

The Leadership Test — Part II

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Review: Ten Tests That Prove Your Potential and Maturity as a Leader

Test 1 The test of small things

Leadership Principle: No leader who desires to do great things for God will achieve them without first being faithful to the small things for God.

Test 2 The motive test

Leadership Principle: Why we do something will eventually determine what we do.

Test 3 The stewardship test

Leadership Principle: Leadership gifts and privileges require good stewardship.

Why do we need to be tested?

'Later on, God tested Abraham's faith and obedience . . ." Genesis 22:1-14

Out of testing comes a more committed faith.

". . . Jeremiah, I have made you a tester of metals, that you may determine the quality of my people . . ." *Jeremiah 6:27*

Spiritual testing reveals the impurities and sin of our hearts.

"The Lord your God is testing you to see if you love him with all your heart and soul . . ." *Deuteronomy 13:14*

God's testing results in a deepening of our obedience and love.

This tests our ability to change and enter a new growth level while going through spiritual dryness.

"He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end."
Deuteronomy 8:15-16

Biblical example: _____

Only after Moses had fled from the civilization of Egypt and had lived in the wilderness area of Midian for many long years did he encounter God in the form of the burning bush. At first, he did not want to serve God by returning to Egypt. But he changed his mind and submitted himself to God. That process caused him to grow, taking him to a who new level. And it made possible the incredible connectino he later enjoyed with God.

"Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as **a** man speaks to his friend."
modus 33:11

Our wilderness assumptions:

1. What we thought would take us 2 years to get the land zoned, took us 1 !!
2. What we thought would cost us 1 million dollars to get the land ready for building, cost us 7 million!

Wilderness lessons:

1. Never wait for _____ situations to get started.
2. While waiting . . . do what you can with what you have.
3. Keep the _____ clear – Keep _____ alive.
4. Evaluate leadership on _____, not _____.
5. God is faithful!

Leadership Principle: Our leadership path from Egypt to the Promised Land always lies through the wilderness.

This tests whether we will compromise our ethics and values under pressure.

"But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. **For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with** the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

Galatians 2:11-13

Biblical example: _____

When Joseph refused the advances of Potiphar's wife, saying, "There is no greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you ate his wife. How then could I do thii great evil, and sin against Gcd?", he was thrown into prison. He suffered greatly in the short run for his integrity. But he eventually became the second most influential leader in the most powerful nation in the ancient world.

Genesis 39:9

The law of solid ground: Trust is **the foundation** of leadership.

Only 45 percent of 400 managers in a Carnegie-Mellon survey believed their top management **And a** third died their immedii bosses. With so much depending on credibility and trust, someone in every organization must provide the leadership to improve these numbers.

CCM Communicator

Two areas that determine the credibility of a leader:

- (1) _____ Can the leader lead successfully?
- (2) _____ Does the leader live successfully?

Note: One cannot substitute for the other!

Tests that prove credibility:

- (1) Those _____ to me, love and respect me the _____.
- (2) The longer I stay with an organization, the _____ things become.

(3) The Law of E.F. Hutton: When I speak, people LISTEN.

(4) When my _____ a n d _____ match.

(5) When I do what is RIGHT, regardless of the out come.

Leadership Principle: Tests of integrity sometimes make us look like we've lost in the short run, but they always pay off in the long run.

Test 6

The Authority test

This tests our attitude and willingness to submit to God-given authority,

"Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account."
Hebrews 13:17

Biblical example: DAVID

And the men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'" Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly. ~~And he cut off the edge of Saul's robe~~
because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do these things to my lord, the LORD' anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, sine he is the LORD's anointed."

1 Samuel 24:4-6

Submission — "The ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way."
Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Authority statements:

(1) A leader who is ingwill to submit to authority should not be followed.

(2) Real authority must be earned.

"Authority is not something we buy, are born with, or even have delegated to us by our superiors. It is something we earn — and we earn it from our subordinates. No manager has any real authority over his people until he has proved himself worthy of it — in the eyes of his people — not his own, nor those of his superiors."

*George Davis,
Magic Shortcuts to Executive Success,
Prentice-Hall*

(3) The character of a person with authority is revealed in the way he/she treats others. *especially those below you.*

Levels of authority:

- When authority is given by those above us, we become Recognized
- When authority is given by those equal to us, we become included
- When authority is given by those below us, we become Respected!
- When authority is given by all three levels, we become empowered

"A new moral principle is emerging which holds that the only authority deserving one's allegiance is that which is freely and knowingly granted by the led to the leader in response to, and in proportion to, the clearly evident servant stature of the leader. Those who choose to follow this principle will not casually accept the authority of existing institutions. Rather, they will freely respond only to individuals who are chosen as leaders because they are proven and trusted as servants."

Greenleaf, 1977: 9-11

Leadership Principle: In order to lead, you must first learn to follow.

Test 7 The Offense test

This tests whether we are easily offended or instead willing to patiently forgive others.

"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions. [But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.]"

Mark 11:25-26

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." **Matthew 18:21-22**

The Biblical example: JESUS

"The hardest time to be gentle is when we know we are right and someone else is obviously dead wrong . . . But the greatest temptation for most of us is when someone failed us and has admitted it, and their destiny or happiness is in our hands. We hold the power to give or refuse a blessing."

Lloyd Ogilvie, Let God Love You

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote of Abraham Lincoln: "His heart was as great as the world, but there was no room in it to hold the memory of a wrong."

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Leadership Principle: **Grudges** are like anchors that keep a leader's ship from reaching its appointed destination.

Test 8 **The _____ test**

This tests how we react when experiencing **opposition** from others while in God's will.

"If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?"
Jeremiah 12:5

Biblical example: _____

"Now it came about when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the gaps began to be closed, they were very angry. And all of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night."
Nehemiah 4:7-9

Every thinking person wishes that armies were not **necessary**. However, just as there **are** enemies that would attack other nations, so the church must be engaged against the force that would destroy it.

Principle 1

Contrary to the movie Patton, the object of battle is not to kill enemy soldiers. The object of battle is to wound enemy soldiers. When a soldier dies, in principle, the **army** has **completed** its duty to him. However, when a **soldier** is wounded, it takes an average of three other soldiers to care for him. Satan knows that he **cannot** kill those **who belong to Christ**. **Thus, his tactic is to wound.**

The reason that the church does not do more to attack the enemies of this age — crime, poverty, injustice — is because it spends its resources caring for its own wounded soldiers. There are few resources left to engage the enemy.

Principle 2

Regardless of the power and capability of a weapon system, it is of no value unless the soldier is trained to use it. If the Bible is, in fact, the Sword of the Lord, then pastors/teachers are duty bound to train people in the use of the most effective weapon — the written Word of God. “A group of soldiers is not an army until they are disciplined and trained.” **II Timothy 2:3-4**

Principle 3

The difference between an army and a mob is leadership. The effectiveness of a church is directly proportionate to the degree that people follow able leaders.

In a day when metaphors of “war and armies” are systematically removed from hymnals and prayer books, it might pay us to recall that God’s people have always been admonished to take up “weapons of righteousness.” **II Corinthians 6:7**

“Ours is a spiritual battle ”

Ephesians 6

“Fight the good fight of the faith.”

I Timothy 6:12

Leadership Principle:

“To know the problems spend time with people.
To solve the problems spend time with God.”

Dr. A.J. Hughes

Test 9

The test of TIME and TIMING

This tests the quality of our work based on both opportunity and longevity.

“And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.”

Galatians 6:9

Biblical example: Esther

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?”

Esther 4:14

Esther had achieved a high and powerful position, and she could have chosen to refuse the risk of approaching the king. She gave up security for opportunity.

Leadership Principle:

If God grants us long-term success, there will come a time when we have to choose between security and greater opportunity.

Test 10

The LORDSHIP test

This tests our heart for God when it's difficult to obey him.

Biblical Example: Paul

And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:22-24

"As long as God's will lines up with our own wishes, everything is fine with us. But when our personal goals collide with God's will, we truly learn what His lordship over us means. God calls us to give Him not the sum total of the little things we happen to have a surplus of, but that which is most strongly connected with our personal identity — the things with which our very life is entwined."

Wolfgang Hasselkus, "Coll'ision and Liability"

"Get into the habit of dealing with God about everything. Unless in the first waking moment of the day you learn to fling the door wide back and let God in, you will work on a wrong level all day; but swing the door wide open and pray to your Father in secret, and every public thing will be stamped with the presence of God."

Oswald Chambers

Leadership Principle:

"He must increase but I must decrease."

John 3:30

Study hard . . . we must pass these tests to become . . .

1. The leaders God wants us to be.
2. The leaders the People need us to be.

Answers: Wilderness; Moses; ideal; Vision; Hope; Context; Statistics; Credibility; Joseph; Competence; Character; Closest; Most; Better; Listen; Beliefs; Behavior; Right; Outcome; Authority; David; Unwilling; Earned; Character, Recognized; Included; Respected; Empowered ; Offense; Jesus; Warfare; Nehemiah; Time; Timing; Esther, Lordship; Paul; God; People

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