



HOAW Newsletter

Obedience produces strength,
disobedience produces
weakness.

*Romans 5:9; 6:16; 2 Corinthians 9:13;
10:5-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 14; 2 John 6*

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HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Finishing Well - Part I

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

Six Observed Characteristics

My mentor, *Dr. J. Robert Clinton*, and his team, conducted extensive research on how God develops leaders. What follows is some of the results of his research regarding finishing well.

In 1989 in an article entitled, Listen Up Leaders! Forewarned is Forearmed! I summarized my research on Biblical leaders with the following opening comments.

A repeated reading of the Bible with a focus on leadership reveals four crucial observations fraught with leadership implications:

Observation 1.
Few leaders finish well.

Observation 2.
Leadership is difficult.

Observation 3.
God's enabling presence is the essential ingredient of successful leadership.

Observation 4.
Spiritual leadership can make a difference.

And what is true of Biblical leaders is equally true of historical and contemporary leaders. It is the first observation to which this article speaks. Identifying the fact that few leaders finish well was a breakthrough warning for me. This led to further study. Why do few leaders finish well? What stops them? What helps them? What does it mean to finish well? This article identifies six characteristics of those finishing well.

Six Characteristics

Comparative study of effective leaders who finished well has identified six characteristics. While there may be other characteristics that I have not seen, certainly these are important ones. Not all six always appear but at least several of them do in leaders who finish well. Frequently, effective leaders who finish well will have four or five of them seen in their lives. And some like Daniel in the O.T. and Paul in the N.T. demonstrate all of them. What are these six characteristics of those finishing well?

Characteristic 1: They maintain a personal vibrant relationship with God right up to the end.

Example: Daniel is the classic O.T. leader who exemplifies this. In the N.T., Peter, Paul and John all demonstrate this. See their last

writings—the tone, the touch with God, the revelation from God, their trust in enabling grace for their lives.

Characteristic 2: They maintain a learning posture and can learn from various kinds of sources—life especially. This characteristic is also one of the enhancement factors for finishing well.

Example: Daniel is the classic O.T. leader who exemplifies this. See Daniel chapter nine for a late in life illustration of one who continues to study and learn from the Scriptures. Paul and Peter are the classic N.T. leaders with a learning posture (see 2 Peter 3:18 and 2 Timothy 4:13).

Characteristic 3: They manifest Christ-likeness in character as evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

Example: Daniel is the classic O.T. leader who exemplifies godliness (See the summary references to him in Ezekiel 14:14, 20). In the NT, note the evidence of character transformation in Paul's life (2 Timothy 2:24 and an illustration of it—the book of Philemon). These were men who over a lifetime moved from strong personalities with roughness in their leadership styles to strong personalities with gentleness in their leadership styles.

Characteristic 4: Truth is lived out in their lives so that convictions and promises of God are seen to be real.

Example: Joshua's statement about God's promises never having failed him in his closing speech demonstrate this characteristic of someone believing God and staking his life on God's truth (Jos 23:14). See the many aside truth statements that Paul weaves into his two letters to Timothy. See his famous stirring convictions echoed in Ac 27:22-25.

Characteristic 5: They leave behind one or more ultimate contributions.

In a study on legacies left behind by effective leaders who finished well I have identified the following categories:

Examples: Daniel's ultimate contributions include: saint, (mentor), writer, stabilizer. Paul's ultimate contributions include: saint, mentor, pioneer, crusader, writer, promoter.

Saint: a model life that others want to emulate.

Stylistic Practitioners: a ministry model that others want to emulate.

Mentors: extensive personal ministry; end product changed lives.

Public Rhetoricians: extensive public ministry; end product changed lives.

Pioneers: start new works for God; end product is new churches, new movements, new works for God

Champions: those who correct wrongs, end product, changed institutions, societies, etc. which reflect justice, fairness, etc.

Artists: those who introduce creative ways of doing things; end products—whatever is created—as well as a model for how to do things differently.

Founder: a special category of pioneer who starts a new Christian organization; end product, the organization.

Stabilizers: those who can work in churches, movements, and other organizations to improve them and keep them alive and consistent; end product the organization revitalized and efficient.

Researchers: those who find out why things happen the way they do in Christian endeavor; end product an, understanding of the dynamics of things that can help others in Christian work

Writers: those who can capture ideas in writing in order to help others in Christian work; end product, the writing produced.

Promoters: those who can motivate others and inspire them to use ideation, to join movements, etc.; end product people committing themselves to new ventures.

Of course, in addition to these standard categories there are also unique legacies that leaders also leave behind. These have to be described individually for each leader.

Characteristic 6: They walk with a growing awareness of a sense of destiny and see some or all of it fulfilled.

Definition: A sense of destiny is an inner conviction arising from an experience or a series of experiences in which there is a growing sense of awareness that God has His hand on a leader in a special way for special purposes.

Over a lifetime a leader is prepared by God for a destiny, receives guidance toward that destiny, and increasingly completes that destiny. No Biblical leader who accomplished much for God failed to have a sense of destiny, one that usually grew over his/her lifetime.

Examples: Joseph's dreams and his saving of the embryonic nation; Moses' saving of the nation; Paul's vision to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Conclusion

The classic example in the O.T. of a good finish is Daniel who manifests all six characteristics. The classic example in the N.T. other than Christ is Paul. There are gradations of finishing well. Some finish well but not quite having all six or lesser intensity on one or the other major characteristics. This list of characteristics is probably not complete. Others may not agree totally with them. In that case, they should at least provide an alternate list. But these are certainly evident in many leaders who have finished well.

See *Article, Leaving Behind a Legacy.*

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

Foundational beliefs provide the stable platform of our existence. They are absolute truths that establish our relationship with our Creator and His created world. They are foundational in nature and give us confidence, hope, and orientation for our journey. They establish the fact that we are connected to our creator and answer the fundamental questions of our existence, identity, purpose, and destiny. They inform our journey. They have to do with our *beingness*.

- All human being carry the image of God in their person.
- The image of God in us is marred by sin.
- Human beings are moral creatures.
- Universal moral laws exist and are ordained by God.
- The chief purpose of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.
- Sin alienates us from God and enslaves us.
- Man is created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27).
- God has placed eternity in our hearts (Eccl 3:11).
- All human beings long for purpose, progress, and permanence.

RESOURCES

Check out *The Store* on our website (www.heartofawarrior.org). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
www.Heartofawarrior.org
 Church for Men
<http://churchformen.com/>
 Resolute
<https://beresolute.org/>
 Life Way Men
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>
 Men's Fraternity
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>
 Man in the Mirror
<http://maninthemirror.org/>
 Men with No Regrets
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>
 National Collision of Men's Ministries
<http://ncmm.org/>
 Every Man's Battle
<https://newlife.com/emb/>
 Iron Sharpens Iron
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>
 Ransomed Heart Ministries
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>
 Band of Brothers
www.bandofbrothers.org/
 Man Up God's Way
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>
 Iron Works
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>

OTHER NEWS

BBQ and Book Launch

On Saturday, August 25, close to 100 people came to enjoy warm fellowship, connect with friends, feast on food, and celebrate the publishing of my latest book; Leadership Beef Jerky: Principles and Practices to Chew On. It was wonderful to see old friends, Heart of a Warrior alumni, and others interested in our ministry.

**The Compass – Calibration of the Heart**

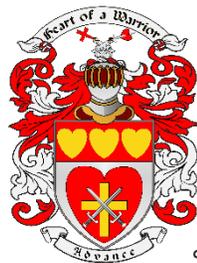
On September 22nd, I will be presenting an orientation to The Compass at Calvary Church - White Bear Campus beginning at 8:00 AM. A group, led by me, will be launched October 13 & 20th and every other week thereafter until mid-May 2019. Anyone in the area is welcome to come to the orientation and join our group. For more information please call 651-308-1530.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

September 10 - Stalsberg Group
North Oaks

October 5-7 Father/Son Gathering
Camp JIM

October 9 Leading with Power
Wausau, WI

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