



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Forming the Hearts of Leaders

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God does not look at the things that man looks at. Unlike man, who looks at the outward appearance, God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). He is very interested in molding our character for it spells our destiny and speaks of our conscious understanding of our purpose in this world.

Forming the Hearts of Leaders (MIRTY)

1. Motivation (M)

- It is what propels us to do things. Primarily, we do things according to what we believe and not necessarily according to our values or background.
- Reflection: Why did we accept a position of leadership?
- As leaders it is important to always check what our motivation is. Maybe when we were newly appointed our intentions were Godly, but now that we have experienced being a leader and have grown accustomed to the perks that came with our position, our priorities and set of values started to change. Maybe we have begun to put our best interest first before others'.
- When God chose David, He looked at David's heart. But, even David fell short. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband in order to keep it a secret. If he was not reminded by a prophet, he would not have realized his sin.
- We are prone to easily forget and set aside things that we formerly valued. That is why we must always come back to our original motivation- to follow Jesus, serve God and love like He did.
- If we know that our motivation is wrong, we must fight it.
- Even though not a lot of people were entrusted to our care, still there are people entrusted to us, like younger siblings, and that is what makes us a leader. We journey with them, teach and mold them.

2. Idols (I)

- Idolatry is not just about making money, fame, and power as our God. Every time we succumb to negative emotions, we commit idolatry. For instance, focusing on our problems instead of God and choosing to become angry is a form of idolatry.
- Some of us use our anger to alienate others or prevent them from asking questions, suggesting and talking to us. This is not a good heart of a leader.
- Apart from idolatry that is also a form of manipulation. While there are people who are experts in dealing with angry people, there are those who were raised in an atmosphere of understanding and cannot take it.

3. Real You (R)

- As leaders, we should aim for perfection and be open to correction and constructive criticism.
- Some people use their issue with depression as their tool to deter other people from correcting them.
- When we have the right motivation and no idols, our true selves will show. Our true selves are capable of loving and serving and are lovable. This is the reason why God loves us. He sees our true, not tarnished, selves. We do not need to do anything for Him to love us. Before He created us, He knew that we will disobey Him, but He still created us because He loves us and wants to share His love to us.
- Our efforts are not to win God's love but His favor. For example, Abraham won God's favor because of his constancy, faithfulness and immediate response every time God asks him to do something.

4. Transformational Change (T)

- As a leader wearing the heart of a genuine leader we should be conscious of the changes we make to achieve transformational change. We should take steps toward our transformational change. It does not matter

how big or small as long as we are taking sure steps.

- There are changes on the peripheral only. Transformational change is change in the core of one's being- one's soul. This does not happen overnight for it is a product of various experiences, challenges and victories.
- The ones whose character was truly tested are those who had been strengthened by various experiences in life.
- Every problem does not only bring hardship, it is a golden opportunity for us to learn. We should not squander these opportunities for as we learn, little by little, we are transformed into the kind of person and leader that God wants us to be.
- Though some people transform fast and others at a slower pace, all of us are moving toward transformation for we are all meant to change for the better.
- We should not just follow the commandments to the letter. As leaders, we must inspire and guide others, do and give more just like Jesus did.
- We must not be afraid to give constructive criticism just because we know that we, too, have a lot of things that we must change. If we see something wrong, we must speak out. There is no coincidence. God sent us to that situation to correct it.

5. Your Life (Y)

- Our lives should be a testament of service, God's love and constant effort for the betterment of our faith as we move closer to God.
- A person who lives with the Lord is a person fully alive.
- Mary, after saying yes to God, full of His grace, rushed to her cousin Elizabeth to serve, putting her cousin's best interest more than her own.
- God is also with us. Let us demonstrate the presence of God within by being fully alive like Mary.

Let us strive to have the heart of a leader for it is the heart of God.

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