# SOAR
## DISCIPLESHIP COLLEGE

# MODULE 4: LEADERSHIP

*"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. "* **2 Tim 2: 1-2 NKJV**

## PURPOSE

The purpose for conducting this course is to equip you with key leadership principles and behaviors modeled by the Word and in particular Jesus, the greatest leader of all time. We pray this will not only cause you to be a "Great" leader but enable you to experience Jesus in a new way and therefore empower you to make a difference in this world by becoming a servant leader.

## OBJECTIVES

Upon completion the student should be able to:

- Understand real Christian Leadership
- Recognize whether they are called to Leadership
- Know how to become a Servant Leader
- Become a leader or be a better Leader

## CONTENTS


- Why Leadership? - 1
- Decide To Be a Great Leader (choices are vital) - 2
- Everything Depends on Leadership (The process) - 3
- Take Responsibility & Develop Good Habits - 4
- Understand & Develop Balance & Priorities - 5
- Have Vision & Passion - 6

# SOAR LEADERSHIP 1

## WHY LEADERSHIP? (GOD ALWAYS CHOOSES A LEADER)

Jesus Christ is truly the greatest leader and role model that has ever or will ever live; He left this earth more than 2000 years ago and yet His legacy still lives and burns in the hearts of millions of people all over the world. All this was accomplished in three years by training 12 disciples of which one betrayed Him. His skill and ability to lead is unparalleled, how He interacted with people, trained His disciples and follow Gods mandate for His life is amazing. His primary leadership legacy is one of a deep understanding of Gods purposes, Servanthood and love for others.

Whenever God embarked on a mission on earth, He has always called a leader to step up and be His representative. He then builds and develops that person with His vision, passion and character, once this was accomplished, He would call people around them to assist, add and further extend His Purpose. (Moses & Joshua/ Elijah & Elisha/ Paul & Timothy)

> *"Just as I myself strive to please [to accommodate myself to the opinions, desires, and interests of others, adapting myself to] all men in everything I do, not aiming at or considering my own profit and advantage, but that of the many in order that they may be saved."* **1 Cor 10: 33 AMP**
>
> *"PATTERN YOURSELVES after me [follow my example], as I imitate and follow Christ (the Messiah)."* **1 Cor 11: 1 AMP**

## THREE VITAL QUESTIONS

- Am I a Leader?
- Am I willing to follow Jesus as my leadership model?
- How do I lead like Jesus?

*"Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith."* **Acts 6: 1-7 NKJV**

- **Power of right Priorities:** When priorities are in place things grow properly.
- **Leaders and Qualification:** Leadership determines the level of effectiveness.
- **Spreading the load:** Jesus recognized that strong leadership would create the platform for honest Servanthood.

*"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."* **John 13: 14-15**

- **God wants increase:** Leadership is about increasing the cause of Christ and extending Gods Kingdom.
- **Broaden your reach:** When leadership is in place the load is spread and more room can be given for creativity and gifting
- **Set trends & examples:** When leadership is raised, the right example and trend is set for the way things should be done.

# SOAR Leadership 2

## DECIDING TO BE A GREAT LEADER (CHOICES ARE VITAL)

> *"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* **2 Tim 2: 1-2 NKJV**

If you are called to leadership in the church today, you need to make the decision to be a "GREAT LEADER". That is why this course is so important. So you can become a great leader for the Lord Jesus Christ.

> *"If you lay all these instructions before the brethren, you will be a worthy steward and a good minister of Christ Jesus, ever nourishing your own self on the truths of the faith and of the good [Christian] instruction which you have closely followed."*
> **1 Tim 4: 6 AMP**

There are good leaders and there are bad leaders, if you are taking the journey "DECIDE" to be a good leader. In addition to making the choice to be a "GREAT LEADER" to be a leader in any environment you will have to learn to make good decisions.

> *"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, everyone a leader among them."* **Num 13: 1-2 NKJV**

**Read Numbers 13-14**

**WE DEMONSTRATE OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD**
**THROUGH THE CHOICES WE MAKE.**

## WHAT MUST I DO TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS?

1. **Follow God's direction - Ps 25: 4**

   *"Show me the path where I should walk, O Lord; point out the right road for me to follow."*

   Knowing the Scriptures and gleaning their wisdom gives us more options & insight in our decision making and provides us with the discernment we need to make healthy choices. **Acts 9: 5 & Ecclesiastes 12: 11-14**: Goads was a longish pointed stick used to prod, direct and encourage a team of oxen.

2. **Saturate your life with prayer - Luke 6:12-13**

   *One day soon afterward Jesus went to a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles."*

3. **Consult God's word for God's wisdom - Rom 2:18**

   *"Yes, you know what he wants; you know right from wrong because you have been taught his law."*

4. **Listen to Godly counsel - Prov 12:15**

   *"Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others."*

   *"The Godly offer good counsel; they know what is right from wrong."* **Ps 37:30**

   The key to Godly council is to be alert and ask lots of questions.

5. **Be open to good advice - Prov 18:15**

   *"Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them."*

   The key to being open to advice is to be teachable.

6. **Ask God to give us the desire to obey him and seek his guidance.**

   When we obey, He will guide

   *"God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him."* **Phil 2:13**

7. **Don't FEAR - 2 Tim 1: 7 AMP**

   *"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control."*

   Very often a wrong decision is better than making no decision at all. Even if we don't always make the best decision, God has the power to make the decision turn out in our best interests - **Romans 8:28**. Indecision is really a decision not to make a decision. Indecision regarding matters of faith can slowly but persistently draw us away from God. **James 1:5-8**

## WHAT ARE SOME PRINCIPLES OF GOOD DECISION MAKING?

1. **Make sure you have all the facts - Prov 18: 13**

   *"What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts".*

   - What are your visions or goals?
   - Why am I making this decision?
   - Why am I really making this decision? (we often convince ourselves or our emotions send a wrong signal)

2. **Make sure your decision is not based on values that contradict God's Word-Ps 119: 98**

   *"Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for your commands are my constant guide."*

   - What are YOUR top 5 -10 values?

- Will this decision, take me closer to God? (What story will I have to tell?)

3. **When you have gathered the information seize the moment and act- Heb 5:14**

   *"Solid food is for those who have trained themselves to recognize the differences between right and wrong, and then do what is right."*

## IMPORTANT DECISION'S YOU CAN MAKE TO FOLLOW GOD

*"And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* **Jos 24:15**

*"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."* **Deut 30: 19-20**

- **Attitude:** Everybody has an attitude; you decide whether it will be a good one or a bad one (part of the 2).
- **Godly character:** It's what you do when no one else is around.
- **Values:** They are what ultimately determine your choices.
- **Self-Discipline:** The habit of doing the right things first.
- **Commitment:** Some are lazy, some are overzealous, and both are not committed.
- **Teachability:** You can learn something from everything & everyone.
- **Initiative:** The ability to foresee and act.
- **Courage:** Doing the right thing in the presence of fear.
- **Responsibility:** Taking ownership for your choices.
- **Growth:** A commitment to always change and adapt to new things.
- **Relationships:** Bad company corrupts good manners; good company heals & stretches you.
- **Communication:** The ability to get your message across effectively.
- **Encouragement:** The decision to always be positive and up-lifting.
- **Servanthood:** The pathway to true greatness & the cornerstone of Christlike leadership (servant to all that I may win the more).
- **Love:** That deep unconditional commitment to seen the best in everyone. (Jesus)

# SOAR Leadership 3

## EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON LEADERSHIP (THE PROCESS)

We have discovered that God always chooses a leader & therefore He places a high value on His leaders, the main reason for this is He knows that everything depends on leadership.

> *"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* **2 Tim 2: 1-2 NKJV**

Because everything rises and falls on leadership, God has a "process" He wants His Leaders to follow, so they can be effective and successful. If you decided last week to become a "Great Leader" then you will have to follow "Gods Process".

## THE "PROCESS" OF NEW TESTAMENT LEADERSHIP:

It's always founded on and developed in Faithfulness, Servanthood & Grace (they find there substance and power in Christ).

- **Faithfulness -** firm, loyal & constant in the performance of duties or services, true to one's word, Constant, not fickle, moral fidelity, stable.
- **Servanthood- (GRK=minister) -** to run on errands, an attendant, (generally) a waiter.
- **Grace -** the divine influence of God upon the heart, and its reflection in the life (including gratitude), benefit, favour, gift, joy, liberality.

## GENUINENESS & MOTIVES

> *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life."* **1 John 1: 1**

The first disciples proclaimed a message based on their personal relationship with Jesus, and they proclaimed because it had saved them & moved their hearts with a Holy fire. We have that same privilege. If our lives and leadership are not based on an intimate, experiential knowledge of Jesus, our words will sound empty and we will not be able to sustain a lifestyle leadership.

## QUESTIONS

- Who do you know Jesus to be?
- Have you heard Him speak to you?
- Have you seen Him at work?

## WHAT CAN YOU TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM?

> *"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits*." **Dan 11: 32 NKJV**

*"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* **2 Tim 2: 3-15 NKJV**

- The good soldier
- The athlete
- The hardworking farmer

**Read Philippians 2:12-15 AMP**

*"Love and truth form a good leader; sound leadership is founded on loving integrity."* **Prov 20: 28 MSG**

*"A leader of good judgment gives stability; an exploiting leader leaves a trail of waste. When a leader listens to malicious gossip, all the workers get infected with evil. Leadership gains authority and respect when the voiceless poor are treated fairly."* **Prov 29: 4, 12, 14 MSG**

## THREE VITAL QUESTIONS

- Am I a Leader?
- Am I willing to follow Jesus as my leadership model?
- How do I lead like Jesus?

**Prayer:** *Jesus, I want my life and leadership to flow from my relationship with You. I want to see you, to hear You, to touch You. I want to share with others the life that You have given me. In Your Name, Amen.*

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# SOAR Leadership 4

## TAKE RESPONSIBILITY & DEVELOP GOOD HABITS

Being a great leader is not about what you can accomplish as much as whom you become. God is not impressed with success if there is not first faithfulness, loyalty, integrity and Servanthood. Everything we have is from Him, Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our Faith, and so in taking responsibility for our lives, it's not our works but His strength that makes all the difference.

**Read Ephesians 6:10-12 AMP**

When I step up to be a GREAT leader for Christ I am taking responsibility for my life as a believer.

**Responsibility -** The state of being accountable or answerable, as for a trust, office or for a debt.

In the New Covenant, leadership is not only Servanthood but must be from a heart of grace, (for us and towards others), this means taking responsibility is mainly 'our response to His ability'. (That is to act upon or react to).

**Habit 01:** Draw your strength and commitment from Gods strength and commitment to you.

> *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace."* **Phil 1:3-7 NKJV**

Then your service won't be motivated by "I have too" but by this is who I am so "I want too". Jesus took responsibility for His obedience and purpose in God. But it came out of His deep intimacy with His father, you too will need to learn and grow into yours, take time and build your relationship with Him. (Prayer, Word, Praise & Worship, Meditation, Fellowship and Church). Paul here gives us the example of taking responsibility when things were and when they weren't going well.

**Habit 02:** Always make JESUS your Number 1 Priority.

**Read Colossians 1:18-23 MSG**

**Habit 03:** Be Quick to Obey.

> *"If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land."* **Is 1:19 NKJV**

When you build this habit you will always wake up in Gods will and be positioned & ready for whatever that day may bring, you also start building momentum for the future.

> *"Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct."* **Gal 6:4-5 NLT**

Obedience is the number 1 key to Godly prosperity and deliverance.

**Habit 04:** Make it your quest to be a God pleaser.

There is a balance to be maintained in relationships, we must do our part to put others first but not at the expense of our relationship with Jesus.

> *"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."* **Gal 1:10 NKJV**
>
> *"And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."* **Luke 16:15 NKJV**

**Habit 05:** Be ready to pay the price of leadership.

> *"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. There is a huge price for leadership, God holds us accountable."* **Hebrews 13:17 NLT**

We all have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account, but for leaders it will be stricter. (**2 Corinthians 5:10/ James 3:1**)

## THE POWER OF A HABIT

A habit is an act that is repeated easily without thinking about it or planning to do it. A habit is often an insignificant act that seems to have no power to affect the future. A habit can be good, bad, natural or unnatural. Good habits are repeated as easily as bad habits, once they're a habit. Bad habits lead to consistent failure and defeat without the person realizing what is happening. Good habits lead to consistent success and victory. Bad habits are easy to form but difficult to live with or break, while good habits are difficult to form but easy to live with. Every good leader has developed a number of good habits that have brought him success.
Habits become a safety procedure for leaders
.

## OTHER HABITS LEADERS SHOULD DEVELOP

- Read your Bible, have a personal quiet time & pray every day.
- Have seasons when you fast and seek God only.
- Read books & listen to tapes.
- Play more Christian music and watch less TV.
- Stretch yourself in regard to the above regularly.
- Let your closest friends be of the same sex.
- Chat with your wife & play with your children every day.
- Get enough rest and relaxation.
- Witness to every unbeliever you meet.
- As a rule, do not borrow money.
- Save money every month.
- Pay your tithes every month and be generous.
- Several times a year set special time aside to seek God. (At least twice a year)
- Always be gracious and keep a humble heart.
- Be quick to repent and quicker to forgive others.

# SOAR Leadership 5

## UNDERSTAND & DEVELOP BALANCE & PRIORITIES

In today's world we're surrounded by noise, therefore a leader needs to know how to prioritize and balance their life to stay relevant and not get bogged down. We can become overwhelmed by the voices around us - our children, friends, spouse, and even ourselves. Distracted by these sounds, we soon forget how to listen to the most important voice of all

- **God's voice.** This teaching is designed to prepare you and give you empowering reminders that will inspire and help you stay balanced and keep your priorities in line.

## BALANCE

**Definition:** A pair of scales, for weighing commodities. (Figuratively, an impartial state of the mind.) A just estimate of the reasons and arguments on both sides of a question, which gives to each its due weight, or force and importance.

> *"May the path of your foot be balanced and all your ways be sure."* **Prov 4: 26 LEB**
>
> *"The Lord wants honest balances and scales... Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you. Look neither right nor left; leave evil in the dust."*
> **Prov 4: 26-27 MSG**
>
> *"He is a trafficker, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress."*
> **Hosea 12:7 ASV**
>
> *For it is not [intended] that other people be eased and relieved [of their responsibility] and you be burdened and suffer [unfairly],"* "**2 Cor 8: 13 AMP**

## PRIORITY

**Definition:** The state of taking precedence in place, rank or time, preceding something else.

> *"When you say, 'The altar of God is not important anymore; worship of God is no longer a priority,' that's defiling. And when you offer worthless animals for sacrifices in worship, animals that you're trying to get rid of—blind and sick and crippled animals—isn't that defiling? Try a trick like that with your banker or your senator—how far do you think it will get you?" God -of-the-Angel-Armies asks you."* **Mal 1:7, 8 MSG**
>
> *"Good friend, take to heart what I'm telling you; collect my counsels and guard them with your life. Tune your ears to the world of Wisdom; set your heart on a life of Understanding. That's right—if you make Insight your priority, and won't take no for an answer, Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, Believe me, before you know it Fear-of- God will be yours; you'll have come upon the Knowledge of God."* **Prov 2:1-5 MSG**
>
> *"This son was our ancestor Isaac. When he married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own*

*purposes; he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son." In the words of the Scriptures, "I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau."* **Rom 9: 10-13 NLT**

## PREPARATION

Bad training produces week leaders, to be a leader your team wants to follow, you must become a great leader and that doesn't just come as a natural skill, you will need to be prepared. The good news if you will be a person of balance & priorities you will become a "Great" leader.

**Preparation Definition:** The act of preparing or fitting for a particular purpose, use, service or condition, measures of adaptation, that which is made or compounded for a particular purpose, the state of being in readiness for attack or defense.

Priorities tell you what's important, balance enables them to not fight with each other, preparation positions you to make the right choice.

## TOP 5 PRIORITIES

- **God:** Make time with God your top priority, develop a passion for daily time with Him, and understand His responses to your prayers. Start your day with someone who not only loves you more than you can imagine but also has all the answers you'll ever need!

- **Yourself & Family:** Most would agree relationships are the most valuable thing you have on this earth; however, they will only ever be as good as your relationship with yourself, so you must maintain your relationships while spending time with yourself, then you will be whole and able to lead effectively.

- **Gifts & Talent (personal growth):** Being a great leader means evaluating your gifts and talents but also making a lifelong commitment to developing them. Leadership is "INFLUENCE" and you cannot continue to influence people if you don't know who you are, or what tools God has giving you. Once you have done this you must go on a lifelong journey of "GROWING" in every area of your life.

- **Career:** All of us live in this world, but we all live in our own sphere of the world, you need to know your purpose, but you also need to know what path you plan to follow practically to sustain you as a leader. This gives you drive and will bring momentum into what you do every day.

- **Ministry:** Join the "revolution" put your hands to something and get involved, it's the only way to become a great leader, everyone starts somewhere in their journey to being used by God, never be scared of the silent years, they count the most to your Father.

## TOP 5 BALANCES

**Stay centered:** Surrender is the greatest quality for any leader; it will keep Christ at the center and enable you to make decisions when the pressure is on. This is a skill that must be developed.

- **Be humble: 1 Peter 5v1-10**

- **Be honest with yourself:** Having integrity is an important value for every believer, but for a leader it's not an option, it gives you credibility, earns you respect and keeps you grounded in reality so be HONEST WITH YOURSELF, self evaluation will help you know where you are and where others are.

- **Know your values:** Values are those principles or morals which you deem worthy to be honored and live by; they define the acceptable standards that govern your priorities and are the yard stick for your behavior & choices.

- **Be accountable:** Accountability involves taking responsibility and giving feedback to those that are your mentors, leaders or close friends. It speaks about maturity and being a master of your life. Genesis 4v5-10/ 1 Corinthians 13v11

## HOW TO BE PREPARED

- A passion for GODS presence - Psalm 119v32-41/Ps 34v7
- A deep craving to reach the lost - Luke 15v8-10
- A Spirit filled faith - Romans 4v16-20
- An inward Brokenness - Psalm 34V18
- Be established in GRACE - Hebrews 9v13

## THREE REQUESTS OF A CHRIST LIKE LEADER:

> *"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."*
> **Matt 7: 7-8 NLT**

- **Ask God ~ HEAL me**
- **Ask God ~ RUIN me**
- **Ask God ~ STRETCH me**

# SOAR Leadership 6

## HAVE VISION & PASSION

James Stoval said, "What appears to be the ending can be the point of a new beginning."

Myles Munroe said, "Sight is a function of the eyes; vision is a function of the heart."

Nothing great is accomplished without the mysterious force called vision; vision generates hope in the midst of despair and provides endurance in tribulation. Without vision life can quickly become a cycle of frustration and despair but with vision you have the foundation for courage.

James Stovall concludes, “I may have lost my sight, but then I gained a greater vision than I ever had before, perhaps going blind was the best thing that happened to me.”

> *“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* **2 Tim 2:1-2 NKJV**

There are two very powerful principles that stand out in this verse that are unspoken. The first is that Paul is giving Timothy an instruction to look beyond himself to future generations; He is challenging Timothy to have "VISION". The second is that Paul is letting Timothy know that doing this will require a Christ centered passion if he is to follow it through to completion. Without these two principles working in a leaders life, a leader will not only lose perspective but will grow weary and not press on to accomplish "Greater" things.

> *“Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]–blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.”* **Prov 29: 18 AMP**

> *“Until the day when He ascended, after He through the Holy Spirit had instructed and commanded the apostles (special messengers) whom He had chosen. 3 To them also He showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross) by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations [unquestionable evidences and infallible proofs], appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of God.”* **Acts 1:2-3 AMP**

- **Vision -** A primitive root; to gaze at; mentally to perceive, contemplate (with pleasure); specifically to have a vision of: - behold, look, prophesy, provide, see.a sight (mentally), that is, a dream, revelation, or oracle: - vision

- **Passion -** The impression or effect of an external agent upon a body; that which is suffered or received, violent agitation or excitement of mind, zeal, love, eager desire.

## A FEW KEYS TO HAVING & MAINTAINING YOUR VISION & PASSION

- Discover your purpose in life (your primary role for which God created you).
- Jesus knew from a young age why He was in the world, even as He grew up and faced the most grueling circumstances, He remained focused and explained His life purpose to others.

- A leader is someone who is constantly aware of their Vision and Purpose. When you have these qualities, you are aware of what you need to do and guided to spend your time properly.
- Once you know your life's purpose, you must stay true to and focus on that PRIMARY purpose, been single minded is so important in developing passion and staying with your vision.
- If you are a businessperson your primary purpose is to make money, don't run your business as a charity, if you are in the ministry your primary purpose is not to make money but to serve God & people.
- Let your vision fill your heart and mind, remain passionate about God and what He created you for and you will not deviate from your original calling and become a "Great" leader.

*"Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret— it only causes harm."*
**Ps 37: 3-8 NKJV**

## DO YOU HAVE A "VISION" FOR YOUR LIFE AND IF YOU DO ARE YOU "PASSIONATE" ABOUT IT?

Your future is not ahead of you, it is within you, your vision determines your destiny, vision is the "substance" of life, and it's the prerequisite for passion and the source of persistence. It will keep you in the race and enable you to cross the finish line.

> *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. [8] And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his glorious return."* **2 Tim 4: 7-8 NLT**
>
> *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* **Heb 12: 1-2 NKJV**

## A FEW KEYS

- Start with God
- Have faith, but be realistic
- Small things become big things (cover all areas of your life, but start small)
- Have a strategy
- Stay motivated
- Avoid excuses

**Closing Prayer:** *Father, please help me to have your heartbeat and your values. Help me to keep my priorities right. I pray that you make me a blessing and an instrument of goodness. Let me be the light in the darkness, your grace that dispels the hurt and the pain, all death and destruction, I praise You and offer You worship for all You have done in Jesus name, Amen.*