



Leadership Training for Leaders Inside and Outside the Church



“Leadership is the art and science of inspiring others to reach their full potential in the pursuit of a common vision”

Dr. James Bultman

*Today's Scripture
References*

*Judges 6 & 7
Hebrews 11*

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The TCL Leadership Network Are You Arrogant, Confident or Full of Faith?

Can you feel the difference between Arrogance, Confidence and Faith? The three sometimes have visible similarities yet are so different in the heart of a leader. Let me suggest some distinctions that can help you determine what you might have.

Reflect for a moment on Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” NIV

Faith is futuristic. It is a “hope” and “certainty” about something. We cannot prove it because we cannot see it. But it certainly impacts the way we talk and the way we make decisions. Most importantly others can see that we have it or when we don’t.

Confidence is a noun and is usually based on what has happened in the past. We can see it and provide testimony about why we have it. It is something one can justify having because some act or event can provide the proof.

Arrogance is an adverb. In this article I suggest it can be best understood as having “an overbearing and pretentious confidence.” It communicates superiority. Today my challenge is to reflect and ponder what our followers see in us. Which word best describes us?

Some time ago I was going for a walk with a pastor. We were discussing many things that were impacting relationships in the church. During the walk I was sharing my perspective on a certain point when he asked me “Ron, might it be a bit arrogant of you to say that?” I can say I was quite stunned to say the least. While the pastor that said it might not have used it in the way he intended I certainly knew that the true meaning of the word wasn’t flattering.

That only satisfied me temporarily until I begged the next question. What made it seem to this pastor that the statement I made was arrogant? It soon became apparent to me as I reflected on my life, that I had acquired a high degree of confidence. The way I communicated my confidence bordered on the threshold of arrogance, at least on the outside of me. (My friends can post opposing messages on the board!)

One of my higher level spiritual gifts is faith. The level of faith that I have is certainly a result of what God has done with me in the past. I don’t doubt His distinctive use of me in the past and as a result I have a high degree of faith about what could be in the future. However, I and those of you like me, need to be careful. We need to be conscious of our audience and guard against our body language and speech becoming truly arrogant.

I can’t help think of what Gideon’s soldiers saw in him as God pared their numbers down to 300 fighters. Somehow I don’t think it was a confidence from Gideon telling them about fleece getting wet and then dry. That does not drive 300 men to face what most would call certain death. No, it was Gideon’s great faith in God that inspired them to believe what he had come to believe, and that was that he and his army of the faithful would prevail! The 300 did not follow him because he was arrogant, they followed him because of his confidence AND because of his faith.

Which one do you have the most of? Which one/s will we bring to the office tomorrow?

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We finished our walk and the discussion went well. However I went home that day with a heavy heart. That night in my quiet time I searched my mind and every crevasse of my will and brain to see if I could find an arrogant piece of me, asking God to reveal it to me. At the end of a time of self examination I found myself clear of any conviction of the Holy Spirit in this area of my life.



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