



Discovering Your Design:

Preparing Christ's followers to change the world

LEADERSHIP

DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO PROVIDE GOD'S PEOPLE WITH VISION (FORESIGHT) AND OVERSIGHT, SO THAT THEY MAY ACCOMPLISH GOD'S PURPOSES.

- the word lead means to "stand before," or to direct, or to rule.
- this word carries the idea of watching over, caring, giving aid, direction (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12).
- the gift is compared to the leadership that a father exercises in a home (cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:11).
- the gift is to be exercised with diligence - diligence carries the idea of speed, zeal, an evidence of genuine commitment (cf. Romans 12:8).
- the gift is tied to teaching, administration and pastor-teacher (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12).
- the gift will manifest in different places within the church, large and small, with men and women.

Biblical References: Romans 12:8, see also Luke 22:26

Contribution: this gift builds up the body by providing a vision for God's people to follow. This gift also gives care and protection as it gives oversight to the church or parts of it.

Biblical Examples: Jesus, Paul

Characteristics - People with this gift :

- pray for a vision of God which keeps them moving in the right direction
- serve and care for those they lead
- follow Christ's leadership as they lead
- are focused on the future not the past
- know where they are going and why
- motivate others to follow and delegate tasks when they do
- thrive in a group setting
- are able to make decisions in light of the goal(s)

Cautions:

- don't demand or grow impatient
- don't get lazy, be diligent--don't depend on your "up front" skills
- keep loving those you lead - exercise gentleness and patience
- don't get too far ahead - you may be mistaken for the enemy
- continue to submit yourself to God and stay accountable to people
- don't forget the "towel"! Christ's leadership was demonstrated through servanthood
- don't push - pull - Eisenhower illustration of string - easier to pull a piece of string than push it
- Finish well!

Christian Responsibility: we all have, or will have, areas in our life where we will have to exercise leadership. This gift reminds us that we are to lead like Christ - serving those we lead.