

Personal Spiritual Leadership

I once heard a speaker say, "Give me the right leaders and everything else will follow. Give me the wrong leaders and nothing else matters. I believe there is great truth in that observation. Who *you* are as a growing follower of Christ is the greatest resource for your ministry. What are the practices you have undertaken that are continuing to shape your ministry effectiveness and even more important your intimacy with Christ? Much Christian testimony is a history lesson. It is the current growth on the vine that produces the fruit. What is God doing in your life today that your students will take note of and be impacted? Life attracts life!

Your ministry will not rise above your own spiritual commitment and the priority you give it in your daily allocation of time and energy. We don't spiritually grow because we chronologically age. We become more spiritually mature because we take measures to enable it. What are you doing consistently for your own spiritual growth and health? We need to be reminded of the Apostle Paul's testimony:

'For in him we live and move and have our being.' (Acts 17:28, NIV)

Following are some prompters that can remind us of some of the *how* of spiritual growth. What does your own devotional life look like? Are you scheduling time each day to spend in study, prayer, and meditation with God? Are you memorizing Scripture? What are you reading for your own personal growth as a Christ follower? There is a difference between reading and studying to teach or speak and doing so for growth. Who have you sought out to intentionally mentor you? No matter how old we may be or how long we have been in the ministry, we still need to identify people who can help us on our spiritual journey? Sometimes these people are only for a season of time in actively assisting us. Others are spiritual guides over a much longer period of time. Who are you praying with for spiritual sensitivity and growth? Finally, have you considered periodically scheduling time for a personal retreat? Such a time can provide an environment for a few hours or for 2-3 days that could mean time to better hear God's word for you.

Your greatest ministry resource will be your own spiritual health!