



Leadership

Personal Development (Revision date 1-12-2013)

As you lead, learn and grow since learning and growing go hand in hand. Learn and understand, not just “how” to do something, but “why”. The person who knows “how” may have a task to do and get it done, but the one who knows “why” will be successful. When you remember and stay focused on the “why” the “how” will become apparent. When you ask “why” you are purpose driven. When you ask “how” you are process driven and a slave to a system of doing the same thing over and over, reaping the same results.

If I were to ask you, “What is the purpose of filing?” what would you say? Would you say, “For storing information”? Most would agree with that answer. However, the purpose of filing is for the retrieval of information.

A person who only knows the steps and doesn’t understand the reason behind them will have a difficult time leading. **Learn and understand the “why”** are you doing what you’re doing.

A true leader will also recognize the diversity among the people and embrace it rather than view it as a threat. Different isn’t wrong. Different offers us many useful talents and approaches to situations.

Humility will be your cornerstone. Remember “without YOU there would be no ME”. No one person achieves anything on their own. Therefore, be sure that when compliments and accolades are being passed out, you remind everyone that it is each one of them, your team, that has allowed your group to succeed.

As a leader, you need to see that you cannot impart what you do not possess. In order to be able to train, lead and motivate others, **you need “feeding” yourself.**

A dry riverbed can’t water anything from its own resource, it needs water fed to it from another source. We are like that riverbed. If you are not allowing yourself the time to grow, be refreshed and encouraged by other leaders, you will be like that dry riverbed trying to provide water when there is none.

Find seminars designed to grow businesses. After all, your group is like your very own small business. Go to other group meetings with those who have a different style of leadership than you – and go with an open mind. Don’t be afraid to read books on business development. They are extremely useful.

We never stand still in our lives. We are either moving forward or slipping backwards. Growth and learning takes conscious effort and is as necessary as gasoline in a car.

Your car may be beautiful, shiny, clean and in good operating condition. If it doesn’t have gas in the tank however, it’s going nowhere. That gas keeps it moving in the direction the driver intends. You



can wish for gas. You can know that you need gas. But until you put gas in the tank, it just looks good. It has no useful purpose.

Our leadership is like that car. We can have all the talent in the world – and we may even look good! Without feeding our souls, without exposing ourselves to others who know more than we do, without learning new things and working shoulder to shoulder with others, we are a car on empty. We are like that dry riverbed that is trying to water the valley around it. It's futile without the resources of water from other sources than its own.

Never neglect time on your inward person. The outer person seems to get more attention these days and is emphasized in our society much more. Remember this; outward beauty is attracting, inward beauty is captivating.

Some recommended reading:

“The Acorn Principle” by Jim Cathcart – This book will help you to understand yourself, your strengths and weaknesses so that you surround yourself with those who are strong where you are weak.

“The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership” by John Maxwell – The basics of what a true leader is.