

## The Art of Self-Leadership

***A leaders toughest leadership challenge is himself.***

The New Testament sets a high standard for leaders. From time to time is pays to assess ourselves. Or, as Paul wrote to Timothy: Know yourself and know the scriptures... *“persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.*

### 1 Timothy 4:16 - *"Watch yourself and your doctrine closely"*

Self-management should constitute the majority of our time (disciplines, prayer, meditation, journaling, margin, recreation, etc.). Here is a set of questions that can be a guide for self-examination for leaders.

#### **Character Questions**

➤ **Is my character submitted to Christ?**

*(Acts 24:16) I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.*

Do I make daily assessments concerning my actions; pray daily about being 100% honest; consider my testimony before God and man?

➤ **Am I abiding in the vine? (maintaining my daily spiritual walk)**

*(John 15:5) I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

Am I intentional about maintaining daily contact with the Scriptures, praying during the day? Am I convicted of sins? Do I respond with repentance?

➤ **Is my love for God and people increasing?**

*(Matthew 22:37-40) Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Do I feel the Spirit convicting, changing my thoughts and drawing me in these areas? Am I loving more this year than I was last year.

#### **Calling Questions**

➤ **Is my calling sure?**

*(2 Peter 1:10) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall*

Am I clear about my identity, vocation and marching orders in relation to Christ and my ministry in His kingdom?

➤ **Is my vision clear?**

*(1 Corinthians 9:26) Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.*

Am I running with more “aim” than ever before. Do I find myself beating the air? If so, what should I do to get more clarity?

➤ **Is my passion hot?**

*(Romans 12:11) Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

Am I cold? Luke warm? Do I find myself passionate, but tired?

➤ **Am I developing my gifts?**

*(2 Timothy 1:6) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

How am I stewarding the gifts that God gave to me? In what ways am I developing my gifts?

## Margin Questions

➤ **Is my pace sustainable?**

*(Mark 6:30-32) The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*

Do I intentionally schedule times of rest, family time and recreation in order to keep myself healthy?

➤ **Do I maintain myself physically?**

*(1 Corinthians 9:27) No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

What am I doing to maintain myself physically? What is the best form of exercise for me? How can I do it more consistently?

➤ **Do I maintain emotional margin?**

*(3 John 2) Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.*

What things fill up my emotional tank? Am I doing these things consistently?

➤ **Do I maintain spiritual margin?**

*(Mark 3:13-15) Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve-designating them apostles-that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.*

What specifically do I do in order to “be with Him”?

➤ **Am I giving sufficient attention to my family?**

*(Titus 1:6-9) An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless-not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

Am I spending quality time with my wife, nurturing that relationship? What are the specific needs of my wife and children? How am I helping to meet those needs - to pastor them. Am I learning to be led by the Spirit in this area?