Leading Yourself

This is a lesson I received from Mark Conner, pastor of Waverly Christian Fellowship, Melbourne, Australia. He received it from a book by Pastor Bill Hybels: *360 Degree Leadership*. I’ve taken his basic points and elaborated according to my own understanding and experience.

*360 Degree Leadership* involves these aspects of leadership:

1. **Leading Down.** Leading those you are responsible for by establishing vision, building the team, solving problems, inspiring the team, setting goals, establishing values, building relationships and praying together.

2. **Leading Up.** Being in a relationship with those who are over you. Receiving from them, fellowshipping with them.

3. **Lateral Leadership.** Influencing your peers – those you work with. Being an encouragement and “sounding board” to them.

4. **Self Leadership.** This is where we win or lose. This is the difference between average leaders and outstanding leaders. “Experts” say we should spend 50% of our time focusing on our own development as a leader. Many leaders grow to a certain level then stop. The great leaders continue to grow the rest of their life.

Questions to Ask Yourself:

1. **Do you know what God has called you to do?** This is the key question for your life. This is where your energy comes from – God’s vision for your life. This is what will help you overcome difficulties. Are you prepared to give yourself completely to your calling? If not, you will waver and perhaps fail under difficulties.

2. **Is your vision clear?** Do you know what you should be doing for the next six months? Do you have a plan? Some people get away twice per year for a couple days to review their vision and goals for the next six months.

3. **Is your heart on fire?** It’s your responsibility to keep filled up, on fire and “fully charged.” What is it that keeps your heart on fire – reading inspirational books? Listening to tapes? Attending a conference? The presence of God? Fellowship with other leaders? Whatever you must do, you must do it! You should get out of bed daily and get yourself in a position for the Holy Spirit to fill you up and turn you on.
4. **Is your character clean?** Are their things in your life that you know you must overcome? Laziness? Attraction to the opposite sex? Money? Power and position? Remember, it’s the small things, the things that don’t seem so significant that affect us in the long run.

5. **Are you ruling over your pride?** Every leader has a tendency to be proud – especially if you have some success. There is a good pride where we are satisfied with our accomplishments or are proud of our church, but when we start thinking that our ability, our intelligence, our charisma is responsible for our success, we enter into pride. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. 1 Peter 5:5

6. **Are incidents of your past influencing your leadership?** Everyone has had difficulties in their past with rejection, fears, oppression and psychological abuses. How are these difficulties affecting your leadership and daily decisions? Are you afraid to do something because a voice from your past accuses you or says you can’t do it? Are you afraid of close relationships? Do you try to control people? Face the difficulties of the past and correct them. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

7. **Are you ruling over your fears?** Fear paralyzes us. Sometimes there is a genuine fear – we must consider the circumstances. But we must confront and overcome our fear to progress and move forward. What are you afraid of? Failure? Embarrassment? Death? Face the fear in prayer and determine to overcome it.

8. **Are you developing your spiritual gifts?** What are your strengths? What do you seem to do well at? What don’t you do well at? God has given you spiritual gifts. Look at the attached list and circle the spiritual gifts you feel the Lord has given you. Take time out to think and pray about how you can develop those gifts more. God wants you to do this.

9. **Are you listening to the Holy Spirit?** Jesus said He only did what He saw the father doing. You must take time out to pray, wait on God and hear from Him regarding your life and ministry. Learn to open your heart and listen daily. Take time out regularly for prayer and waiting on God.

10. **Are you going too fast?** You cannot go at full speed all the time. Sometimes we must work “overtime” and put in extra energy, but we can’t do this for a lifetime. We must “pace ourselves” and from time to time take time out for rest and re-vitalization. Work smart, use your time wisely, learn to say “No” at times.