

4 | DEVELOP FUTURE, SERVANT LEADERS



My friend Jan Pool has written a wonderful book that has helped me train future servant leaders. Here is a summary of the principles we use in developing them spiritually.

God's Dream

God as Father has a wonderful plan for our world and society. He chooses people to communicate and live that plan. We can participate in His wonderful plan. God has a place for each of us in His dream.

As we search for God's dream and destination for our lives, it will bring a blessing to our lives. His ultimate plan will be fulfilled. We can be part of that, but we can choose not to as well.

By nature, people are not always reliable and can be tempted to take other paths.

Coach and Mentor

Fortunately, God provides people who can help us become His adult followers and walk in His plan for our lives.

There are five areas in which coaching can take place to walk in God's dream for our lives and especially to keep walking in it.

1. Walking with God
2. Deal with the past
3. Our character and especially the strengthening of God's character in us
4. Faith
5. Recognize and use gifts and talents

1. Servant leaders walk with God

Acts 7:2-3

Abraham had the ability to listen to God's voice and then do what he heard God say.

Acts 10:17-22

Peter saw a vision and wondered what God wanted to say, and as he thought about it the Spirit of God spoke. Peter was able to hear and do what the Spirit told him.

Acts 8 29-35

Philip heard the Spirit speak and was able to explain the text of the Old Testament.

As a servant leader, it is important not to tell your own story alone, but to know the One who is sending! God's words in you will have power. Knowing His words and acting on them helps us to walk with God.

His words bring love and peace. Through His words we are secure and our confidence grows.

2. Servant leaders deal with their past

Acts 9 10-19

Paul is first known as the persecutor of the early Christians. He is there when Stephen is stoned. His radicalism is well known. Nobody trusts Paul. Fortunately, there is a man, Ananias, who dares to trust God. He goes to this Paul. Paul was blind, but he had met God.

Acts 9 26-28, Gal 1 13-18

Barnabas helps Paul break free from his past. In Paul's letters we read that he very much regrets that period in his life. He had to be forgive himself and receive forgiveness from others.

Bitterness

Jam 3: 9-16

James points out that we must deal with bitterness in our hearts. It will incite disorder and cause malice and selfishness.

Everyone would therefore be wise to regularly examine their heart.

Rejection

Jesus was rejected by many people. His identity, however, was solid as a rock. His actions were never affected by the pain of rejection.

Jesus knew how to handle it. What about you?

"Marta"

She was on a team that I took to Almaty, Kazakhstan. On stage she told her terrible story for the first time. As the translator told her story in Russian, I understood the tremendous pain that had been in her life. She had been abused for years by a family member and then by a spiritual leader. Tears ran down the cheeks of many believers who heard the story. Marta herself also cried. There was no bitterness to be seen or heard. Her story carried the message of forgiveness. This gave her a new freedom. The local pastor came to me and said he wanted that innocence and purity that he saw in this woman.

The lessons in Seminars 5 and 6 tell you how to deal with sin, pain, and wrong patterns from your past. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as to whether you should do anything with these lessons personally.

3. Servant leaders reach out for divine character

1 Sam 15

In this sad story, we see a leader, Saul, who has been appointed by God to be king. Saul doesn't act on the orders he gets. He listens to what the people want especially in difficult moments (verse 24). He also speaks half-truths to Samuel (verse 13).

When Saul falls down to repent, he asks Samuel not to admonish him in front of the elders. His concern for his own reputation is greater than his concern for obeying God. (verse 30)

John 21

Peter has promised to always follow Jesus and defend him. When he has a hard time and is interrogated, he lies and curses himself. He says he doesn't know Jesus!

Yet we see repentance in Peter. He's breaking inside. As soon as Jesus reappears, Peter does not flee, he just runs to his master and recovery follows.

Developing divine character is becoming more and more like the master. It doesn't mean trying very hard to become a copy of Jesus. Your own strength will fail. If you fail in this, don't try to pretend, but acknowledge your failure and go back to Him for recovery.

Divine power emerges in us when we allow ourselves to be broken from our own power to do it right.

4. Servant leaders serve by faith

Heb 11:6, 7, 8, 11, 29, 30

In chapter 11 of Hebrews we see many men and women of God mentioned. It is about their deeds that they have done by believing. Usually God asked them something that was not possible or very difficult.

- Noah built an ark, in which he was later saved with his family. (Verse 7)
- Abraham left his homeland and had to go to an unknown country to live. (Verse 8)
- Sarah conceived a child while she was barren. (Verse 11)
- Moses passed through the red sea with a whole nation behind him and the enemy was defeated in that same sea. (Verse 29)
- The walls of Jericho fell when the people under the leadership of Joshua had walked around that city for 6 days. (Verse 30)

This list also includes people who have been murdered and tortured. They have never seen their faith fulfilled on earth. God had foreseen something better. Others were blessed by the sacrifice they had made.

Jam 2:18

James connects faith and actions. When God speaks, He also asks for an action. By doing so, you will walk in the blessing that He has for you and those in your domain. The Bible never promises an easy victory, on the contrary, we see a lot of opposition when we go in God's way. It is not important to God whether you achieve the goal, but how you get to your goal! Faith brings joy to God. Those who seek Him are rewarded by Him.

Appendix 1 tells the story of Joseph, how he went from being a slave to being second in charge under the king, and the lessons he had to learn to get there.

5. Servant leaders know their gifts and talents

Moses was a leader who first tried from his own strength to bring a solution for his people. He saw the problem of slavery and got so angry when a slave driver hit one of his people. He stood up for this man and killed the slave driver.

As a result, Moses had to flee. He had achieved nothing. 40 years later, Moses learned who he is not, who God is, and what his talents and gifts are.

- **Who he is not.**

He is not a pharaoh in a position that can demand anything that others have to perform.

- **Who God is.**

Moses learned who God is. God is able to do everything that Moses cannot. Moses learned that God wants to give him strength. He has learned to listen to that voice.

- **What talents he has been given.**

In the desert he learns to lead a flock in the natural. He has learned to move the sheep from one place to another. He has learned to feed a whole flock. He learned to live in the desert.

Appendix 2 contains a number of simple tests that you can use to gain more insight into your talents and gifts, your strong character traits and your most ideal working conditions.



EXERCISE:

Choose one of the five points listed above and then set aside time to start working on it in your life. Which of the five points would God's Spirit want to work out in your life in this coming period?

Perhaps you need help to work out one of the five points in your life. Who could you ask to help you?

