out those choices.

As we can see, the Lord has not called us to develop leaders who are driven by fear. Instead, He has called us to develop leaders who are led by love. We will develop leaders who are led by love as they see our example because we are leading in love. May the Lord richly bless you as you develop leaders who are learning to be led by the love of Christ and who are acting in the power of the Holy Spirit instead of their own strength.

Understanding How Christian Leaders Can Become Led by Love

In our last two topics, we have looked at the fact that leaders who are not Christians and even many Christian leaders are driven by fear. We saw that when a person is driven by fear that it is very easy for a root of bitterness or a root of the love of money to take control of their lives. Today, we are going to learn how Christian leaders can become led by love. This will make it possible for them to lead others in love rather than drive them.

We mentioned that there are four roots mentioned in the New Testament. The two negative ones are mentioned in the previous paragraph. The two positive roots are keys to helping spiritual leaders become led by love. The first of these roots is mentioned in Colossians 2:6-7. Those verses tell us, “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” Here, we see that we are to be rooted in Christ. As we focus on growing in Christ, we will learn to:

- ◆ Take deep root in Christ
- ◆ Walk in Christ
- ◆ Be built up in Christ
- ◆ Be established in the faith
- ◆ Be abounding in the faith
- ◆ Be filled with thanksgiving

First, we will learn to take deep root in Christ. In Psalm 1:1-3, we read, “Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” In these verses, we see that a basic requirement for taking deep root in the love of Christ is delighting in the Word of God and learning to meditate on the Word day and night.

Second, we learn to take root in Christ by learning to walk in Him. Walk speaks of our daily actions throughout the day. To walk with Christ means to grow in our understanding of the fact that Christ is walking with us wherever we go and is with us in whatever we do. Needless to say, if we are walking in Christ we will want to go the places He would go and do the things that He would do. As we consciously think of the fact that Christ is walking with us, it will probably cause us to change some of the places that we decide to go and also cause us to change some of the things that we do.

Third, we see that we learn to be built up or built upon Christ. Here, we see the foundation for building our lives. Matthew 7:24-25 says, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” Here, we see that there are two requirements to be built up in Christ. First, we choose to hear what Christ tells us. Second, we choose to obey what Christ tells us to do. We will not be built upon Christ unless we are making it the practice of our lives to be obedient to what Christ tells us to do.

Fourth, we are to be established in the faith. To be established in the faith means to be made firm in the faith. This happens as we become familiar with the whole Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” The Word of God brings us to spiritual maturity and equips us for

every good work.

Fifth, we are to be abounding in the faith. The word “abounding” means *to be filled to overflowing* so that we excel in our faith. As we make it our goal to excel in our faith, we will develop the spiritual maturity needed for spiritual leadership. After Paul and Barnabas made many disciples in Acts 14:21, we see what they did to prepare spiritual leaders for the churches. Acts 14:22 tells us that they were, “...strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’” As a result of this strengthening ministry to help them abound in the faith, verse 23 tells us that they had developed a team of spiritual men to lead every church. Acts 14:23 says, “So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

Sixth, we see that we are to be filled with thanksgiving. One of the basic evidences of the fact that we are being led by love is the fact that we have developed a thankful heart. Colossians 3:16-17 says, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” A healthy spiritual leader is a thankful spiritual leader.

Ephesians 3:17-19 gives us a second positive root. Those verses say, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Here, we see that we are to be rooted and grounded in love. In addition to taking root in Christ, we are also to take root in His love. As we have mentioned, ever since Adam, people have been controlled by fear. Now we see that as Christians we are to learn to take root in love.

In 1 John 4:18-19, we read, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.” The deeper our roots go into the love of Christ, the less fear we will have. Many Christian leaders are still controlled by fear because they have never learned to take root in the love of Christ. This is often the result of never having a spiritual parent who was led by love.

Christ said in John 13:34-35, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Christ gave the command to the disciples to love one another in the same way that Christ had loved them. That command only came after the disciples had observed for more than three years how much Christ loved them. Christ had been a spiritual parent to them and led them by love. Now, He was commanding them to follow His example.

In the same way today, before people become Christians they are driven by fear. They will continue to be driven by fear until someone becomes a spiritual parent to them and leads them by love. That is why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:15-16, “For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” Paul knew that the only way that the Corinthians were going to learn to be led by love was to imitate someone who was being led by love. The Corinthians had large numbers of people telling them what to do (driving them) but they lacked spiritual parents who would lead them by love.

Today, our world has become much like the city of Corinth. There are people everywhere who want to tell others what to do but there are very few who are willing to invest large amounts of time in others to show them how to be led by love. If we are going to be effective spiritual leaders, we

must choose to invest our lives in a few people so that they can see a living example of someone who leads by love. As we follow the example of Christ and take the time to invest our lives in the lives of a few others, they will grow and mature spiritually and will begin to invest their lives in a few more. As this happens, there will be a growing number of disciples who are led by love.

Paul explained how the love of Christ motivated him. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 we read, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” Paul said that the love of Christ was what motivated him. As a result, he had made the choice to live for Christ instead of for himself. The result of choosing to live for Christ instead of self meant that he chose to invest his life in the lives of others and lead them with love.

In 1 John 4:10-12 we read, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” In these verses, we see several key lessons. We see that:

- We learn to take root in love as our response to the love of Christ for us
- We are to love others in the same way that God has loved us
- We show others the love of God because no one has seen God
- We have God’s love perfected in us as we abide in Him and love one another

The Lord has given us a great privilege to be His servants and lead others by love so that they can see the love of Christ working in us and flowing through us. If we lead others with the love of Christ, they will learn by example to do the same. They will become leaders who are led by love instead of leaders who are driven by fear. May the Lord richly bless you as help others become leaders who are led by love.

Developing Leaders who are Learning to Yield to the Spirit

In our last topic, we talked about the fact that developing Christian leaders need to be shown how to be led by love instead of driven by fear. One of the keys to becoming led by love is learning to yield to the Holy Spirit. Once a person becomes a Christian, that person now has a choice. He or she is no longer a slave to sin. Instead, every Christian is now free to make wise choices.

In Romans 6:13, we read, “And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.” Here, we see that every Christian has the choice to present himself to sin or present himself to God. We are told to stop making the choice to present ourselves to sin. Instead, we are urged to make a decisive choice to yield ourselves to God. The word “present” has the thought to make this happen in your life.

The question that many Christians ask is, How can I make this happen in my life? Many Christians would use Romans 7:14-25 to describe their lives. In those verses, we have “I”, “me”, “my” and “myself” used about 37 times. We see that it talks about Christians who have a desire to do what God says but do not seem to have the power to obey what God says. This thought is summarized in Romans 7:19. That verse says, “For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice.” Here, we see that many Christians want to do good but feel they cannot do good. They do not want to do evil but they find themselves continually doing evil.

One of the very interesting things to notice is that the Holy Spirit is only mentioned one time in the first seven chapters of Romans. As a result, Romans 7:24 tells how many Christians feel, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” In contrast, the Holy Spirit is mentioned nineteen times in Romans 8. That chapter concludes in Romans 8:37-39, “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

When Christians and Christian leaders depend on their own strength, they will act out of fear and experience the same feelings that we have mentioned in Romans 7. In contrast, when they yield to the Holy Spirit, walk in the Spirit and are led by the Spirit, they experience the fact that we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. That is why this topic and the next few topics are so important to every Christian and especially to those Christians who are becoming spiritual leaders.

This brings us to the question, how do we yield to the Holy Spirit? Romans 6:16 says, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?” Many times every day we face choices. Someone says something that hurts and we have a choice about the way we will respond. We are tempted to sin and we have a choice as to whether we will choose to sin or choose to obey God. When we depend on our own strength, we will act out of fear. As Romans 7 tells us, we will usually fail when we depend on our own strength.

In contrast, each time we face one of these choices, we can pray and ask the Lord to give us His strength to obey Him. When we pray, Lord I don’t have the strength to obey, give me Your strength to obey, we are yielding to Him. As we yield to the Lord, the Holy Spirit gives us His strength to obey. Many days, we face 500 or more choices. With each choice, we need to ask the same question that Saul asked on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:6, “Lord, what do you want me to

do?” When we ask the Lord that question, He will guide us by helping us to remember what we have learned from His Word. Then we need to pray, “Lord give me Your strength to obey what you tell me to do.”

The Lord has promised to supply us with the power that we need as we ask Him for His strength. In Luke 24:49, Christ told the disciples, “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Then Christ’s final words spoken on this earth are given to us in Acts 1:8. That verse says, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” In both verses, we see that the Holy Spirit is the one that gives us the power to do what is right.

Before we became Christians, we had no desire to change most of the time and so we did not even think about the need for power to change. Once we became Christians, we had a desire to change; but when we depended on our own strength, we found that we had no power to change. However, each time that we yield to Christ and ask Him to give us His strength, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to act in obedience to Christ. As we help developing leaders in their spiritual growth, this is a key thing we want to help them understand and learn to apply throughout the day.

When we present or yield ourselves to Christ, we are placing ourselves at His disposal and asking Him to work in us and through us. In fact, Romans 12 gives us a very interesting progression. Verse one says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.” In this verse, we see that we are to present our bodies to Christ.

Romans 12:2 says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” This verse tells us that we are no longer to think and act the way that the world thinks and acts. We see that once we have presented our bodies to Christ, we can also experience the transforming of our lives by the renewing of our minds. That transformation happens as we hear, read, study, memorize and meditate on the Word of God so that we begin to think and view things from God’s viewpoint instead of the world’s viewpoint. This helps us to know the will of God.

Then, in Romans 12:3, we read, “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” Here, we see that as we grow spiritually through the transformation of our minds that we will learn to think humbly because we realize that all that we have has been given to us by God. This makes it possible for us to exercise sound judgment, because we realize that we can do nothing in our own strength.

Romans 12:4-8 goes on to point out the fact that we have each been given exactly what we need to carry out the ministry that the Lord has designed for each one of us. We want to help developing leaders understand that God has given them a unique SHAPE to carry out the particular ministries He has prepared for each individual Christian to help the whole body of Christ function properly.

The word SHAPE stands for:

- S spiritual gifts
- H heart or passion for particular ministries
- A abilities
- P personality
- E experiences in life

If developing spiritual leaders depend on their own strength to do the work of God, in John 15:5 Christ said, “Without Me you can do nothing.” As developing leaders learn to yield to the Lord

moment by moment, the Lord is able to work in them and through them to carry out the ministry that the Lord has for each one. As a result, Ephesians 3:20-21 says, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” In these verses, we see that when we place ourselves at the disposal of Christ and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord will do:

- ◆ Exceedingly
- ◆ Abundantly
- ◆ Above all
- ◆ We can ask
- ◆ Or even imagine
- ◆ Because His power is working in us
- ◆ And we are to give Him all of the glory.

The privilege of helping developing spiritual leaders grow and develop is a great privilege. The Lord will work in their lives and through their lives more than they can ever imagine as they learn to yield to the Holy Spirit moment by moment. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing spiritual leaders learn to yield to the Holy Spirit so that they are acting in the power of the Spirit instead of their own strength.

6.

Developing Leaders who are Learning to Walk in the Spirit – Part 1

In our last topic, we talked about helping developing leaders learn to yield to the Holy Spirit. Today, we will build on that topic to focus on how we help developing leaders learn to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16 says, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Here, we see that the Lord wants every Christian to learn to walk in the Spirit.

The word that is translated “walk” speaks of something that we do as a continuous action. Therefore, when we talk about walking in the Spirit, we are talking about something that has become a habit or a lifestyle. Genesis 5:22 tells us, “And Enoch walked with God.” Later, Genesis 5:24 says, “And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.” Then, in the last part of Genesis 6:9 we read, “Noah walked with God.” In these verses, we see that some people had learned to walk with God in the time prior to the flood. Sharing their lives with God had become a lifestyle for both Enoch and Noah.

This brings us to the question, How do we learn to walk in the Spirit? Learning to walk in the Spirit involves learning to let the Holy Spirit continue to minister to our human spirit. It also includes transforming our mind, emotions and will. The result will be that we use our body to carry out the will of God.

First, we learn to walk in the Spirit by learning to let the Holy Spirit continually minister to our human spirit. In Romans 8:16, we read, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Here, we see that the Holy Spirit communicates with the human spirit of those who have become the children of God. This communication of the Holy Spirit with our human spirit begins to reverse the effects of original sin.

Romans 1 shows that original sin affected the human spirit in several ways:

- Natural light - Man rejected what he could know of God through creation – Romans 1:19-20
- Conscience – Man became vain in his imaginations – Romans 1:21
- Wisdom – Man rejected the wisdom of God – Romans 1:22-23
- Sensitivity – Man became sensitive to his own evil desires – Romans 1:24-25
- Creativity – Man used his creativity to satisfy his evil human desires – Romans 1:25-32

As our human spirit begins to learn to communicate with the Holy Spirit, we see that the Holy Spirit begins to change and transform our human spirit. First, the Holy Spirit gives us a new view of God’s creation. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.” Once we become Christians, we begin to have a whole new view of God’s creation. Instead of worshiping the earth and the stars, we express our gratitude to the Creator for His glory that is revealed to us through His creation.

Second, the Holy Spirit immediately renews our conscience. The Lord wants us to have continuous fellowship with Him. This happens as we walk in the light. 1 John 1:6-7 says, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Our conscience causes us to become sensitive to sin again. This makes it possible for us to immediately confess our sin and restore our fellowship with Christ. In addition, God gives us the promise in 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Third, the Holy Spirit helps us to begin to understand the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 2:13 says, “These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit

teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” This is especially essential for a developing Christian leader. Human wisdom and spiritual wisdom are opposites and produce two totally different results.

James 3:14-16 describes the wisdom of the world and its results. Those verses say, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.” Here, we see that human wisdom is very destructive because it causes people to be very self-centered and selfish.

In contrast, the wisdom that the Holy Spirit gives us produces a very different result. James 3:17-18 says, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” The wisdom that comes from above helps us to become peacemakers which means that the Holy Spirit guides us to help others learn to have peace with God.

Fourth, the Holy Spirit causes our human spirit to become sensitive to God and to others. When man rejected the wisdom of God in Romans 1:22-23, we see that man began to create idols to replace God. Instead of reflecting the glory of God, man made idols that were in the form of men or animals or creeping things. Such idols are described in Psalm 115:4-8, “Their idols *are* silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; *So is* everyone who trusts in them.”

In contrast, the Holy Spirit causes our human spirit to become sensitive to God again. That is due to the fact that the Holy Spirit now dwells within us. The night before He was crucified, Christ said many wonderful things. One of the things He said was the promise in John 14:16-17. That promise says, “...And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost to live within the life of every Christian as the down payment and guarantee of our salvation – Ephesians 1:13-14.

The Holy Spirit also causes us to become sensitive to others. Again this is very important for developing spiritual leaders to understand. As we grow in the Lord, the Holy Spirit causes us to become less self-centered and selfish. Philippians 2:3-4 tells us the attitudes that the Holy Spirit develops in our lives as we mature in Christ. Those verses say, “*Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

As a developing leader becomes more sensitive to others, he or she will also become a better listener. James 1:19-20 says, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” A person who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit will be quick to really listen to what others are saying. Such persons will also be praying that the Holy Spirit will give wisdom as they answer and take time to weight their words so that they speak words that minister instead of words that destroy.

Fifth, the Holy Spirit will develop the creativity of Christians as they learn to yield their spirit to the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5:13, we read, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” True liberty is the power to live as we should and not to live as we please. Here, we see that the Holy Spirit helps us

to find creative ways to serve one another as we walk in the Spirit.

Instead of a person using his or her creativity to satisfy evil desires, growing Christians will use the creativity given by the Holy Spirit to minister to others. In the verse just mentioned, we see Christians will use their creativity to find ways to serve one another in love. As we have mentioned in other materials, the New Testament gives us twelve things that we are to avoid in our relationships with one another. The New Testament also gives us thirty-one things we are to do in our relationships with one another. Of course the one that is mentioned more times than any other is that we are to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Growing Christians will also use the creativity that the Holy Spirit gives to find ways to share the Gospel with those who are not yet Christians. 1 Peter 3:15 says, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” As we let the Lord rule in our hearts, the Holy Spirit will communicate with our spirit ways to make the Gospel clear to those who are not yet Christians. In addition, the Holy Spirit will give us the boldness to share the Gospel.

As we help developing spiritual leaders learn to walk in the Spirit, we will see them change from the inside out. We will see the Holy Spirit begin to reverse the effects that original sin had on the lives of every person. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing spiritual leaders learn to walk in the Spirit.

Developing Leaders who are Learning to Walk in the Spirit – Part 2

In our last topic, we began to talk about how to help developing leaders learn to walk in the Spirit. Today, we will continue our discussion of that topic. We saw that as we learn to walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is reversing the effects that original sin had to our human spirit. Today, we will see how the Holy Spirit transforms our mind, emotions and will as we learn to walk in the Spirit.

First, we will see how the Holy Spirit transforms our mind. Romans 12:1-2 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” In the Old Testament, the people offered a dead animal as a sacrifice. The blood of that dead animal provided a covering for their sins.

However, Christ died and shed His blood as the sacrifice for our sin. As a result, we do not offer animal sacrifices. Instead, Christ tells us here in Romans 12:1 that we are to present our own bodies as a sacrifice. There are two things that are to be true as we present our bodies to Christ. First, we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. Second, we are to present our bodies as a holy sacrifice. God says that such a living and holy sacrifice is acceptable to Him.

Verse two says that we are to stop being conformed to this world. Being conformed to the world is being conformed to the spirit of the age so that we still act like the world. Since the Holy Spirit has come into our human spirit, we are actually putting on a mask when we continue to act like the world. Instead, this verse says that we are to commit ourselves to the lifelong process of transforming our lives. Verse two also tells us how this process happens to change us from being like the world to becoming like Christ. The verse says that this process happens by the renewing of our minds.

This brings us to the question, How does the Holy Spirit transform our minds? In Isaiah 55:8-9, God says, “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” In these verses, we see that the thoughts and ways of the Lord are higher than our thoughts and our ways. The way we transform our minds is by replacing our thoughts with the thoughts of the Lord so that we begin to think and act as Christ thought and acted.

We learn the thoughts of God in five ways. We learn the thoughts of God by:

- ◆ Hearing the Word of God – Romans 10:17
- ◆ Reading the Word of God – Revelation 1:3
- ◆ Studying the Word of God – 2 Timothy 2:15
- ◆ Memorizing the Word of God – Psalm 119:11
- ◆ Meditating on the Word of God – Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3

Then as we learn the thoughts of God, we bring our thoughts into agreement with the thoughts of God. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” Instead of thinking any longer the way that the world thinks, we are to think the thoughts of Christ so that we replace the wisdom of the world with the wisdom of Christ.

Here, we see that true spiritual warfare is able to cast down the strongholds of the world and the

world system of thinking. We notice an interesting thing here. The strongholds of Satan are in the thinking of the people of the world. Because of the sinful nature of mankind, the thoughts of people in the world are centered in pleasing self. The more a person desires to please self, the more evil the thoughts of that person become. The result of such thinking was shown before the flood. Genesis 6:5 says, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually."

Instead of thinking any longer the way that the world thinks, we are to think the thoughts of Christ so that we replace the wisdom of the world with the wisdom of Christ. These verses teach us that we learn to think the thoughts of God by:

- Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God
- Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

First, we see that we are to cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. In 1 Corinthians 3:19-20 we read, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness'; and again, 'The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'" The wisdom of this world is the thoughts, ideas and philosophies of man. It includes the futile thoughts that are a part of any manmade religion. God tells us as Christians that we are to transform our thinking by replacing these futile thoughts with the thoughts of the Word of God. That happens as we memorize and meditate on the Scriptures.

Second, we are to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Here, we see that we are now able to use the Word of God to evaluate every thought that we have and every statement that we hear. As we evaluate these thoughts and statements, we will begin to recognize those that are motivated by the fear, guilt and shame that are the result of original sin. Then we can pray and ask the Lord to reverse and replace these thoughts and statements so that the new thoughts are motivated by the love of Christ. We will begin to recognize the statements of others that are motivated by fear and respond to those statements in love rather than fear.

Once we begin to realize that the thoughts and ideas of others are based on the wisdom of the world, it will begin to affect us in the same way that it affected Christ. In Matthew 9:36, we read, "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." We will begin to view both the Christians and non-Christians around us with compassion because we realize that they are faint-hearted and scattered like sheep because they have not learned to depend on the Good Shepherd. When we view others with this kind of compassion, it will also transform our wills and our actions.

Instead of getting angry at the thoughts and ideas of others, we will ask the Lord to help us to do His will to minister to those people. In this way, we are bringing our will into agreement with the will of God. It will cause us to pray as Christ prayed in the garden in Matthew 26:39, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*." We will then go to the Word of God so that the Lord can show us how to respond in love.

Finally, once we have asked the Lord how to respond to others in love, we will be able to obey the instructions in Galatians 5:13. That verse tells us, "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." We will realize that the Lord has given us real liberty. That liberty now makes it possible for us to serve one another in love.

As we help developing spiritual leaders learn to transform their minds, emotions and wills so that their actions are done in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord will be able to work through these developing leaders in a mighty way. In fact, the Lord will work through them in ways beyond what

they could ever imagine. At the same time, they are also learning to walk in the Spirit because the Holy Spirit is ministering to their spirit, transforming their minds, emotions and wills and giving them the power to serve one another in love.

One other thing also happens as developing leaders learn to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16 says, "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Here, we see that developing leaders will see the Lord giving them increasing victory over sin as they walk in the Spirit. Because they are learning to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, they will be using their bodies to glorify God instead of fulfilling the desires of the flesh.

The Lord gives us a great privilege by allowing us to help developing leaders learn to walk in the Spirit. Needless to say, such a privilege also brings great joy to our own lives as we see that the Lord is using our lives to fulfill His purpose. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing leaders learn to walk in the Spirit.

8.

Developing Leaders who are Learning to be Led by the Spirit

In our last three topics, we have been talking about developing leaders who are learning to yield to the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. Today, we will be discussing how we help developing leaders learn to be led by the Spirit. In Galatians 5:18, we read, “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” Our purpose is to help developing leaders learn to be led by the Spirit.

In this verse, we see that we are not under the law if we are led by the Spirit. The reverse of this is also true. If we are trying to lead under the law, we will not be led by the Spirit. In order to help developing spiritual leaders understand this fully, we need to help them learn the purpose of the law. Galatians 3:24-25 says, “Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

The word that is translated “tutor” is only used three times in the New Testament and two of those times are in these two verses. The third time is in 1 Corinthians 4:15-16 where we read, “For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” In these verses, we see that the word is translated “instructor”.

Among the Greeks, a tutor or instructor was a slave who was responsible to care for a child until that child became an adult. The instructor would often exercise severe discipline in the care of that child. As a result, the child was eager for the day when he would no longer be under the tutor. We see that in Corinth the church had many leaders who were acting as tutors rather than as spiritual parents. Paul points out that a true spiritual leader is to lead people by example rather than drive them with rules and severe discipline. That is why it is so important that developing leaders learn to be led by the Spirit.

If spiritual leaders are led by the Spirit, they will lead others in love and provide an example to imitate. If spiritual leaders only act as tutors, they will drive people with rules. We can see that this is what had happened in the church at Corinth. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 shows us what happens when spiritual leaders act as tutors. Those verses say, “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?” This is why it is so important to help developing spiritual leaders learn to be led by the Spirit.

In Luke 4:1, we read, “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” In this verse, we see two things about Christ:

- ◆ First, He was filled with the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Second, He was led by the Spirit

There is a direct connection between the two. In order to be led by the Spirit, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18, we read, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” The word that is translated “be filled” in Ephesians 5:18 is a command to keep on being filled with the Spirit so that it is a habit or a lifestyle. In Luke 4:1, it has the thought of something that was continually happening. In Ephesians 3:19, we see that Paul prayed that Christians would, “...know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with all the fullness of God. That is what we need if we

are going to be led by the Spirit. Since Paul prayed that all Christians would be filled with all the fullness of God, we see that the Lord wants all of us to be filled with all the fullness of God as a lifestyle so that we are being led by the Spirit on a continuing basis. We have mentioned in earlier topics that we are either driven by fear or led by love.

In Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul prayed for all Christians, “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” In this prayer, we see that Paul prayed for five things:

- That we would be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man
- That Christ would dwell in our hearts through faith
- That we would be rooted and grounded in love
- That we would be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge
- That we would be filled with all the fullness of God

Here, we see five things that will make it possible for us to be led by the Spirit. First, we need to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man. To be strengthened with might by the Holy Spirit in the inner man means that we are yielding our human spirit to the Holy Spirit so that it is His power that is working in us rather than our own power. When we depend on our own strength, we will act out of fear. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives His strength to our human spirit and we are able to be led and act in the power of the Spirit.

Second, we see that as Christ dwells in our hearts through faith that we can be led by the Spirit. In Colossians 2:9-10 we read, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Christ has all the fullness of the Godhead dwelling in Him. Passages like 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and Ephesians 4:15-16 tell us that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and Christ is the head of the body. As we allow Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith, He will lead us because He is the head and we are the body.

Third, we see that we are to be rooted and grounded in love. As we take root in Christ and His love, this makes it possible for us to be led by love instead of driven by fear. In fact, the love of Christ both leads us and motivates us. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” As we grow in our understanding of the love of Christ, our desire is to be led by Christ through the Spirit because we know that He will both lead us and motivate us.

Fourth, we see that the more we comprehend the four dimensions of the love of Christ the more we are led by the Spirit. Normally a person can only see something in three dimensions – width, length and height. However, Ephesians 3:18 adds the dimension of depth. If we compare this to a tree, we see the three dimensions of the tree that are above the ground but we do not see the roots that are below the ground. A healthy tree will often have roots that spread as far below the ground as the tree spreads above the ground. As we grow in Christ, we are actually taking deeper root in the love of Christ. The greater our understanding of His love, the greater our capacity for His leading in our lives.

Fifth, we see that we can be filled with all the fullness of God. That is what makes it possible to say as Christ said in Matthew 26:39, “Not as I will, but as You *will*.” We will be led by the Spirit because He will be leading us to do the will of the Father just as Christ chose to do the will of the

Father. If we are led by the Spirit to do the will of God, the Spirit will also give us His power to carry out the will of the Father.

From this prayer in Ephesians 3:16-19 we see that being led by the Spirit involves the ministries of the whole Godhead. The Holy Spirit gives us His strength and power. Christ helps us to be led and act in love. The Father guides us to carry out His will in the world. As a result, we can say in the words of Romans 8:31, "If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?"

This prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 also gives us an example of how to pray for developing leaders so that they will be led by the Holy Spirit. I have found that it is helpful to quote these verses every day before I begin to pray for others, especially those who are developing leaders. In that way, I am reminded of how Paul prayed for other Christians and I can use specific things from this prayer as I pray for the spiritual growth of developing leaders. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing leaders learn to be led by the Spirit rather than driven by their fears.

Developing Leaders who are Bearing the Fruit of the Spirit

In the last several topics, we have seen that the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the key to being led by love rather than driven by fear. Today, we will see that as we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us that our lives will bear the fruit of the Spirit. Just as an apple tree will bear apples and a banana tree will bear bananas, a Spirit led Christian will bear the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

As we yield to the Spirit, walk in the Spirit and are led by the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is working in our lives to produce the nine attitudes known as the fruit of the Spirit. First, we see that the Holy Spirit causes the Christian who is walking in the Spirit to grow in love. This is the kind of love that Christ commands us to have in the new commandment. John 13:34-35 says, “...A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

At any time that we are yielding to the Spirit, our lives will demonstrate the love of Christ because it is His Spirit that is working in us and through us. During the times that we depend on our own strength we will act out of fear as Peter did in Galatians 2:11-14. “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?’”

Joy is also an attitude that is the result of yielding to the Spirit. James 1:2-3 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” Anyone can be happy when things are going good. That is because happiness is based on what is going on around us. In contrast, joy is based on what is happening within us. It is the result of yielding to the Spirit even in trials and asking the Holy Spirit to give us His joy. Paul and Silas demonstrated this in jail at Philippi. Acts 16:23-25 says, “And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Peace is the third attitude that is the result of yielding to the Spirit. We have three choices every time we face a problem. We can turn things out and get angry. We can turn things in and get worried or hurt. Those are the two natural responses. The third response is to turn things over to the Lord. That is the supernatural response. When we turn the problem over to the Lord, the result is peace. Philippians 4:6-7 says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” God gives us His peace as we turn things over to Him.

Longsuffering or patience is the fourth attitude that is the result of yielding to the Spirit. The Lord showed the meaning of longsuffering in His treatment of Paul. In 1 Timothy 1:15-16 we read, “This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus

Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” God chose to show his longsuffering to Paul even though verse 13 says that Paul was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor and an insolent man. Christ gives us His longsuffering toward those who might persecute us. As we yield to the Spirit, He gives us strength to endure pain, injury or irritation from those who are rejecting Him.

Kindness or gentleness is the fifth attitude that is the result of yielding to the Spirit. As we yield to the Spirit, He gives us the desire to treat others with kindness or gentleness because of the fact that the Lord has treated us with kindness. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 says, “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.” Here, we see that the Lord will use our kindness to help others escape from the snare of the devil.

Goodness is the sixth attitude that is the result of yielding to the Spirit. Romans 15:14 says, “Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.” In this verse, we see that the Christians in Rome were full of goodness. The word that is translated “goodness” means *uprightness of heart and life*. Like each of the other attitudes, we see that it talks of inward attitudes that produce actions that minister to others. This is why it is so important for developing leaders to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. Attitudes that are the result of walking in the Spirit will always lead a person to minister to others.

Faithfulness is the seventh attitude that is the result of yielding to the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 4:2, we read, “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” A Christian who is walking in the Spirit will demonstrate godly character and will be a person that can be relied upon. Because their trust is in the Lord, others will also be able to trust them. This reminds us again that we become like those with whom we spend time. If we spend much time in fellowship with the Lord, we will become more like Him.

Gentleness or meekness is the eighth attitude that is the result of walking in the Spirit. An attitude of gentleness or meekness is an attitude of humbleness that causes a person to submit to the will of God. A Christian with this attitude will also show real consideration for others. Ephesians 4:2-3 says that a worthy walk is, “...with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” A person who is walking in meekness will also have a teachable spirit. James 1:21 says, “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Self-control is the ninth attitude that will be present in the Christian that is walking in the Spirit and yielding to the Spirit. Self-control speaks of one who has learned to control his desires and passions. Paul gives us a good summary of self-control in 1 Corinthians 9:25-27. Those verses tell us, “And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” Paul chose not to do certain things because he was looking forward to the reward that comes from the Lord.

As we look at the fruit of the Spirit, we see that the Lord is changing the inner attitudes of the person who is yielding to the Spirit, walking in the Spirit and being led by the Spirit. Romans 8:4 tells us, “That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” This verse tells us that a Christian who is

controlled by the Spirit does not need any other law because he or she is led by internal character rather than external laws. This is a key for any spiritual leader who wants to be an effective spiritual leader. That is why it is so important that we help developing spiritual leaders learn the importance of walking in the Spirit.

We will develop leaders who are bearing the fruit of the Spirit if we focus on the development of godly character and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. That is why most of the qualifications for spiritual leadership focus on character and not knowledge or skills. We do want to help developing leaders develop knowledge and skills. However, the first priority must be the development of godly character. That will only happen as developing leaders learn to be led by the Spirit.

Today, we see that many Christians have not been shown how to walk in the Spirit, be led by the Spirit and yield to the Spirit. For some this is due to the fact that in the churches where they attend, the whole emphasis has been on spectacular manifestations of the Spirit rather than learning to be led by the Spirit. As a result, others have responded by almost totally ignoring the Holy Spirit. The result is almost like the statement of the disciples of John the Baptist in Acts 19:3, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." Both those who focus on spectacular manifestations and those who ignore the Holy Spirit never learn how to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit.

We help developing leaders understand how the Holy Spirit works in our lives as we provide an example of depending on the Spirit in our own lives. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing leaders learn to walk in the Spirit, be led by the Spirit and learn to yield to the Spirit so that their lives bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Developing Leaders who are Filled with Boldness

In the past several topics, we have been talking about how to help developing leaders learn to yield to the Spirit, walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit so that their lives are bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Today, we will learn how to help these developing leaders learn to speak the Word of God with boldness as they are led by the Holy Spirit. Christ did several key things to help the disciples learn to speak the Word of God with boldness. These include:

- Learning what to speak
- Learning how to speak
- Learning to speak with boldness

In the process of training His disciples, the Lord gave them Four Calls and a Commission. These give us five E's for ministry. Those calls and a commission include:

- ◆ Evangelize - Come and See – John 1:39-46; Matthew 9:9-10; Mark 1:30-33
- ◆ Edify - Come and Grow – Mark 1:16-20
- ◆ Equip – Come and Serve – Mark 3:13-15
- ◆ Expand the Leadership – Come and Shepherd – John 21:15-17
- ◆ Extend – As you are going, Make Disciples – Matthew 28:19-20

It was during the first two stages of their development that Christ really focused on helping the disciples learn what to speak. From the time that Christ first invited some of the disciples to begin spending time with Him in John 1:39-46, until He invited them to come and grow in Mark 1:16-20, was a period of about a year. Then, it was an additional six to nine months before He chose the Twelve to be with Him in Mark 3:13-15. We will see how Christ was teaching the disciples what to speak throughout this time.

Once Christ first met some of the disciples in John 1, they began spending time with Him. They went along with Him to the wedding in Cana in John 2:1-12. John 2:11-12 says, “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.” The disciples were with Him as He went to the Passover in Jerusalem in John 2:13-25.

John 3 shows that the disciples were with Christ in Judea prior to the time that John the Baptist was put in prison. John 3:22-24 says, “After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison.” They were with Him as He returned through Samaria. John 4:8 says, “For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.”

Then, in Matthew 4:12, we see that Christ went into Galilee after John was cast into prison. That verse says, “Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.” Then, Matthew 4:23 says, “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.” Since Galilee had 203 towns and villages that had a synagogue, the disciples heard Christ preach some things in many different places.

Mark 1:35-39 shows us that Christ also took the disciples with Him during this time. Those verses tell us, “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for

Him. When they found Him, they said to Him, ‘Everyone is looking for You.’ But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.’ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.” Since the disciples were traveling with Christ, they got to hear what He taught and see how He taught.

These times of teaching all happened before Christ chose the twelve. We see that He chose the Twelve from the larger group of disciples after much prayer. Luke 6:12-13 says, “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles” Mark 3:13-15 tells us why He chose the Twelve. Those verses say, “And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons...”

For eighteen to twenty-one months, the disciples had been listening to Christ preach so that they knew what to speak. During this time they were also being shown how to speak. It was only after being shown both what to speak and how to speak that Christ sent out the Twelve. When He sent out the Twelve the first time, Christ gave them very specific instructions. In Matthew 10:5-8 we read, “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” The following verses show us the other lesson Christ was teaching was that He would supply their needs.

Later in Luke 10, Christ sent out seventy disciples. This included “the Twelve” plus fifty-eight other disciples. Luke 10:1-3 says, “After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.”” Christ wanted the seventy to learn both that He would protect them and also supply their needs. However, none of these things equipped them to preach the Word of God with boldness.

After the death and resurrection of Christ, He gave them the key to boldness in Luke 24:46-49. There we read, “Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.’” The disciples had been shown what to speak and how to speak but they were to wait for the Holy Spirit in order to speak with boldness.

They prayed and waited until the Day of Pentecost. Then, in Acts 2:4-7, we see what happened when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Those verses say, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?’” The disciples spoke the word with boldness in many different languages.

In Acts 4:8, we read, “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...” When he finished speaking Acts 4:13 says, “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that

they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” When told to not speak any more in the name of Jesus, their answer is given in Acts 4:19-20, “But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’”

Peter and John immediately gathered together with the other Christians and prayed. The conclusion to their prayer and the results are seen in Acts 4:29-31. In those verses we read, “‘Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” They prayed for boldness and the Lord gave them boldness.

Later Paul asked the Christians in Ephesus to pray for him. His request is in Ephesians 6:19-20 as he asked them to pray, “...and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” Even Paul knew that He must pray that the Lord would give him boldness to speak the Word of God.

We help developing leaders learn what to speak and how to speak as we take them with us and show them. However, that is not enough. In all of these verses, we see that boldness is the result of praying for boldness and depending on the power of the Holy Spirit, instead of trying to speak in our own strength. This is one of the key lessons that developing leaders need to learn. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing leaders learn to pray for boldness and learn to depend on the Holy Spirit to give them the power to speak the Word of God with boldness.

Developing Leaders who Hear the Voice of the Shepherd

In John 10:2-5, we read, “But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” As you all know, John 10 is the passage that talks about the fact that Christ is the Good Shepherd. In these verses, we see three things about the sheep. We see that:

- The sheep hear His voice
- The sheep follow Him
- The sheep know His voice

In the next three topics we will be talking about developing leaders who have these three characteristics. Today, we will focus on the fact that we want to develop leaders who hear the voice of the Good Shepherd.

An effective leader is one who hears the voice of the Shepherd. In the time of Christ, all of the shepherds kept their flocks in the same sheepfold at night. In the morning, the shepherds would all gather and the doorkeeper would open the door of the sheepfold. Each shepherd would call his own sheep. In fact, these verses tell us that the shepherd would call each sheep by name and the sheep would come to him. Since Christ is the Good Shepherd, all spiritual leaders are also sheep who need to hear the voice of the True Shepherd.

This is extremely important today because there are many voices that are calling to spiritual leaders. One of the loud voices that is calling to spiritual leaders today is the voice of success. A trip to most Christian bookstores will reveal that many of the books being written for Christian leaders today are written to tell spiritual leaders how to be successful rather than obedient. Then, these books go on to measure success by the number of people and the size of the offerings. Usually the book will then give the particular program of the writer to be successful by a worldly standard. Many religious radio and television stations do the same.

In contrast, we see here that an effective spiritual leader will hear the voice of the Shepherd rather than the voice of success or some other thing. That brings us to the question, How do we help a developing spiritual leader learn to hear the voice of the Shepherd? Learning to hear the voice of the Shepherd involves learning to answer the following words from the Word of God: who, what, where, when, why and how.

Saul asked the first two questions when he met Christ on the road to Damascus. In Acts 9:4-5, we read, “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’” In these verses, we see that the very first thing Saul asked was, “Who are You, Lord?” This is the question that we need to ask the Lord daily if we truly want to hear His voice. In fact each day as we open our Bibles, we need to be asking this question. Then, as we study and meditate on the Word we will be able to learn more about who Christ really is. We want to help every developing spiritual leader learn to ask this question daily.

Second, we want developing spiritual leaders to learn to ask the second question that Saul asked. Acts 9:6 says, “So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’” Each

day as developing spiritual leaders study the Word and meditate on it, we want to help them learn to ask this second question, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” In many passages, Christ gives us a command to obey, an attitude to develop, a sin to avoid or some other thing that the Lord wants us to do or avoid.

Third, true Bible study will cause us to ask a third question. We want to help developing spiritual leaders learn to ask this question each day as they study and meditate on the Word of God. The third question is, “Lord, where do You want me to obey this command?” For example, Mark 16:15 says, “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” Notice that this command says nothing about inviting people to church. Instead, it commands us to go to people wherever they are and present the Gospel to them. The command is to go to them and not expect them to come to us. That also means that we need to teach each Christian how to share the Gospel

Fourth, true Bible study will cause us to ask a fourth question, “Lord, when do You want me to obey this command, develop this attitude or carry out these instructions?” Many of the things that the Lord commands us to do also tell us when we are supposed to start doing them. In a large number of these things, we are to start doing them immediately and continue doing them until the Lord comes. For example, Ephesians 6:18-20 says, “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” In these verses, we see that we are to pray at all times. We certainly want to help developing spiritual leaders learn to be praying at all times.

Fifth, true Bible study will also cause us to ask a fifth question, “Lord, why do You want me to do this?” In the verses given in the previous paragraph, we see why we are to pray at all times. We are to pray at all times for one another and for ourselves. We are to pray that we will be able to share the Gospel with boldness and not fear. We are pray because we have been appointed as ambassadors for Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:20. One of the things we want developing spiritual leaders to clearly understand is why they do what they do. Most people just react to the circumstances around them. As Christians and especially as Christian leaders we need to have a plan of action for our lives that has come from the Word of God so that we know why we are doing what we are doing.

Sixth, true Bible study will also cause us to ask a sixth question, “Lord, how do You want me to do the things that I do?” Proverbs 16:25 says, “There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.” This verse in Proverbs shows why it is so important to ask the Lord how He wants us to do what we do. There is a natural way to do things and there is a supernatural way to do things. The two ways are usually opposite. Many Christian books focus on the natural way to do things instead of the Biblical way to do things. This is why it is so important to help the developing spiritual leader to begin to learn to think Biblically rather than naturally. Christ teaches us both what to do and also how to do it.

As we think about hearing the voice of the Shepherd, we see that He speaks to us through His Word. Let’s take just one small group of verses and apply these six questions to see how we hear the voice of the Shepherd. In Matthew 28:18-20, we read, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Let’s see if we are hearing what the Shepherd is saying to us in these verses as we apply the six questions.

Question 1 – Lord, who are You?

Christ is the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth. If we hear His voice, we will then submit to His authority and do what He tells us to do.

Question 2 – Lord, what do You want me to do?

Christ gives us one command in these verses, Make Disciples!

Question 3 - Lord, where do You want me to Make Disciples?

Christ tells us that He wants us to Make Disciples among all the nations (among every ethnic group).

Question 4 – Lord, when do You want me to Make Disciples?

Christ tells us He wants us to Make Disciples from now until the end of the age.

Question 5 – Lord, why do You want me to Make Disciples?

Christ tells us He wants us to Make Disciples until the end of the age. That means that we must develop reproducing Christians as stated in 2 Timothy 2:2, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (Paul, Timothy, faithful men, others also) We want to help every developing spiritual leader develop an understanding of how to develop the third and fourth generation (indirect leadership). Only by developing reproducing Christians will this continue to happen until the end of the age.

Question 6 – Lord, how do You want me to Make Disciples?

Christ tells us how He wants us to Make Disciples. He gives us three participles which tell us how to carry out the command to Make Disciples. Those participles are: going, baptizing, teaching. As we are going, we are to be sharing the Gospel and leading those to Christ that the Father is drawing. When people repent and place their faith in Christ, we are to help them identify themselves as Christians by baptizing them. (There are eight kinds of baptism in the New Testament and they all have one thing in common – identification.) Then, we are to teach and show them how to obey all that Christ has commanded. Here, we see that we want to help developing spiritual leaders realize that our command to Make Disciples is to take people from the point of initial contact as non-Christians to the point where they have become healthy reproducing Christians who are taking others through the same process.

Some Christians never read their Bibles. Many Christians read their Bibles, but never hear the voice of the Shepherd. We want to help Christians learn to study, memorize and meditate on the Word of God so that they learn to really hear the voice of the Shepherd. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing spiritual leaders learn to hear the voice of the Shepherd.

Developing Leaders who are Following the Shepherd

In our last topic, we talked about the fact that John 10 tells us that Christ is the Good Shepherd. We saw that we want to help developing leaders hear the voice of the Shepherd. Today, we will focus on the second thing that John 10 teaches us about how to help developing leaders. John 10:3-4 says, “To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” In these verses, we see that the sheep follow the Shepherd. One of the key things that we want to help developing spiritual leaders make a part of their lives is learning to follow the Shepherd.

We begin by seeing that two things are mentioned here about the Shepherd. We see that:

- The Shepherd leads the sheep
- The Shepherd goes before the sheep

First, the Shepherd leads the sheep. Here, we see that Christ gives all Christians an example to follow. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul said, “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.” Paul does not just say, “Imitate me.” Instead, he says to imitate him, because he is imitating Christ. Developing spiritual leaders must learn to follow and imitate Christ or they will never be effective in leading others. Instead, they will drive others because they are controlled by fear themselves.

In Matthew 11:28-30, we see that Christ demonstrated two key attitudes that are often lacking today. Those verses say, “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” In these verses, Christ says that He is gentle in heart and lowly in heart. Furthermore, Christ says that we are to learn these attitudes from Him. The reason we need to learn these attitudes from Him is due to the fact that they are the opposite of what the world teaches.

The goal of Satan is to destroy – John 10:10. In contrast, the goal of Christ is to restore. That is why it is such an important thing to show a developing spiritual leader how to be gentle in heart. The word that is translated “gentle” and its related noun form speaks of the attitude of heart of one who accepts the dealings of God as good and without resistance. When a person has this attitude toward God, he will demonstrate this attitude in his relationships with others in an effort to restore them to a right relationship with God. Galatians 6:1 says, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” 2 Timothy 2:25 says, “In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.” Titus 3:2 says, “To speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.” In all of these verses, we see that the Lord will use one with this attitude to help restore others.

A developing spiritual leader also needs to learn how to be lowly in heart. This same word is translated by the word “humble” in James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5. A humble attitude is something that should be developing in the life of every Christian because we realize that whatever we have has been given to us by the Lord. He is the one who deserves all glory in all things. In Philippians 2:3, we read, “*Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” If we are lowly in heart, we will also be lowly in mind. The result will be that we will always treat others with a very high respect. As we treat the thoughts and ideas of a developing spiritual leader with very high respect, we will be modeling what it means to be lowly in heart.

Second, we see that the Shepherd goes before the sheep. This is extremely important for a developing leader to understand because a godly leader will face opposition from Satan. Whatever opposition we face, we need to realize that Christ has already faced that opposition and He shows us how to respond when we face opposition. Christ faced opposition from Satan as soon as He began His ministry. The first principle that Christ demonstrated was to answer any opposition with the Word of God. In Luke 4:1-13, Satan tempted Christ with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. In each case Christ answered the temptations of Satan with the Word of God.

In addition to opposition from Satan, a godly leader will also face opposition from people. In Matthew 5:44, Christ tells us how to face opposition from those who treat us as enemies. That verse says, “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” Here, we see that Christ gives us four ways to respond to those who oppose. However, Christ did not just speak the words. He showed us how to put these into practice by His actions.

First, Jesus showed love and respect to Judas even though He knew that Judas was betraying Him. In Matthew 26:50 we read, “But Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, why have you come?’ Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.” Christ treated Judas as a friend even when he was committing the very act of betraying Christ. Certainly we will never find a greater demonstration of love.

Second, Christ also blessed those who cursed Him. Matthew 27:44 says, “Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.” We see that at the beginning both of those crucified with Christ were cursing Him. However, Christ blessed one of those men in a very special way. Later that day, Luke 23:42-43 tells us, “Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” Here, we see that instead of returning the cursing, Christ blessed this man with eternal life.

Third, Christ did good to those who hated Him. In Luke 19:39-41, we read, “And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, ‘Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.’ But He answered and said to them, ‘I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.’ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.” Earlier, in Luke 13:34, Christ had also said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen *gathers* her brood under *her* wings, but you were not willing!” Christ showed great love as He wept and prayed for the people who opposed Him.

Fourth, Christ prayed for those who spitefully used Him and persecuted Him. Luke 23:34a says, “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do...’” Here, we see that regardless of how people opposed Him, Christ responded with love and kindness. This is such a key principle that we need to show to developing spiritual leaders by our example. We need to teach them what Christ did. Then, as they see us loving those who oppose us, they will see that Christ will give them the strength to return good for evil.

In addition to Christ going before the sheep to give them an example of how to face opposition, Christ also goes before the sheep by leading them to a good pasture. In Ezekiel 34:15-16, God told how he would lead Israel. Those verses tell us, “‘I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick...’”

Christ gave spiritual leaders the responsibility to feed the sheep as He fed His disciples. In John

21:15-17, Jesus told Peter, “So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’ He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’”

Peter understood that responsibility and carried it out for the rest of his life. As he passed on instructions to spiritual leaders, he told them to do the same. 1 Peter 5:1-4 says, “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” Every developing spiritual leader needs to be shown how to feed and lead the flock by the example of other spiritual leaders.

The Lord gives us a great privilege by leading us as the Great Shepherd. He also gives us a great privilege by allowing us the opportunity to show developing spiritual leaders how to lead and go before the flock as His under shepherds. May the Lord richly bless you as you show developing spiritual leaders how to follow the Shepherd.

Developing Leaders who Know the Voice of the Shepherd

In our last two topics, we have talked about “Developing Leaders who Hear the Voice of the Shepherd” and “Developing Leaders who are Following the Shepherd”. John 10:3-5 gives us another characteristic that we want to see develop in the lives of developing leaders. Those verses say, “To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. “And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. “Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” In these verses, we see that we want to help developing leaders really get to know the voice of the Shepherd. To hear the voice of the Shepherd involves learning to ask the questions Who, What, Where, When, Why and How? By asking these questions, developing leaders learn what Christ wants them to do and the way to do what Christ wants them to do.

However, getting to know the voice of the Shepherd involves another kind of growth. In 1 John 2:12-14, we read, “I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.” In these verses, we see that spiritual children know the Father. In contrast, spiritual fathers have known Him who is from the beginning.

In the same way, it is possible for Christians to hear the voice of the Shepherd and follow the Shepherd long before they really get to know the voice of the Shepherd. Paul made a very important statement after he had been ministering for many years. Philippians 3:7-10 says, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” In verse 10, we see that Paul desired four things. He wanted:

- To know Christ
- To know the power of His resurrection
- To know the fellowship of His sufferings
- To be made conformable to His death

Getting to really know the voice of the Shepherd involves getting to know the Shepherd and having a deep personal relationship with Him. A person can know all about Christ and yet not get to know Christ. We can read history books and get to know all about Julius Caesar. However, that does not mean that we know him. To be an effective spiritual leader we have to get to really know Christ and not just know about Him. That involves the four things Paul mentioned in Philippians 3:10.

First, we want to help developing spiritual leaders really get to know Christ. The twelve got to know Christ in a very personal way as they walked with Him and talked with Him. John describes that relationship in 1 John 1:1 where we read, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life.” The original disciples had the privilege of doing four things to get to

know Christ:

- ◆ They heard Christ
- ◆ They saw Christ
- ◆ They really looked upon Christ
- ◆ They were able to touch Him with their hands

Although the Twelve all were able to do all four of these things, only eleven really got to know Christ. Judas traveled with Jesus and the other disciples, did all of the things that they did and yet he never got to know Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:1 tell us, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ. And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.” A natural person or a carnal person will never get to hear Christ and know Christ because he or she will never be able to understand spiritual things.

We may not see Christ with our physical eyes but we can really look upon Christ. To look upon a person has the thought of meeting with a person so that we are able to really perceive and understand him. In Luke 24:45, we see what happened the evening after Christ rose from the dead. That verse says, “And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Although Christ is not physically present so we can look on Him with our physical eyes, Christ promises in John 14:26 that the Holy Spirit would give us that spiritual sight and understanding. John 14:26 says, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” We can help developing spiritual leaders really get to know Christ as they learn to ask the Holy Spirit to give them a fuller understanding of Christ as they study the Word.

Second, we want to help developing spiritual leaders really get to know the power of the resurrection of Christ. Many spiritual leaders struggle because they try to serve the Lord in their own strength. They seem to have the idea that when everything else fails, then it is time to pray. When that happens, they will never get to know the power of the resurrection. They may know about the power of the resurrection because they have read about it in the Bible. However, because they are depending on their own strength, they are not experiencing that power in their daily lives.

An effective spiritual leader will pray through his schedule to begin each day asking the Lord to give the Lord’s wisdom and power to deal with each situation that will be faced during the day. Then throughout the day, that person will continue to pray that the Lord will work rather than the person depending on self-effort. The more years a developing leader continues this pattern, the greater will be his understanding of the power of the resurrection. A growing leader will learn more and more to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit and less and less on his own strength. Regardless of how long we live, we still recognize that there is much more to learn about the power of the resurrection.

Third, we want to help developing spiritual leaders get to know the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. Most developing spiritual leaders go through three phases in their service for the Lord. First, they say, this is fun to serve the Lord. Second, they begin to realize that it is work. Third, they begin to realize that they are in a spiritual war. As long as they were doing little or nothing, things seemed to go fairly easily. However, as developing leaders begin to depend more and more on the Lord, they begin to realize that Satan is not happy with what the Lord is doing through their lives.

That is why we read the progression in Acts 14:22-23. After Paul and Barnabas made many disciples, we read in those verses that they were, “Strengthening the souls of the disciples,

exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” Paul and Barnabas realized the need to strengthen the souls of the disciples, encourage the disciples to continue in the faith and prepare the disciples for much tribulation before appointing them as leaders in the church.

Fourth, we want to help developing spiritual leaders become conformable to the death of Christ. As Paul approached the end of his ministry, he wrote in Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.” Here, we see that Paul was ready to die if that was what the Lord chose. However, he was also willing to live if that is what the Lord chose. The thought of becoming conformable to the death of Christ means that whether we live or die we want to please the Lord. It is the thought of dying to self so that Christ is glorified in all things. This will begin to happen as a developing leader makes pleasing Christ more important than worldly success. In fact we each need to regularly ask ourselves the question, Is my greatest desire to please Christ or to be a success?

It is a great privilege to help developing leaders get to know the voice of the Shepherd. As they get to know His voice, they will see the Lord work through their lives to bring glory to the Father. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing leaders really get to know the voice of the Shepherd.