Spiritual Leadership and Natural Authority

1 Corinthians 2:1-4

Spirit's power, the ability of one person to influence others.

When I came to you... my message and my preaching were not with wise and Sania

wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the

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People without natural leadership skills do not become great leaders. Different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are. When we compare natural and spiritual leadership, we see just how different they are.
John Matt moved in student circles, and his test covered different territory. One should inquire of a leader whether he or she (1) knows how to select people to fit the task; (2) trust others to do job without the leader's meddling; (3) be capable of clear decisions; (4) inspire confidence; (5) not be petty, (6) not be pompous, (7) overcomes discouragement and "impossible" situations; (8) understands his or her weaknesses.

A single life has immense possibilities for good or ill. We leave an indelible influence on people who come within our influence, even when we are not aware of it. Dr. John Geddie went to Anderby, and worked there for forty-four years. Written in his memory are these words:

When he landed in 1848, there were no Christians.

When he left, in 1872, there were no heathens.

Sangster's biography includes a private manuscript written when the English preacher and scholar felt a growing conviction to take more of a leadership role in the Methodist church.

This is the will of God, for me. I did not choose it, I sought to escape it. But it has come.

I feel a commissioning to work under God for the revival of this branch of the Church [Methodist]—careless of my own reputation, indifferent to the comments of others and jealous of my master. Will you permit me to work in this way? I must no longer shrink from the task—Oh, I am thirty-six. If I am to serve God is this way, I must no longer shrink from the task, but do it.

I have examined my heart for ambition. I am certain it is not there. I have the criticism I shall evolve, and the patient comfort of simple people. Obscurity, quietness, and the service of others, is my taste. Bewildered and unhelped, I prepare you for God to say to me: "I want to sound the note through you." Oh, God, did ever an apostle shrink away, from his task more: I dare not say "no," but, like Jonah, I would run away.

When the burning zeal of the early church began to draw Converts, the spirit of the world was not easy to define, but you can tell when it is present. It is the fragrance of the garden of Eden, the power to change the atmosphere around you, the influence that makes Christ real to others.

Once Saint Francis of Assisi was confronted by a brother who asked him repeatedly, "Why you? Why you?" Francis responded, "Why me, when you want to see me? or when you want to see God? Why not all so handsome, so well-born, from a noble family? Yet the world seems so cold, so indifferent..." Then Francis raised his eyes to heaven, kneeling in praise to God, and turned to his interrogator:
If deacons are required to be full of the Spirit, should those who preach only by spiritual methods be Spirit-filled? Spiritual leadership has no place in the leadership of the church.

Leadership in the sense of the largest unselfishness in the sense of full-hearted absorption in the greatest work of the world: building the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Bernard L. Montgomery, Memoirs of Field-Marshal Montgomery (1958). Bernard Law Montgomery (1877-1958) made his mark in the World War II, being the first Allied general to win a decisive battle on the Western Front, at El Alamein, in 1942. He was knighted in November 1944, and was the first field marshal since the Crimean War.

1. Lettie B. Cowman, Charles E. Cowman (Los Angeles: Oriental Missionary Society, 1923), 251. Cowman was the president of the YMCA from 1865 to 1955, and the best known book was also the most widely known. He was a founder of the World Council of Churches.

2. P. T. Chellanuppalli was general secretary of the Union of Evangelical Students in India from 1956-71. His goal was to reach India's intellectuals with the gospel. Working closely with J. T. J. Poff, Chellanuppalli never asked for financial help. He worked closely with the Union of Evangelical Students.