Preparing Yourself to Serve As a Christian Leader

1 Samuel 9:14-10:1

When God chooses a leader, He doesn’t look at the abilities of a leader first. He looks at the heart and character. As we see in this story, Saul was from the smallest of tribes of Israel. His father wasn’t wealthy and he didn’t have a high position. Nevertheless, God choose Saul to rise as the leader over Israel.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God chooses and calls the small ones and the people who don’t seem to be so important according to this world to rise as leaders. God doesn’t reject a high education or position, but it is not necessary. God calls people who have a pure heart and are humble.

However, when God calls us to rise as a leader, we must prepare ourselves to lead God’s people. As we prepare ourselves, God will help us. As we are faithful to God’s calling, He will give us grace to do His work.

Here are some things we must do to prepare ourselves to serve as a successful leader in the church:

1. **You Must Be Added to the Church.** To lead in the church means you must be added to the church. **Luke 6:13.** God will choose you to serve as a leader by speaking to other Christian leaders. They will invite you to serve in the church. If they do not know you, they will not invite you. If you are not added to the church, they will not know you.

   Jesus choose His disciples, but He choose those who were with Him. These men studied with Jesus. He knew them. Jesus did not choose the people who were not with Him. If
you want to serve God’s church you must be in fellowship with other Christians in that church. If you don’t fellowship with other Christians in that church you will not receive training. The people who come occasionally to the church will not be trained. In our church, the people who don’t meet in small groups or graduate from the various classes will not be trained. In our church we will choose servant-leaders from among those who fellowship with us.

2. **You Must Have a Heart to Serve.** God chooses men and women who want to serve others to rise as leaders in the church. **Mark 10:45.** We train people who want to serve and sacrifice for other people. As we are looking for people to train as leaders, we look for people who come to the meeting early, help arrange chairs, clean the building, welcome new people. These are the kind of people who will make good leaders because they don’t seek a position, but they want to serve others. Leaders in the church serve God’s people.

3. **You Must Receive Training From All the Leaders.** The Senior Pastor will not have time to train all the people. God’s method in the church is for the Senior Pastor to train some people and those people will train others. **2 Timothy 2:1-2.** As a person in the church who wants to receive training, you must receive training from all the leaders in the church, not only the Senior Pastor. This means you respect and obey the other leaders in the church like you respect and obey the Senior Pastor.

4. **You Must Fulfill Your Responsibilities.** When a leader in the church gives you responsibility to do something you must fulfill that responsibility. You must do what he told you to do and do it exactly as he told you. **Matthew 10:5-6.** When you receive instructions from a leader in the church to do something do like this:

- If you don’t understand the instructions, ask them to explain clearly.
- Repeat back to him what he has told you to do. By doing this you show that you understand clearly.
• If you need anything to fulfill those responsibilities, tell him.
• If you have a problem fulfilling your responsibilities go back and tell the leader.

5. **You Must Allow the Leader to Correct You.** Sometimes you will do the wrong thing. Sometimes you will not fulfill your responsibilities. It will be necessary for a leader in the church to correct you and show you the right way. **Proverbs 13:18.** Don’t become angry when he corrects you because he corrects you to help you.

6. **You Must Use the Knowledge and Ability Which You Have Received.** As you receive training you must train others. **2 Timothy 2:1-2.** When you learn how to pray, you should teach someone else how to pray. When you learn how to share your testimony, you should teach someone else how to share their testimony. Everything you learn you should teach to someone else. How do you do this? You lead someone to Jesus, then you start to meet with them and study the Bible together.

This is how we receive training in the church:

1. We fellowship in the church.
2. We are faithful to fulfill the responsibilities we receive.
3. We respect and obey our leaders.
4. We receive training from our leaders.
5. We train other new Christians and help them grow.

**Notice:** Training is not only knowledge which we receive from studying together. Training is experience, too. We learn from lessons at meetings and we learn from experience. When we do something right it brings good results. This is good training. When we do something and fail, this is training too. Therefore, we receiving training from what we learn from the lessons we study and from experiences in life.