

## Persevering in Leadership

When we begin in leadership it is common to set off at a sprint, only to find later on that we are in a marathon. Lots of people start the race, but the Apostle Paul talks about finishing. Tragically many people who start off well in Christian leadership don't get to the finish line. In this seminar, we will consider some of the main factors that cause leaders to cease persevering. Thinking about healthy spiritual formation, we will consider what spiritual habits, patterns, structures and support will help us to enjoy God over the long haul and to avoid spiritual unhealthiness and, later on, burning out. If you want to establish firm foundations and habits for spiritually healthy ministry, flowing out of your joy in God, this might be the seminar for you.

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Apart from Jesus we can do *nothing*

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:5-8

Factors that debilitate

A debilitating pattern

Drawing from the well of salvation

Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light

Matthew 11:28

What causes you to over-extend?

Why did God rest on the 7th day of Creation?

What, practically, can be changed in my life in order to live with long-term margin?

Evaluation questions?

1. What large responsibilities do I have to carry out?
2. What time have I allocated to them and how will I ensure that they remain within that allocation rather than overflowing the boundaries?
3. How would I rate my long-term energy levels and spiritual vitality? If you are married how would your spouse answer?
4. Are there any signs that I am approaching a place of exhaustion or unhealthiness? What are the canary-in-the-mine indicators that I have moved into the danger zone?
5. What factors in my life and ministry are most likely to squeeze out the invisible centre of my walk with God?
6. Considering the answers to questions 3-5, what mix of leisure, sabbath, spiritual input, community, solitude, friends do I need for my replenishment?
7. How early do I need to make strong diary commitments to ensure the answers to question 6 have a chance of getting translated into reality?
8. Who can talk to me and help me with these things? Who is my Jethro?

What do I need to help me?

- Help to prioritise and delegate, like Moses?
- Someone to confide in, share burdens with and help you consider the factors that feed pressure for you?
- Someone who can help you give attention to your prayer, worship and Bible life?
- Renegotiating incorrect expectations with correct ones (either from yourself or placed on you by others)?
- To stopping doing some things?
- Building healthy relationships / real fellowship?
- Being active in removing or mitigating debilitating pressures rather than putting up with them?