

“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 Scripture
References
1 Peter 3:15*

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

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The TCL E-Leadership Resource Leadership, Hope & Thanksgiving - 1 Peter 3:15

I was going to skip this week's article in the spirit of giving myself the Thanksgiving holiday off. However, as I reviewed Sunday morning's Face the Nation and Meet the Press I could not help wondering how the average leader is approaching this holiday season. Whether you are a church leader or business leader, one thing is almost certain... and that is, you are pondering the impact of this economic "crisis", and what it will mean to your church or organization.

The common thread of many of the comments in these two programs had to do with the need for President Bush and President elect Obama to get together now, in some fashion, to produce something that will re-install confidence into the American population. They agreed that our economic condition required something to be done now and that President elect Obama not wait until January. Why? Because everyone believes that what we are experiencing economically is a "crisis" and that our people need something to hang their hope on NOW!

Is that not what we all need .. a bit of hope? If your organization or church is in a nose dive, does not a glimmer of hope give you the wherewithal to work another day? Isn't God allowing you a significant role in shaping the outcome of your organization? In accepting that responsibility, are you instilling hope into those you lead?

As I reflect over my life, I see where I made significant changes in my participation in certain organizations because there came a point where I lost hope in the leaders. I know for a fact that when I was a sole business owner, my ability to bring hope when the company experienced hardship helped keep the team together and helped sustain the organization. It is still a solid company today.

How do your followers view your leadership? Is your leadership a reason for hope for those you lead? As Peter instructs us to be ready to "give the reason for the hope we have" in Christ, are we not responsible to bring hope and inspiration to those we lead? In the current environment how are you doing?

Hebrews 1:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"

As a leader, might I also ask if you are sure enough of this saving faith in the ultimate outcome of life? As Christian leaders, we also experience what we Americans call a "crisis" and still have the responsibility to lead. Some say we only have more of the same economic pressure ahead, and I would think that to be true. If you agree, I would think we leaders have a greater challenge ahead ... probably more of a challenge than what we ever signed up for.

In the context of what might be ahead of us, I ask ... how do we continue to inspire people to reach their full potential? For the believer that you lead, you can point them toward the hope they have in Christ. Hope in Christ for the future can bring hope in our current affairs. Immature Christians might sense it as only a glimmer of hope where they are, but sometimes a glimmer of hope is all we need.

What do we do with the unbeliever that we lead? We can bring them hope by demonstrating the hope we have. I have a friend and ministry colleague who is a senior executive at a fairly large regional bank. During this recent banking crisis, he told me that some at his office have asked him if he is worried. They sensed that he was not and were wondering why. He told them that ultimately the future was in the hand of God, and in that, he trusted that he would be OK. How much comfort that brought them I do not know. However, one thing I do know ... people are watching their leaders and want to know what hope they have.

Does your life instill hope into those you lead? Can they reach their full potential under your leadership? If you sense they might be lacking, might I suggest you infuse your faith and hope into your current situation and with your current followers. In some cases it might be the only hope of holding your team together.

This Thanksgiving I am thanking God for Hope.

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