



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

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The TCL E-Leadership Resource What Was Your Last Temptation?

A short while ago we installed three new deacons in our church. At this point they had completed an extensive review that affirmed their qualifications in preparation for commissioning them before the church body.

In preparation for praying for them I went to scripture (Luke 4:1-13) to identify what was highlighted at the beginning of Jesus ministry. What I was reminded of was the direct link of the devils efforts and the beginning of Jesus' main ministry. I could not help seeing the significance of this event and how it relates to the beginning of the ministry of the deacons we were installing and also how it applies to the life of Christians when they become leaders.

One might tend to exclude the Christian leader in business from this kind of devilish temptation but I say not so fast. If you find yourself where you are in a position to impact the kingdom and find the air you breathe supporting your kingdom purpose - please join the crowd.

As you recall one the first things Jesus did was to retreat to the desert where he was tempted by Satan. In the desert Satan tempted him in three areas of life.

1. The needs of His life.
2. The authority in His life.
3. His relationship with the Father.

Consider the need of Jesus at the time and what we believe we need. After 40 days without food, the human side of Jesus said he was hungry. Satan repackaged that need and asked him to change the stones into bread to prove who He was. Jesus could have rationalized by saying “There certainly should be nothing wrong with me turning these stones into bread, for I can do nothing for my Father if I am unhealthy.” Sound familiar? Maybe not in the food category but how about some other perceived need? How about a lavish vacation or new toy to help “restore” us?

Jesus answered the devil and said, “Man does not live on bread alone”, proving that He himself knew the big picture and was not going to be tempted by a perceived need.

The next temptation of Christ every leader has or will experience ... the manipulation by the Devil. He will disguise his desire that you honor him by offering you something you think is useful and/or righteous. In this case he was ironically offering Jesus a level of authority he already had. The devil knew this and was packaging his offer to get Jesus to worship him. One of the challenges here is to examine what we already have and see if the devil is using it to tempt us.

The third way Christ was tempted was Satan's effort to break up the family. The devil disguised the Fathers love for Christ so that Christ would test His Father's love. Ironically, if Christ had proceeded and jumped off the top of the temple he would have certainly been denying the Father by His test of the Father's love for him. Since Jesus knew he could avoid being severely hurt or killed by the use of his own power, it would have simply been a test of His Father's love, which was just what Satan wanted. When we succumb to testing God, it sometimes shows a level of laziness. For example: It is easier to test God with caring for our health than to do our part in exercising and caring for ourselves. These kinds of tests ultimately cause a break in our relationship with God.

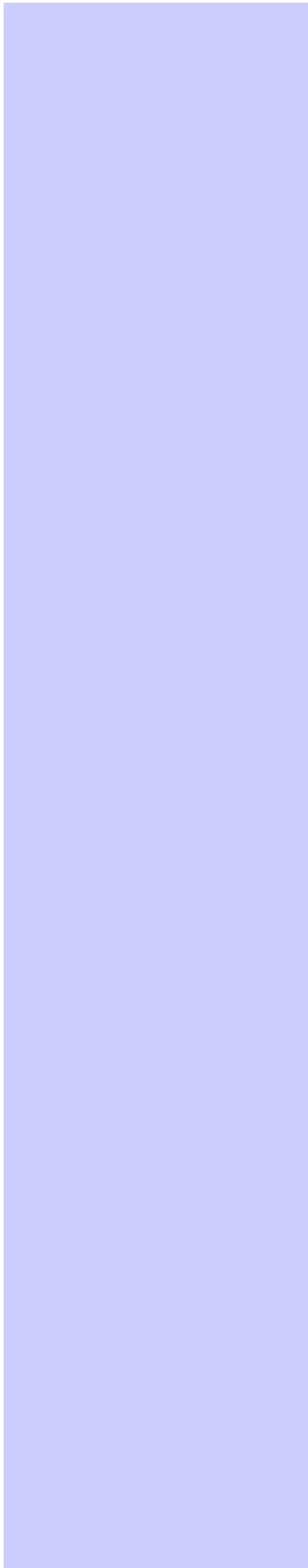
On the Discovery Channel last week I witnessed a bear track down a young deer. I watched the deer first being separated from his family, and then killed by the first bear bite to his neck. Friends, the devil goes for the neck. It is the blood supply path to the whole body. Leaders are like necks ... and the devil is going for you first.

Therefore be careful my friends, Satan will repackage things to deceive you.

Check the box carefully,

Ron Porter
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