Building a Spiritual Leadership Team (1-4)

Eph 4:11-16, 6:6; **Phil 2:1-5**, 3:12-14; **Acts 6:3-4**; **1 Pet 5:1-5**; **Rev 2:1-2, 7**; **Rom 12:1-3**

I. Introduction: Personal Spiritual Journey and the Spiritual Temple Diagram

II. The Importance of Leadership: Many biblical examples; The first and second tragedies of the church; The health of the congregation; It takes ten years to grow trees, but a hundred years to rear people

Declaration of the 21st Century Chinese Gospel Strategy Consultation Conference (1998)

III. Definition of Spiritual Leadership

- **Leader:** Someone who is [called by God], clearly understands what target is to be completed _____, and is able to lead and _____ others to _____ and _____ this target.
- **Spiritual / Spirituality:** Fearing God, _____ God, having _____ with God, _____ being governed, guided, and shaped by the Holy Spirit.
  ("I'm here, Please bury me.")
  A person who understands God's will and obeys (Gal 5:22-23; Prov 1:7; 9:10; 1 Cor 2:6; 10-14; 3:1…)
- **In Christ** → **Through Christ**; Misconceptions of many:

IV. Three Aspects / Qualities of a Spiritual Leader

The Marks of A Spiritual Servant Leader



❖ **Spirituality and Character** (**Tit 1:5-9**; **1Ti 3:1-13**; **Php 2:1-5**; **1 Pe 5:1-5**; **Ac 6:3-4**; **Ro 12:1-2**; **Jer 18:1-4**)

Definition & Elements: Vertical and Horizontal; From Inside out (*See Figure 3*)

1. _____: Justice, Honesty, Purity, Faithfulness (Prov 4:23; 1 Tim 1:5)

2. **Humility / FAT** (1 Pe 5:1-5; Ro 12:3…) [*Paul's example: 1 Co 15:9, Eph 3:8, 1 Ti 1:15…*]
3. _____ (2 Tim 1:7; 4:7) [*Beginning _____; Ending _____*]

4. **Servant's Heart** (John 13:3-16; Matt 20:26-28) [*Sacrifice _____ to fulfill _____; Incarnation _____ to address _____*]

5. **Self-Discipline** (Eph 4:7) [*In godliness _____; Like _____, _____, _____; A life of _____*] (*See Figure 6*)

Equipping: Bible Reading, Meditation, Prayer, Obedience… Shaped by the Holy Spirit, Called by God, Cultivated, Mentored in Church Ministry…

Thoughts → **Actions** → **Habits** → **Character** (*See Figures 4-5*) (*ref: Covey's 7 Habits…*)

"Spiritual work must be accomplished by spiritual people using spiritual methods!"

❖ **Calling, Vision, and Mission** (Rom 15:16, 20; 1 Tim 3:1; John 5:19; 12:26)

1. General Calling

2. Individual Life Mission

❖ **Knowledge, Wisdom, Skills, and Leadership** (Ps 78:72; Ex 18:21; Acts 6:3; Rom 12:8…)

1. **Effective _____ [Feeling]** (Eph 4:3; 15; Acts 15:6-32)
   a. **Listening:** "Learn to listen to others: Understand what people say; understand what people leave b unsaid; understand what is in people's spirits."
   b. **Incarnation; Right Medicine for the Right Disease**

2. **Good at _____ [Knowing]** (1 Tim 3:2; 2 Tim 2:15; 2:2)

   a. Unashamed Worker
   b. Dynamic and Living Teaching

3. **Wise _____ [Doing]** (1 Tim 3:5; 5:17; Neh 1-6)

   a. **Vision and Mission:** Specific goals, planning, strategies, selection and delegation, organization and action (*See Figures 7-8...*)

b. **Confront and resolve _____ in a timely manner**

c. **Regular _____** (*Self / Co-workers, specific standards, annual report, environment for church growth (See Figure 10)*)

d. **Continuous revision**

❖ **Team _____** (Titus 1:5; Rom 12:3; **Eph 4:11-16**; Phil 2:1-5; Matt 5:18)

Definition: A group of leaders who are _____, _____, and possess _____ working according to their gifts in _____ function, dividing labor and sharing responsibilities to accomplish God's _____ and _____ for this _____.

Church Leadership Model in the NT

A. Elements: (Co-workers, Same Heart, Walking Together)

a. **Shared _____** *e.g., Symphony Orchestra...*
b. **_____ Coordination;** Interdependence, Interactivity (Rom 12, Phil 2)
c. **_____ Relationship;** *"When there is a relationship, nothing is a problem; when there is no relationship, everything is a problem"*; *"Triune God"*
d. **Handling _____;** Facing problems; Open and honest communication with one another, confessing sins to one another, forgiving one another; Wounded soldiers and elite soldiers
e. **Christ _____** (*See Figure 9*)

B. Benefits:

a. **Balance _____;** (Eccl 4; 1+1>2)
b. **Provide _____;**
c. **Reduce _____;**
d. **Exercise _____** (*See Gifts Diagram in NT*)

C. Challenges:

a. **_____ Communication;**
b. **_____ Acceptance and Submission;**
c. **Healthy _____;** Clear goals, clear division of labor, responsibilities, and discipline

Spiritual Growth and Practice: Various charts: *Equipping Process*; *Ministry Declaration*; *Training & Resource Center*...

❖ **Q&A / Applications / Case Study**

Conclusion:

A spiritual leader is first built upon mature spirituality and character. A spiritual leader is also someone who is called, has a life mission, and possesses basic leadership abilities (truth / insight / skills / team / handling conflict…). As our church enters the 21st century alongside Chinese churches worldwide, we face unprecedented challenges including cults, secularization, and the intrusion of postmodernism. We also face unprecedented opportunities, seeing the continuous growth of Chinese populations everywhere, abundant resources, and the growth of the church in mainland China. Let us together accept the challenge God has given us in this era and this place, and take advantage of this opportunity to take root and build God's church. Let us first be good spiritual leaders individually at your leadership level—growing and maturing in spirituality and character, aligning with brothers and sisters in life mission and spiritual gifts, and using spiritual methods to accomplish spiritual ministry. A spiritual leader requires long-term cultivation, to be broken and molded by God, so that the treasure in the jar of clay—the life of Christ—may be manifested. Are you willing? These qualities are also goals that every Christian should pursue. May we all be willing to be molded by God into faithful, good, and wise servants according to God's heart, partnering with one another as a spiritual team to glorify God's name.

References (some of the books have a Chinese translation):

1. *Spiritual Leadership* by O. Sanders
2. *The Making of a Leader* by J. R. Clinton
3. *Ordering Your Private World* by G. MacDonald
4. *The Making of a Christian Leader* by T. Engstrom
5. *Leaders in the Making: A Workbook for Discovering & Developing Church Leaders* by Benware
6. *The Emotionally Healthy Church* by P. Scazzero
7. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by S. Covey
8. *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Blackaby
9. *Purpose Driven Church* by R. Warren
10. *Biblical Eldership* by A. Strauch
11. *God's Best for My Life* (devotional) by Lloyd Ogilvie…
12. *Running to Win* (devotional) by D. L. Moody and Erwin Lutzer

e.g. The **Mission Statement** of the recently combined church (The King's Chapel) will most likely be: *To make disciples of Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the gospel for the glory of God.*
The **Vision Statement** is: *To be a New Testament Church that serves Christ's mission as a faithful, disciple-making fellowship. Firmly anchored in the sound doctrine of Christ and His apostles, the church will carry out this vision through the expositional preaching of the Word of God, the Spirit-filled fellowship of believers, the vital life of prayer, the right administration of the ordinances, and the evangelism of the lost.* ***A people awakened to a Holy God****.*