

PATTERN NUMBER ELEVEN
THERE ARE LAWS FOR LEADERSHIP 5:1-4

KEY VERSE: 5:3 Nor as Lording it over (domineering) the portions of the flock assigned to you, but being examples to the flock.

Memory Verse: 5:4

TEXT: 5:1-4

Read
Elders, therefore, who are among you I am exhorting, I who am a fellow-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed. Tend (Shepherd) the flock of God which is among you not by compulsion but willingly according to God, not in fondness for dishonest gain but freely, nor as Lording it over (domineering) the portions of the flock assigned to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading Crown of Glory.

EXPOSITION: We now move with Peter into the last section of his Epistle. We find in this section that he has a word to say to leaders of the Body of Christ. The words that he has to say contain some real laws of leadership.

Really, we could say that all twelve of the Patterns for Practice from Peter's Playbook are laws of leadership. Law One - Don't Get Shook, God has the Controls, Law Two - Get Tough and Start Growing, Law Three - You are Part of the Establishment, Law Four - Submit to Authority, Law Five - Follow the Coach, Law Six - When One Plus One Equals One, Law Seven - Life Can be Beautiful, Law Eight - The Right Game Plan, Law Nine - What You Plant is What You Pick, Law Ten - Keep a Good Attitude, Law Eleven - There are Laws for Leadership, and Law Twelve - The Way Up is Down.

We are living in a day when the demand for leadership is tremendous. Men and women who are willing to pay the price are few and far between.

Read
Sanders in his book Spiritual Leadership says, "Bringle was one of the truly great leaders of the Salvation Army. A man of scholarship as well as of singular spiritual power. He outlined the road to spiritual authority and leadership in challenging words: It is not won by promotion, but by many prayers and tears, it is obtained by confessions of sin and much heart searching and humbling before God. By self-surrender, a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold, deathless, uncompromising and uncomplaining abasing of the Cross and by an eternal unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified. It is not gained by seeking great things for ourselves, but rather, like Paul, by counting those things which are gain to us if lost for Christ. That is a great price but it must be unquenchingly paid by him who would be not nearly a nominal but a real spiritual leader of men. A leader whose power is recognized and felt in heaven on earth and in hell".

Sanders once again says "true greatness, true leadership is achieved not by reducing men to ones service, but in giving oneself in selfless service to them and this is never done without cost. It involves drinking a bitter cup and experiencing a painful baptism of suffering. The true spiritual leader is concerned infinitely more with the service he can render God and his fellow-men than what the benefits are."

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
-------	-------	------

Cowboy Poetry

208-01

The Grand Adventure

We face each day a slender strand
Above the bleak abyss,
And only those who venture forth
Can know what others miss.

Though danger lurks around each turn,
Yet some will still press on
To taste once more the heady wine
Before this life is gone.

Misfortune spreads its net and waits
For timid folks or bold,
And only those who dare to try
Will know what life can hold.

The answer's not in how or why
Should hurtin' cross the trail,
For nothing here is guaranteed
On this side of the veil.

But life is in the living,
Past the bonds of milder men,
While God and time will ease the pain
Midst folks who call you friend.
p. 9

Trials

208-02

Them's the things that fill your innards for the hard times up ahead

When yore plunder and yore bankroll's come apart,
All them weeks of steady drizzle or the dust for ridin' drag
Just a-peelin' off the bark to show the heart.
p. 23

- ① The Greatest Need of the Next Generation is dedicated leadership! Walt Disney
- ② "Charisma without Character is the surest way to chaos!"
- ③ J/T/A. Dominant — Submissive

Dr. James Stewart, professor of New Testament at the University of Edinburgh, described what he thought is the greatest threat to the church. He said, "It is not communism, atheism, or materialism; the greatest threat is Christians trying to sneak into heaven incognito without ever sharing their faith."

(From *Parson's Technology*)

Action

Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in their dust.

James Shirley (1596-1666), English playwright.
The Contention of Ajax and Ulysses (1659).

Encarta® *Book of Quotations*® & (P) 1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Developed for Microsoft by Bloomsbury Publishing Pic.

Action

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time
Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), U.S. poet.
"A Psalm of Life" (1838).

Encarta® *Book of Quotations*® & (P) 1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Developed for Microsoft by Bloomsbury Publishing Pic.

The River
by Garth Brooks

You know a dream is like a river
Ever changin' as it flows
And a dreamer's just a vessel
That must follow where it goes
Trying to learn from what's behind you
And never knowing what's in store
Makes each day a constant battle
Just to stay between the shores . . . and

Chorus:

I will sail my vessel
'Til the river runs dry
Like a bird upon the wind
These waters are my sky
I'll never reach my destination
If I never try
So I will sail my vessel
'Til the river runs dry

Too many times we stand aside
And let the waters slip away
'Til what we put off 'til tomorrow
Has now become today
So don't you sit upon the shoreline
And say you're satisfied
Choose to chance the rapids
And dare to dance the tide . . . yes

And there's bound to be rough waters
And I know I'll take some falls
But with the good Lord as my captain
I can make it through them all . . . yes

Yes, I will sail my vessel
'Til the river runs dry
'Til the river runs dry.

Oh! That scratches me
where it itches!

All Apples Going to Heaven
Killed walking leaves

Bad day!

- ① Diet
- ② Dress
- ③ Discipline
- ④ Dedication

STUDY #2 IN THE BOOK OF TITUS

THE PICTURE OF GODLINESS 1:5-9

TEXT:

- v. 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, in order that you might set in order the things which remain and appoint elders in every city as I direct you.
- v. 6 If a certain man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who are believers, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.
- v. 7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's superintendent; not self-willed (stubborn), not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of dishonest gain.
- v. 8 But hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, holy, disciplined (self-controlled).
- v. 9 Clinging to the trustworthy message, which is in accordance with the teaching, in order that he may be able both to be exhorting in sound doctrine and to be refuting those who are contradicting.

Starting
Line At
Marathon
Diet
Exercise

INTRODUCTION:

Godliness is a process!! It takes time
No instant results!!

Paul in writing this little epistle is talking about growth toward godliness. In our first study we noted the process of godliness. It is from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to a knowledge of the truth, which is according to godliness. The process, then, is from faith, to truth, to godliness. From faith, to food, to fruit.

Now the question arises: What does godliness look like in a human instrument?

Having A Form OF Godliness but denying the power

The apostle in these next verses gives us a full description of the godly man.

Godliness - way we are as a result of His work

What are the qualifications for spiritual leadership? The apostle describes this in the verses under consideration.

A Godly person!!

v. 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, in order that you might set in order the things which remain and appoint elders in every city as I direct you.

The apostle has just finished in verse 4, telling us that the letter is written to Titus, his true child in a common faith.

Genuine An - Soul
Real deal

When Paul and Titus were on the island of Crete in ministry, the apostle felt it the Lord's will to leave Titus there to take care of two very important projects. The first was to set in order the things which remain; and secondly, to appoint elders in every city.

"Hypocrisy is trying to be something you're not."

These Qualities are produced in the lives of those who take time to be in the word on a daily basis...

An authentic
Acceptance
with
Accomp. by
Appetite for
word...

Emphasis
of
spiritual
growth
in
Gal 1:3
Matt 13:23

STUDIES IN 1 TIMOTHY

LAW NUMBER SIX: "Character Is a Vital Ingredient of Leadership"

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Key Verse 3:7: "Moreover it is a necessity for him also to be having a good testimony from those on the outside, in order that he might not fall into disgrace and into the trap of the devil."

TEXT:

v. 1 Trustworthy is the saying: "Whoever is aspiring to the office of an overseer is desiring a good work."

v. 2 It is necessary, therefore, that the overseer be above reproach (give no grounds for accusation), one wife's husband, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching,

v. 3 not addicted to wine (a drunkard), not a bully (fist fighter), but gentle (kind), peaceable, not loving money (greedy),

v. 4 presiding over his own house in a beautiful manner, keeping his children under control with true dignity.

v. 5 For if a man does not know how to preside over his own house, how shall he take care of God's assembly?

v. 6 Not a new convert, lest having his mind blinded by pride, he fall under similar judgment as the devil.

v. 7 Moreover it is a necessity for him also to be having a good testimony from those on the outside, in order that he might not fall into disgrace and into the trap of the devil.

Numerous Leadership Books

① John Maxwell - Ministry Team

we have used several!

T-Shirt Nixon
I am tanned, rested + ready
For 1988 - - -

Paul Harvey points out "Mr. Nixon's new shoes are bigger than his feet. No disrespect meant. No man ever stepped into those shoes and found they fit right off because never in the history of America have we elected a man that size. We elect men of our own size then one of two things happen, the man grows until he matches the magnitude of his responsibility, grows into those shoes or else he remains a little man and splashes around conspicuously until folks feel sorry for him and tell him to go get some shoes that fit him".

It is my prayer that as we look at these laws of leadership that Peter has outlined here in the text we will be challenged to be the kind of men and women who are paying the price of leadership.

Verse One: Elders, therefore, (who are among you) I am exhorting, I who am a fellow-elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed.

1. It's been Peter's policy to address part of his letter to all of the people in these five areas outlined in 1 Peter 1:1 and then he has also spent some time with admonition to various groups. We find that he has some admonition for servants in 1 Peter 2:18 to the wives in 1 Peter 3:1-6 to the husbands in verse 7 and now here in chapter five a word to the elders or leaders of the various bodies of believers.

2. Before the exhortations which he will make can carry any weight he feels it necessary to present his credentials. We find in this first verse three credentials that he gives. First of all "I who am a fellow elder." This an elder speaking to elders at this point.

#1
#2 3. Credential number two - "he is a witness of the sufferings of Christ."

4. He was there to witness the sufferings of the Savior and what a difficult time for Peter to call to memory this experience. If there was ever a time when Peter failed in his leadership, it was during the time just prior to the Cross.

#3 5. The third credential - "who also am a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed." Peter has had a lot to say in Epistle about our "living hope" and "our inheritance" and the fact that the time of our future glory is very near.

6. Rees, in commenting on this verse says "a fellow elder, that from Peter who once peacocked his way to the self-chosen eminence for which he boasted to the Master that the other Apostles might all run away and forsake their leader, but not he. A fellow elder, just one of the brothers and as such carrying out the commission he received from his forgiving, restoring Lord when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren. Strengthen them Peter by telling them just what I am telling you. Tend the flock of God, that is have a shepherds heart and do a shepherds work. In any case, you cannot shepherd them without love and loving care, you cannot shepherd them without feeding them, you cannot shepherd them without training them, you cannot shepherd them without healing their wounds, watching over their strayings, and guarding against their wolfish enemies and surely you cannot shepherd them without praying for them".

I'm going to be there with the rest of you

Verse Two: Tend or shepherd the flock of God which is among you not by compulsion, but willingly according to God not in fondness for dishonest gain, but freely.

1. This verse and verse three give us the laws of leadership that Peter wanted to convey to these leaders of the churches in their areas.

2. Law one says - "tend or shepherd the flock of God which is among you."

3. Jeremiah, in Jeremiah 3:1,4 points out "woe be unto you the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pastures saith the Lord and I will set up shepherds over them who shall feed them and they shall fear no more or be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking saith the Lord".

3. We cannot help but recognize that Peter is calling to remembrance his commission to leadership in John 21 from the resurrected Christ who had suffered and now was preparing to enter into glory. In speaking on this first word, to tend or to shepherd Hort points out Jesus used this very word to Peter in the interview by the sea of Galilee and Peter doubtless has this fact in mind here. *Bear one another's burdens - Phil 4:2 assist the women*

5. Smith points out St. Peter's words are evidently a reminiscence of St. Paul's to the elders of the church of Ephesus "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers to feed the Church of God which he hath purchased with His own blood." By both the Apostles the same word is here used "feed or tend the flock" and both also speak of oversight. What are then the special duties of elders. To lead their people into the green pastures of the Word of God, beside the quiet waters of Eternal Truth, to guard them against the poisonous weeds of error which spring up almost everywhere, to look after them that they do not wander from the fold and become the prey of the lion or the wolf and to go before them in every step setting an example of obedience to the voice of the Chief Shepherd.

6. Law two of leadership says - "not by compulsion but willingly according to God." *Submission - renunciation sweet spirit expecting God to bless.*

7. Peter uses the negative and positive approach again in these verses to spell out these laws of leadership. Not by compulsion but willingly; its that old attitude I'll take the office and responsibility but don't expect me to devote very much time to it because I'm just too busy.

Peter has challenged the Christians in I Peter 4:9 to be hospitable to one another without complaining and now the elder is to be a leader willingly rather than by compulsion.

8. This willingness also is to be according to God.

9. One is reminded of what Paul has to share in Philipians 2 along this line. Let Christ Himself be your example as to what your attitude should be. For He who has always been God by nature did not cling to his prerogatives as God's equal but stripped Himself of all privilege by consenting to be a slave by nature and being born as mortal man and having become man he humbled Himself by living a life of utter obedience even to the extent of dying and the death He died was the death of a common criminal. That is why God has now listed Him so high and has

#1

Action

People involved in one another's lives.

How to tend!

① Lead
② Guide
③ Provide

Exhort
Encourage
Example

Attitude

① Privilege
② Possibilities
③ Pleasure

same word in John 21

Action
Attitude

4 Great leaders

① Jesus Christ

② Paul

③ Timothy

④ Epaphroditus^{p8}

given Him the name beyond all names so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, whether in heaven or earth or under the earth. That is why in the end every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord to the Glory of God the Father.

- Accounting
10. Law three says not in fondness for dishonest gain but freely.
 11. Paul in I Timothy 6:17, 18 points out elders with the gift leadership should be considered worthy of respect and of adequate salary, particularly if they work hard at their preaching and teaching. Remember the scriptural principle, thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn and the laborer is worthy of his hire.
 12. This coupled with what he has to say in I Timothy 6:5-8 would give what I believe Peter means here at this point. "These men who argue, their minds warped by sin don't know how to tell the truth. To them the gospel is just a means of making money. Keep away from them. Do you want to be truly rich, you already are if you are happy and good. After all we didn't bring any money with us when we came into the world and we can't carry away a single penny when we die so we should be well satisfied without money if we have enough food and clothing."

Authority

Verse Three: Nor as lording it over or domineering the portions of the flock assigned to you, but being examples to the flock.

1. Here we have law four of leadership in this verse. Once again Peter uses the negative and the positive to spell out what he means here.
2. It's awfully easy to want to accept the authority that comes with leadership without the responsibility of earning the right to be a leader by being an example to the flock. It is also a very subtle temptation of leadership to use your authority for your own comfort and profit.
3. John speaks of one Diotrephes in Third John who had this problem of being proud of his position and as a result was domineering the Christians in that area. John says "I sent a brief letter to the church about this but proud Diotrephes, who loved to push himself forward as the leader of the Christians there does not admit my authority over him and refuses to listen to me. When I come I will tell you some of the things he is doing and what wicked things he is saying about me and what insulting language he is using. He not only refuses to welcome the missionary travelers himself, but tells others not to and when they do he tries to put them out of the church. Dear friends, don't let this bad example influence you, only follow what is good. Remember that those who do what is right prove that they are God's children and those who continue in evil prove that they are far from God."
4. Not domineering, but being examples to the flock. Peter has already challenged in chapter two with the fact that we have been called to imitate out model Jesus Christ.
5. Lenski points out "Peter mentions three common sins of preachers, laziness, greed and popishness, all of which are especially objectionable in days of persecution. Peter demands voluntariness

King Saul

Conclusion : What kind of Christian are you?

Work out your own soul with fear + trembling...

Are you reaching the lost? How many people here today who have been saved this past year from the effort of this body?

2 Think Sometimes in our Bible churches we are trying to experience what God intended for heaven. Sitting down + visiting with the saints. Showers, Suppers + Drinks are great but what about the primary task.

Set down and have a 1,000 yr. visit in glory

① Philip → Nathan

② Andrew → Pete

③ John → James

④ Matthew → Buddies

① Let the pastor do it!

② test your activities. If you are too busy to touch the lost you are doing something wrong.

③ How much of your daily life is designed for your Church friends. I'm afraid we are clicking up + getting comfortable.

Leadership - Re-Vision

Jim Seybert

DON'T WASTE GOD'S TIME

A group of men whose hearts God had touched went with [Saul]. But there were some scoundrels who complained, "How can this man save us?" And they scorned him and refused to bring him gifts. But Saul ignored them.

1 SAMUEL 10:26-27

ONE OF MY FAVORITE LEADERSHIP STORIES from the Bible happened when Saul was the newly appointed first king of Israel.

Saul had a mission to accomplish—God's mission. He was the person chosen to lead God's people. This was the next step in God's strategic plan to fulfill his promise to Abram that he would make Abram's descendants into a great nation and that through him "all the families on earth" would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

The people of Israel had never been at this place. They'd never had a king. The status quo was changing. God didn't choose Saul to manage the people; he chose Saul to lead them.

Saul had a group of men around him who were dialed into the mission. They weren't supporting Saul the man so much as they were supporting the mission he represented. These advisers certainly didn't agree with everything Saul suggested. (Counselors are worthless if they're merely yes-men.) But God had touched their hearts, and they provided Saul with valuable input as he began his reign as Israel's first king.

COUNSELORS ARE
WORTHLESS IF
THEY'RE MERELY
YES-MEN.

They understood
what Saul was trying
to do, and they gave
him advice.

But there was a
group of people who
just wanted to get in the way. These naysayers
didn't just have a different idea about how or
why to *move forward*; their purpose—if in-
deed they even had a purpose—was to stop
progress dead in its tracks.

LEADERS LEAD

If you've spent any time in a leadership role,
you know about such people. You may even
be thinking of some of them right now and
could name them if I asked you to.

They ask the same questions and raise the
same tired old flags at every meeting. They
push personal agendas that are counter to
the group's mission and goals. Even after de-
cisions have been made and the organization

is poised to move ahead, these "scoundrels"
(God's description) stand in the way and im-
pede forward momentum.

You might think Saul would try to negoti-
ate a solution or find a way to compromise.
But he doesn't. He doesn't try to reason with
these men. He doesn't change course to ac-
commodate them. What *does* Saul do when
these men get in the way? He ignores them.
One Bible translation says he turned a deaf
ear to them.

40th Anniversary of the Moon Landing:
Neil Armstrong: "I guess we all like to be recognized
not for one piece of fireworks but for the ledger
of our daily work."

unselfish devotion, models fit to be patterned after." Sanders in writing about Martin Luther said "he was described as a man easy to approach, totally without personal vanity, so simple in his tastes that men wondered how he could sustain life on so little. Abounding in solid sense, playful humor and mirthfulness, honest as the day, transparently sincere, added to this was his undaunted courage, inflexible conviction and passion for Christ, it is small wonder that he bound men to him with bonds of steel."

6. A. B. Simpson in writing on these verses says "that if you have ever seen a shepherd in the Scottish Highlands or in some eastern country you will know something of what this means. The picture of the veteran shepherd dying with his boys around him while the wolves are howling over the plain and mountain and valley, and he calls them to his side as he breathes his last. How sweetly the picture has been given to us and they bend down to hear his last words while he breathes them out, 'boys, be good to the sheep'. That was the shepherds last thought, he knew them all by name, he had rescued them many a time. They were personally dear to him. He had risked his life for them, that is the shepherds spirit that loves and follows and personally tends the sheep." - *Apostle Paul's relationship to churches*

Verse Four: And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading Crown of Glory.

1. In verse one Peter has given his credentials for leadership. In verses two and three, his charge to leadership and in verse four, the crown for leadership. *V. 1. Credentials V. 2+3. Charge V. 4. Crown*
2. Peter has already mentioned Christ as the shepherd in I Peter 2:25, "for you were as sheep going astray but now have been turned back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls".
3. I'm sure Peter is calling to mind the words of the Lord Jesus in John 10 when he says I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd will give his life for the sake of his sheep.
4. Once again Peter is making reference to the judgement seat of Christ when we will be examined on the basis of the fruit that has been born in our lives since we have become Christians and there are five crowns that are recorded in scripture as rewards to be given at this particular time. ① The crown of life in James 1, ② the incorruptable crown in I Corinthians 9, ③ the crown of rejoicing in I Thessalonians 2 and Philippians 4, ④ the crown of righteousness in II Timothy 4:8 and ⑤ the crown of glory here in I Peter 5.

CONCLUSION: Peter in his Eleventh pattern to practice has reminded us that there are laws of leadership to be followed. When these laws are faithfully followed, fruit will result from our labor. Napoleon Hill writing strictly from a secular point of view in a book called Think and Grow Rich, summarizes his laws of leadership in the following way. "Law one, unwavering courage based upon knowledge of self and of ones occupation. No follower wishes to be dominated by a leader who lacks self-confidence and courage. No intelligent follower will be dominated by such a leader very long. Law two - self-control. The man who cannot control himself can never control others. Self-control sets a mighty example for

ones followers, which the more intelligent will emulate. Law three - a keen sense of justice. Without a sense of fairness and justice, no leader can command and retain the respect of his followers. Law four - definiteness of decision. The man who wavers in his decisions shows that he is not sure of himself cannot lead others successfully. Law five - definiteness of plans. Successful leader must plan his work and work his plan. A leader who moves by guesswork without practical definite plans is comparable to a ship without a rudder, sooner or later he will land on the rocks. Law six - the habit of doing more than paid for. One of the penalties of leadership is the necessity of willingness on the part of the leader to do more than he requires of his followers. Law seven - a pleasing personality. No slovenly careless person can become a successful leader. Leadership calls for respect. Followers will not respect a leader who does not grade high on all of the factors of a pleasing personality. Law eight - sympathy and understanding. The successful leader must be in sympathy with his followers. Moreover he must understand them and their problems. Law nine - mastery of detail. Successful leadership calls for mastery of the details of the leaders position. Law ten - willingness to assume full responsibility. A successful leader must be willing to assume responsibility for the mistakes and the shortcomings of his followers. If he tries to shift this responsibility he will not remain a leader. One of his followers makes a mistake and shows himself incompetent, the leader must consider that it is he who has failed. Law eleven - cooperation. A successful leader must understand and apply the principle of cooperative effort and be able to induce his followers to do the same. Leadership calls for power and power calls for cooperation.

It is my prayer as we conclude this study that you will be faithful in following the laws of leadership that Peter has set down for us here in the first part of chapter five. Tend, shepherd the flock of God which is among you, not by compulsion but willingly according to God. Not in fondness for dishonest gain but freely nor as lording it over or domineering the portions of the flock assigned to you but being examples to the flock.

LESSONS:

- ① God expects us to multiply our ministry by Training others.
- ② It is our responsibility to lead, guide & provide.
- ③ We Are to Exhort, Encourage, & be An Example.
- ④ The privilege, possibilities & pleasure of leadership ought to motivate us.
- ⑤ Money can ruin Your ministry.
- ⑥ Authority can only be handled correctly by one who has learned to Serve. --

And, dear brethren, we must acquire certain moral faculties and habits, as well as put aside their opposites. He will never do much for God who has not *integrity of spirit*. If we be guided by policy, if there be any mode of action for us but that which is straightforward, we shall make shipwreck before long. Resolve, dear brethren, that you can be poor, that you can be despised, that you can lose life itself, but that you cannot do a crooked thing. For you, let the only policy be honesty.

May you also possess the grand moral characteristic of *courage*. By this we do not mean impertinence, impudence, or self-conceit; but real courage to do and say calmly the right thing, and to go straight on at all hazards, though there should be none to give you a good word. I am astonished at the number of Christians who are afraid to speak the truth to their brethren. I thank God I can say this, there is no member of my church, no officer of the church, and no man in the world to whom I am afraid to say before his face what I would say behind his back. Under God I owe my position in my own church to the absence of all policy, and the habit of saying what I mean. The plan of making things pleasant all round is a perilous as well as a wicked one. If you say one thing to one man, and another to another, they will one day compare notes and find you out, and then you will be despised. The man of two faces will sooner or later be the object of contempt, and justly so. Above all things avoid cowardice, for it makes men liars. If you have anything that you feel you ought to say about a man, let the measure of what you say be this – 'How much dare I say to his face?' You must not allow yourselves a word more in censure of any man living. If that be your rule, your courage will save you from a thousand difficulties, and win you lasting respect.

Having the integrity and the courage, dear brethren, may you be gifted with an indomitable *zeal*. Zeal – what is it? How shall I describe it? Possess it, and you will know what it is. Be consumed with love for Christ, and let the flame burn continuously, not flaming up at public meetings and dying out in the routine work of every day. We need indomitable perseverance, dogged resolution, and a combination of sacred obstinacy, self-denial, holy gentleness, and invincible courage.

Excel also in one power, which is both mental and moral, namely, the power of *concentrating all your forces* upon the work to which you are

Features to my
Students
Spurgeon

LECTURES TO MY STUDENTS

called. Collect your thoughts, rally all your faculties, mass your energies, focus your capacities. Turn all the springs of your soul into one channel, causing it to flow onward in an undivided stream. Some men lack this quality. They scatter themselves and fail. Mass your battalions, and hurl them upon the enemy. Do not try to be great at this and great at that—to be 'everything by turns, and nothing long'; but suffer your entire nature to be led in captivity by Jesus Christ, and lay everything at his dear feet who bled and died for you.]

4. Above all these, we need *SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS*, graces which must be wrought in us by the Lord himself. This is the main matter, I am sure. Other things are precious, but this is priceless; we must be rich towards God.

We need to *know ourselves*. The preacher should be great in the science of the heart, the philosophy of inward experience. There are two schools of experience, and neither is content to learn from the other; let us be content, however, to learn from both. The one school speaks of the child of God as one who knows the deep depravity of his heart, who understands the loathsomeness of his nature, and daily feels that in his flesh there dwelleth no good thing. 'That man has not the life of God in his soul', say they, 'who does not know and feel this, and feel it by bitter and painful experience from day to day.' It is in vain to talk to them about liberty, and joy in the Holy Ghost; they will not have it. Let us learn from these one-sided brethren. They know much that should be known, and woe to that minister who ignores their set of truths. Martin Luther used to say that temptation is the best teacher for a minister. There is truth on that side of the question.

Another school of believers dwell much upon the glorious work of the Spirit of God, and rightly and blessedly so. They believe in the Spirit of God as a cleansing power, sweeping the Augean stable of the soul, and making it into a temple for God. But frequently they talk as if they had ceased to sin, or to be annoyed by temptation; they glory as if the battle were already fought, and the victory won. Let us learn from these brethren. All the truth they can teach us let us know. Let us become familiar with the hill-tops, and the glory that shines thereon, the Hermons and the Tabors, where we may be transfigured with our Lord.

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Gratitude	696-11	TOO THANKFUL TO BE ANYTHING ELSE

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.
JAMES 1:2

When Mike McAdams's wife, Cheryl, was in the intensive care unit in a Nashville hospital, she was barely able to respond. When a friend asked how she was doing, Mike replied, "It's touch and go. We held hands, prayed, and remembered James 1:2: 'Count it all joy.' You know, it's impossible to be thankful and anxious at the same time."

It's hard to be thankful and negative at the same time. When was the last time you felt thankful and resentful? Thankful and lonely? Thankful and angry? Thankfulness seems to take the edge off our negative or self-centered thoughts and actions. Why? It's because our focus is taken off ourselves and turned toward God. Fifteen times in the Old Testament we find the phrase, "Give thanks to the Lord." It's a little hard to imagine saying, "Thank You, Lord" and "Lord, I'm so lonely (or mad, or depressed)" at the same time. After all, if God provided the circumstances that we find to our liking, isn't He also in control of the circumstances that don't suit us? Yes—and genuine thankfulness will acknowledge Him in both cases.

A thankful life is not an escape from reality but an evidence of true spirituality.
p. 46

#2 Never
Get over the
Privilege of your
Position:
Humility &
Servanthood
up in Gratitude

"Thus there will be three effects of
nearness to Jesus — humility,
happiness and holiness. May
God give them to thee, Christian!"

★ Spurgeon