

What Does God Want to Do in You?

The best way to become a good leader is to become a faithful disciple. What is the blend of character and competence that every Christian leader needs in order to sustain a ministry that results in eternal fruit? Psalm 78 says, “David led them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.” We will look at examples in the lives of Moses and Daniel to see how they remained faithful in spite of the opposition from those around them. This workshop will help you to find a personal delight in your intimacy with God that is necessary to result in a priceless inheritance of an unspoiled legacy.

Ann Pritchard Blaser has two degrees in education and taught school in the public school system. She has been actively involved in Bible Study Fellowship for thirty years training leaders and teaching women to study the Bible. She taught the study of Scripture for twenty-two years with classes of as many as 650 women and leadership groups of over seventy. Ann's ministry has recently changed and now she is advising and shepherding other teaching leaders. In addition to BSF she has traveled overseas to do women's conferences where she helps women to learn how to study the Bible systematically and how to write lectures and teach others. Ann and her husband Bill have two grown children who are following Christ and two young grandsons.

Introduction:

Story of Larry Walters of Long Beach, CA “A man can’t just sit there.”
This is a man who wanted significance; he wanted to be distinguished for something.

I. Daniel 6

- A. Entire adult life had to stand separate from the culture...was still a foreigner in his society
- B. Faithfulness of a lifetime
- C. Out of the limelight for a time – brought back to prominence
- D. Now in an integral position
- E. Quote from Queen mother Dan. 5: 11-12

Principle: God’s leader may have to learn to stand alone.

Illustration:

Application:

II. What distinguishes a believer from the society around them?

- A. Read Daniel 6:1-3
- B. Ex. 33:15-16
- C. Moses wanted to know God by Name
- D. To find favor with God –v 12
- E. To belong to Him – spoke to God face to face
- F. To live to please Him v 13 (Heb. 5:14 ingesting solid food)
- G. This led to God exhibiting His glory to Moses - Ex. 34:5-7
- H. Worship Ex. 34:9-10

Principle: The believer is distinguished from the surrounding culture by the presence of God with him/her.

Illustration: A new believer, home with a baby, wanted significance not superficial time killers of other young moms of her culture...wanted something more!

Application: What do you seek most in this life? What would others say you seek most in this life?

III. Sustained cultivation of exemplary character

- A. Daniel 6:4-5
- B. Enemies sought to discredit him – “The higher the hill, the stronger the wind.”
- C. Corrupt = spoiled, rotten, morally debased, from a base word meaning to break in pieces.
- D. Negligent = habitually failing to do the right thing, careless, inattentive, or indifferent
- E. Daniel was a man of integrity, wholeness, no duplicity, no hypocrisy and no secret life.
- F. Psalm 78 David shepherded with integrity of heart, with skillful hands he led them.
- G. Skillful living = wisdom – the blend of character and competence

Principle: God’s own leader is called to integrity of heart and skillful living.

Illustration: Currency of heaven – character of Jesus I Peter 2:12 live such good lives among the pagans that...

Illustration: Henry Ford

Application: What blend of character and competence do you seek?

IV. Source of integrity

- A. Daniel 6:10-11

- B. Decree – opposition of the world /devil
- C. Prayer 3x day
- D. Difficulty for man of such responsibilities
- E. One of three men over the extended kingdom
- F. On his knees “as he had done before”
- G. Continued relief of a clear conscience

Principle: God’s leader recognizes supernatural power by dependency on God through prayer.

Illustration: Palmetto leaves constant rubbing on the concrete walkway – result

Application: Do you have prayer partners/support for your ministry? Ask them to pray that YOU will pray consistently and intimately/deeply...with a communion so sweet that you don’t want to leave the presence of God.
Moses in Ex. 34 – such worship!

V. God distinguishes His faithful leader

- A. Priceless inheritance of an unsoiled legacy v. 21-22
- B. Rare privilege of impacting others v. 26-27
- C. Honor and glory to God

Principle: Nothing can replace the character that God forges in His own leader

Illustration: John Newton's prayer

I'd asked the Lord, that I might grow
In faith, and love, and ev'ry grace,
Might more of his salvation know,
And seek more earnestly his face.

T'was he who taught me thus to pray,
And he, I trust has answer'd prayer,
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.

I hop'd that in some favour'd hour,
At once he'd answer my request;
And by his love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, he made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry pow'rs of hell,
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.

Lord, why is this, I trembling cry'd,
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"Tis in this way," the Lord reply'd,
I answer pray'r for grace and faith.

"These inward trials I employ,
From self and pride to set thee free;
"And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
"That thou mayest seek thy all in me."

John Newton

Application: What "hidden evils" has God given you glimpses of within that you must address in order to allow God to forge new growth in you?

VI. God enables His faithful leaders to finish well.

A. Daniel 6:28

B. “Looking through the turn”

C. John Owen – The Mortification of Sin in Believers – how do we avoid the “great evil of speaking peace to ourselves”?

D. Spiritual drift

E. Personal revival

Conclusion