



*By Dr. David Robinson, Founder*

## ***"Great Leaders Are Emotionally Healthy & Spiritually Mature"***

*Leadership is first a heart issue before it's a skill issue. You can't lead with integrity, influence and effectiveness if you are spiritually bankrupt and emotionally broken. Too often we focus on performance when we need to look at maturity issues.*

*Leadership development too often looks at performance mechanics while giving token attention to internal challenges that determine longevity, success and significance.*

*All the information in the world combined with the best seasoned leadership skills, will never make up for the lack of spiritual and emotional maturity. Most of the Old Testament leaders who failed, did so in the second part of their life. They didn't lack information or experience. They simply never grew up emotionally.*

*Untold damage has been done in the church world and marketplace by leaders who ignore internal issues and rely on resumes and high-powered interviews in gaining a place of leadership.*

*Empty and dysfunctional leaders will never fill the lives of their followers with significant opportunities for personal and organizational growth. Leaders are not great because they have outstanding talent and skill. They are great because they are emotionally healthy and spiritually mature. They have grown and matured internally in their walk with God as they pursued a constant learning curve for skill, knowledge and healthy values.*

*Who a person is must be more important than what a person does. If you don't think so, ask Enron, Tyco, Global Crossing, Arthur Anderson and other major corporations driven to collapse and failure by gifted and skilled leaders without a moral compass and emotional maturity.*

*Leadership skills are learned through significant learning opportunities over a period of time. Spiritual leadership maturity and competency is developed similarly but accompanied by other factors that must be considered.*

A good friend Steven Sisler says great leadership begins with knowing who you are and who you are not. Who you are is determined by what family culture you were born into and values instilled during your maturing process. What you carry out of that experience into adulthood has a lot to do with your spiritual and emotional maturity.

If the experience was positive, you have a foundation on which to build and improve. If the experience was negative, you must not ignore the realities that came with that less-than-ideal experience. With God's infinite grace and mercy, a new foundation can be laid. It's never too late or too early to develop healthy emotions and spiritually mature habits and values.

What makes you tick and what ticks you off develops early in life. It is constantly being challenged and modified by a number of factors beyond your childhood and teenage years. Those factors include early work place experiences; education beyond high school; your sense of destiny or God-given call; your circle of friends or lack of significant relationships; how you handle conflict (internal and external) and a host of other issues that impact the development of your life story.

Great leaders understand, accept and embrace who they are and their personal life story. They find their own voice for expressing it and make no apologies for who they are and are not.

This does not mean they no longer try to improve, but efforts to improve are built on a foundation of emotional health and spiritual maturity in a culture of honesty. They no longer kid themselves or try to impress others with who they are or cover up who they are not.

Only leaders God has developed to this point are in a position to effectively lead others. Spiritual and emotional maturity must not be for personal benefit only, but for the greater benefit of everyone God allows to touch your life. You, your life and your leadership may touch a few or many. The number is not as important as the testimony of those who do. How do they feel about themselves and their future as they walk away from you?

May those who touch your life and experience your leadership in 2012 be encouraged and better because of it.

We would like to wish you God's blessings and a very happy and prosperous New Year!

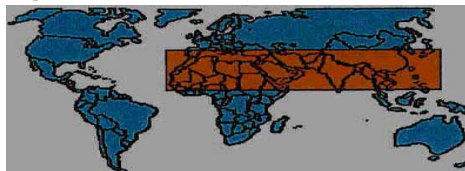
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