

Leadership Principles & the Pastoral Epistles – 2015
Week 1: THE BIG PICTURE

Class format

Teaching

Group prayer

30-45 min Small group discussion about the teaching

Informal fellowship for whoever wants to stay (BYO snacks and drinks)

The vital importance of high-quality spiritual leadership

The most important factor in healthy churches, home groups, and all ministries within the church is high-quality spiritual leadership.

What are some essential features of high-quality spiritual leadership?

- NOT:
 - Transactional

 - Autocratic

 - Managerial

 - Charismatic

- BUT IS: Transformational
Transformational leaders intentionally attract others to God's transforming influence by communicating, incarnating and championing God's love and truth.

1 Timothy 4:7-16

- THE PROMISE (4:16): God will cause growth through you in all who are receptive

- THE KEY (4:15): Make progress that is evident to those you lead

“It is true that God does take up those who are not worthy and permits them to speak His words years before they fully understand their import; but He does not wish any of us to stop there. We may go on in that way for awhile, but is it not true that, from the time when He begins in us His work of formation through discipline and chastening, it growingly dawns on us how little in fact we knew of the true meaning of what we had

been saying and doing? He intends that we should reach the place where we can speak, with or without manifest gifts, because we are the thing we say. For in Christian experience the spiritual things of God are less and less outward, that is, of gift, and more and more inward, of life. In the long run it is the depth and inwardness of a work that counts. As the Lord himself becomes more and more to us, other things—yes, and this must include even His gifts—matter less and less. Then, though we teach the same doctrine, speak the same words, the impact on others is very different, manifesting itself in an increasing depth of the Spirit's work within them also.”¹

Progress in three important areas:

- 4:12

“Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-1843), who was mightily used by God to bring revival to Scotland . . . said, ‘My people’s biggest need is my personal holiness.’ Always our biggest battles in ministry are with ourselves. Only our disobedience can thwart God’s desire to bless us and make us fruitful.”²

- 4:13

- 4:14

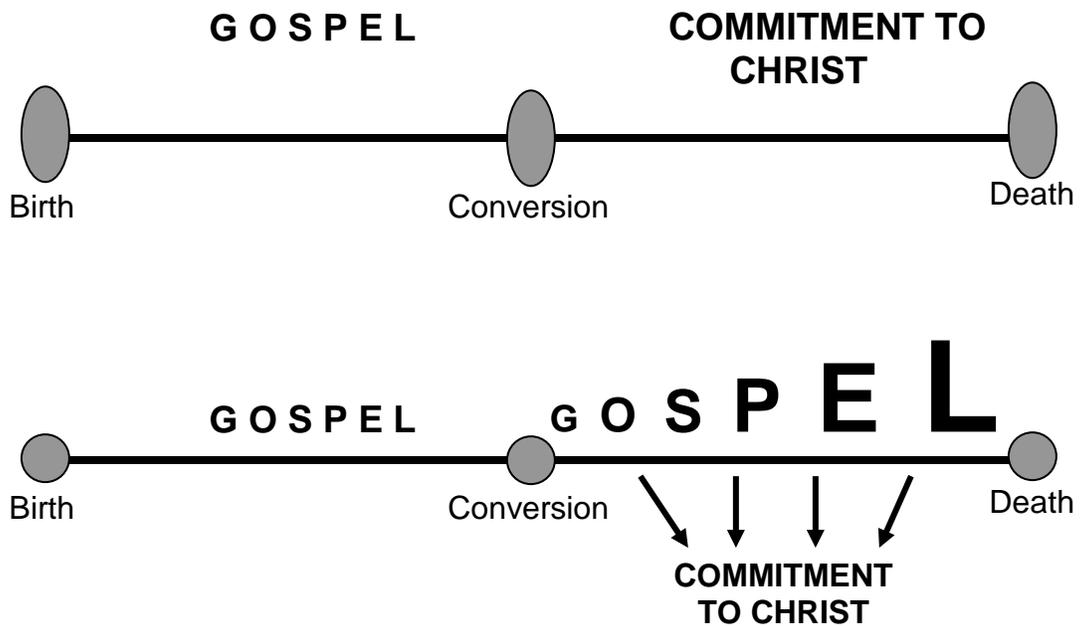
¹ Watchman Nee, cited in Miles Stanford, *The Green Letters*.

² Ajith Fernando, *Jesus Driven Ministry* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2002), p. 158.

- **THE CHALLENGE:** Only God can enable us to make progress (and therefore effective leaders) — but progress requires intense and sustained effort on our part (4:7,10,15,16)

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

THE MESSAGE (2:2,4,8,9,13): the gospel



THE MOTIVE (2:3-6): to please God

THE MANNER (2:7-12): love expressed in three ways
 Personal affection and nurture (2:7,8)

Example of sacrifice and godly lifestyle (2:9,10)

Challenge to represent Jesus well (2:11,12)

1 Corinthians 3:5-4:2

Transformational leaders focus more on being faithful to their roles than on measurable results, and actively depend on God to cause growth. 1 Cor. 3:6-4:2 emphasizes the importance of this focus.

We should care passionately about the growth of God's church.

Because only God can cause growth (3:6,7), focusing primarily on what only he can accomplish will make us ineffective leaders.

Instead, we should focus primarily on being faithful to play our roles (4:2; 3:8b-15), trusting God to cause the growth.

How can this class help us become more effective as leaders?

- It can help us to learn and internalize the *principles* of spiritual leadership emphasized in the Pastoral Epistles.
- It can help us to stay focused on *God's grace* in our own lives, work with others under grace, and help them learn how to do the same.

Purpose of two different assignment tracks

For those who have not carefully read "The Glory of the Gospel," this is mandatory. These readings focus on different facets of the gospel, which is the core of spiritual vitality and leadership. At the end of each reading, record the personal insights God gives you through these readings (e.g., conviction of your depravity; discovery of a new aspect of grace, or a deeper

understanding of this aspect; applications to your own life and ministry; concerns and questions; etc.). Pray that God will open the eyes of your heart as you read these articles!

For those who have already read “The Glory of the Gospel,” read Jack Miller’s *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church*. This book applies key features of grace-motivated transformational church leadership to stagnant churches—which is what many of us are dealing with. You can purchase this book at the Study Center. Read the assigned chapters and answer the selected questions at the end of the chapters.

Syllabus & class requirements