



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 Reference
2 Corinthians 12:10

I sincerely want to thank you for coming to Hillsboro (Ohio) last weekend. I would agree with others that you do sincerely possess a plethora of leadership gifts and a sense of how to communicate those gifts in ways that are encouraging and edifying to the individuals in the group as well as convicting and challenging to those (of us) who need to be challenged to change. I am also able to say with confidence that the principles you presented are not just theoretical or academic in nature. I have seen firsthand how you personally have applied and effectively put into practice those very same principles. In a day when charlatans seem to be multiplying by the truckloads, it is indeed refreshing to encounter someone who not only talks a good game, but lives it as well. Our leadership team is already making plans to implement the principles they learned from your visit.

Pastor Chuck Tabor

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The TCL E-Leadership Resource

Let's Talk About Your Weakness

This is not an easy one for me. We cannot talk about your weakness until I talk about mine. We can all take some comfort in knowing that we are not talking about our sin. We know God uses us **in spite** of our sin, but He uses us **righteously because** of our weaknesses. I need to be transparent about myself in order to communicate to you how important it is to understand and acknowledge your weaknesses.

There are those who say don't waste your time on your weaknesses. They say your time is better spent on strengthening strengths. If you read their reasoning, much of it makes a lot of sense. After all, we don't want to be poor stewards of our time, do we? If the energy to improve to the next level of our weakness takes twice the energy and resources to improve to the next level of our strengths, why would we ever work on our weakness? Or should we work on them at all? Hold that thought while I share three weaknesses of mine.

1. I am very weak at spelling, punctuation and grammar.
2. My memory of names is incredibly poor, to the extent of daily and weekly embarrassment.
3. High school is my highest formal education.

In 2nd Corinthians 11:30 Paul tells us how he is willing to boast about his weakness. If you were me, would you boast about my weaknesses? Probably not. I am not sure I want to either but I will try my best to boast, but in the Lord.

At the end of my last seminar I asked folks to write me personally with any criticism and/or encouragements. I received both. One participant who was a higher level educator and a self described editor and passionate proof reader wrote me with quite a list of errors in the form of my PowerPoint slide presentation. They were not evident to people like me, but they were there nevertheless. I was sufficiently embarrassed but corrected every one of them that day, emailed her a copy of the corrections, and thanked her for her help. The pastor of that church was also an educator at a local college.

You would think that this weakness of mine would destroy the reputation of Christ in me and render me useless in this venue. After all, Christ would not have errors in His PowerPoint!

It is only because of God's grace that did not happen. In fact, the testimony in the left margin is what I received from the pastor at that very venue. Evidently he allowed others to help me with the errors and instead gave a testimony of how God used me in his life and in the life of his church. Similarly, after my last E-leadership I received an encouragement from a pastor who is a very gifted writer. He overlooked my form and encouraged me with his affirmation of the content.

In my first trip to Africa I taught leadership at the Evangelical College of Theology in Sierra Leone. Apart from the details, it will suffice to tell you that I was told at the end that I had transformed their lives. How did God transform their lives? By providing me as an American businessman to teach at their college. The premise here was that because of the war there were few, if any, good businessmen left in Sierra Leone. They could not imagine any difference with this American and were skeptical, if not totally benign to me at first. God did His work in the content of the teaching that gave them a reason to think differently about the potential of their own business people. He erased their "prejudice".

So from what form did God and *is* God using me? From the foundation of my weaknesses God is raising me up. From my writing weakness he called me to write, from a business occupation He called me to teach, and from the weakness of my education he allows me to impact the lives of those that are educated. Therefore, I will praise God for my weakness, for "when I am weak, I am strong".

You now know my weaknesses. What do you think? How much time should I spend on my weaknesses? Is it now possible to talk about yours?

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