

## **Integrated Leadership for Leaders: Leading in the Light of Eternity**

Knowing both that we and our world are fallen and that our hope is certain is a transforming perspective. How can we apply this perspective to how we lead? This session will explore how a leader can lead in the light of eternity, delving into the connection between spiritual life, family life, and life as a leader.

**Dave Patty** has been involved in training youth leaders and leading national and international youth movements in Europe for over 30 years. He serves as the president of Josiah Venture. He is also a founding member of Global Youth Initiative, which mobilizes and equips youth ministry trainers in over 60 countries of the world. Dave is an ordained pastor with a BA in theology and a MA in education. He has also done graduate work in leadership development at Harvard University. For the past 27 years he has lived in the Czech Republic, and he spent the 10 years before that in Germany. Dave is married to Connie and has three grown children, Tyler, Caleb, and Claire.

### **You were created for eternity**

Ecc. 3:11

I Cor 15:19

“Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” Westminster Shorter Catechism

### **1. Your calling in the Light of Eternity**

I Cor 9:19, 24-27

Phil 3:13-14

2 Tim 4:7-8

*Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me.*

*Jim Elliot*

*Singleness, simplicity, is required of me. One treasure, a single eye, and a sole Master!*

*Jim Elliot*

### **2. Your Devotional Life in the Light of Eternity**

Colossians 3:1-4 & 15-17

### **3. Your Priorities in the Light of Eternity**

1 Corinthians 7  
Ephesians 5:21-6:4  
Hebrews 10:25  
Hebrews 11:13

Your family

Your church

Your community

### **4. Your Leadership Identity in the Light of Eternity**

Philippians 1:21-26

Your longing

Your destiny

Your service

*We profess to be strangers and pilgrims, seeking after a country of our own, yet we settle down in the most un-stranger-like fashion, exactly as if we were quite at home and meant to stay as long as we could. I don't wonder apostolic miracles have died. Apostolic living certainly has.*

*Amy Carmichael*

### **5. Your Ministry in the Light of Eternity**

1 Corinthians 3:10-15  
1 Corinthians 15:58

Labour that lasts into eternity

Labour that is motivated by eternity

*"I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." – Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf*

## 6. Your Sufferings in the Light of Eternity

2 Corinthians 4:7-18  
2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10  
Romans 8:18, 28-30

*“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” – Jim Elliot, martyr who lost his life in the late 1950s trying to reach the Auca Indians of the Ecuador.*

## 7. Your Frailty in the Light of Eternity

Hebrews 4:1-11  
Genesis 2:2-3  
Exodus 20:8-11 & Deut 5:12-15

Your hope of eternal rest

Your need for present rest

Your willingness to retire/be replaced

## Case Study - Johan

Johan is a church leader who is now 60 years old. In 2012 Johan became the pastor of a small but faithful church in a small town. He was energetic and a natural leader, and he quickly realised that there were other pastors in the surrounding region who felt isolated, so he and his wife started to hold connection days for other pastors and their families: going for walks, enjoying a meal, discussing their challenges and aspirations for local ministry, and praying together. These conversations soon led to pastors helping each other out in practical ways as relationships deepened. One very successful initiative was the establishment of a training partnership amongst churches in the region. Johan oversaw the training programme, involving other pastors in providing training for emerging leaders in local churches. Because of this role and his relationships, Johan also found himself becoming increasingly involved in providing pastoral care for other pastors and their families.

Over time, news about the value and impact of this network spread and Johan was invited to speak at different forums about how it had come about and how it worked, and found himself advising others on how to set up similar networks. He was also getting a growing number of requests for pastoral support from pastors around the country. All of this was starting to impact on his ability to lead and care for his local congregation.

In 2018, after much prayer and conversation with wise friends, Johan and his wife took the decision that he would step away from leadership in his local church to lead this network full time. They were able to raise funding as well as generating some income from memberships and activities to make it financially sustainable. He set up a simple non-profit legal entity, approached some friends to become trustees, hired an assistant to help run the training programme and signed up other experienced pastors to help out with the pastor-care.

But the demand for Johan's help, especially for pastor-care, just kept growing; by 2022 he was in huge demand both as a speaker and counsellor as well as being strongly encouraged by a Christian publisher to write about the care of pastors and their families. Johan loved the intensity of all this, though it was taking a toll on his wife and his relationships with their adult kids. In late 2022 he realised that it wasn't sustainable and that he needed to re-think the future of the ministry, including its focus, strategy, structure and funding. He discussed this with the trustees but most of them were not experienced in organisational development and weren't sure what to advise, so he engaged a Christian management consultant to help him develop a new growth strategy for the ministry.

At the start of 2023, just after he initiated this strategic review process, Johan had a heart attack. He recovered fairly quickly, not least because he had been quite fit and healthy until that point. But it shocked him and also resulted in him having less energy and capacity than before. All this made him reflect for the first time on what his own future looks like: until this point he had assumed he would keep going for years.

What questions would be good for Johan and his wife to discuss together over the coming weeks?

What truths should shape decisions about the future for both Johan and the ministry?

What conversations should Johan's trustees be having with him?