

Partners In Courage, April 2015

# Seven Pillars of Leadership

## Part 2

Sermon by D. Wes Daughenbaugh

TEXT: Daniel 12:3 **Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.**

**INTRODUCTION:** My hope is that as you read Daniel 12:3 your heart says, "I'd like to be one of those." These people may or may not have any official title or office of leadership but their lives, being full of godly wisdom and spiritual light INFLUENCE many people. The result is that they LEAD many to righteousness.

### 1. LEADERSHIP ABILITIES MUST COME FROM GOD.

Psalm 127:1 **Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.**

Deuteronomy 32:30 **How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the Lord had given them up?**

Psalm 94:17 **Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death.**

We could say, "Unless leadership ability comes from the Lord and relies constantly on the Lord all leadership is ultimately in vain."

\*\*\*\* Jim Cymbala is the pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle, the church with the famous Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. In his newest book, "STORM" he points out that all the American church is in desperate shape because for the last twenty plus years the emphasis on "leadership" in church growth circles has moved away from the model of the apostles and taken on a secular nature. So while it is true that "everything rises and falls on leadership" our current faddish model of dry business style leadership has resulted in nothing but a fall.

In the book *The Great Evangelical Recession* author John S Dickerson takes a close look at the exaggerated claim that America is roughly 80% Christian. To get an accurate count of Bible-believing Christians in America Dickerson looked at four studies by four different researchers who had four different motivations and used four different methodologies to calculate the number. Their unanimous conclusion was that "the actual number of evangelical Christians is shockingly between 7 to 8.9 percent of the United States population, not 40 percent and certainly not 70 percent."

The truth is that the number of real believers in Jesus is in massive decline here in America. The largest evangelical denomination (Southern Baptist) reports that new converts as measured by baptisms in 2012 was the lowest since 1948.

Here's a quote from the book *STORM*: In 2012 the Barna Group found that 46 percent of churchgoers said "their life had not changed at all as a result of churchgoing." On top of that, "three out of five church attenders (61 percent) said they could not remember a significant new insight gained by attending church services." What is even more bothersome is that "one-third of those who have attended a church in the past have *never* felt God's presence while in a congregational setting." (Page 12)

**Jim Cymbala's book cheered me up!** You see, I've read many "leadership books" and while I benefited from some of them, many were like spiritual straw. I couldn't find God in them. The books were all about technique and not about finding God. As a result, I just couldn't bond with them.

The church I founded and pastored for 15 years had two splits in the last three years of my pastorate. After traveling for four and a half years as a teacher/evangelist I pastored again for three years. We had

modest growth each year, improved the building, and had many baptisms. But it was clear that my most effective area in ministry is traveling as a teacher/evangelist so June 1, 2004 I went back on the road. As a traveling minister I have no official position or title of leadership. So the whole subject of leadership has been painful for me. The devil works to spin almost everything, and he's sent plenty of thoughts to me that I'm not a leader, never was, and never will be. This has brought me to a state of being where I can only fall at Jesus's feet and say, "Lord, you used a little boys lunch to feed a multitude. I am small and average and I cannot do anything great. But I give myself completely to you and pray that somehow, by your great grace, you will use my life to bring MASSIVE GLORY to your name."

Jim Cymbala's book cheered me up because I know people experience God's presence in my meetings. I know they get life changing insights from the sermons. And I know that people actually encounter God and receive salvation, healing, deliverance and Holy Spirit infillings in my meetings. He writes, "The key to prayer that changes things is a deep sense of inadequacy and helplessness among God's people. This is why Jesus himself arose early to talk with his Father in a place isolated from others. He felt he couldn't face the day without the Father's help and direction. When Christian churches and individual believers feel smugly self-sufficient, the Spirit of prayer becomes stifled. Even a growing knowledge of the Bible truth can puff us up to the point where we lose that childlike dependence on the Lord for daily help." (42)

Well, buy his book, STORM, and enjoy his wonderful emphasis on desperate prayer that changes things. But here's my point: There really ARE seven pillars of leadership. It's just that they are absolutely WORTHLESS if they are unplugged from a constant second by second dependency upon God. How wonderful to know that a "deep sense of inadequacy and helplessness" (which I feel so often) is actually the key to prayer that changes things!

\*\*\*\* The American Church is like a great and beautiful chandelier. The chandelier is made of gold, encrusted with jewels and has lots of crystal. It really is beautiful to look at during the daylight. You see, the chandelier is unplugged from the power source. During the light of day its beauty can be seen, and even some light is reflected from the crystals making it appear to have light.

But now a dark night is descending upon America. In the moonless night and total spiritual darkness the chandelier of the American church cannot even be seen! It is completely irrelevant! No one even knows it is there. Why? Because it isn't plugged in.'

Now suppose you have an ugly little lamp that *is* plugged in. That little lamp could shine a light that is seen for miles. It would shine enough light to enlighten an entire room. The small church that prays is more powerful than a mega church that only entertains. In the day light, when the nation is calm and no calamities are happening the Chandelier churches seem so much more significant. But in the darkness of spiritual night, significance will only be judged by the POWER and LIGHT that comes forth from the lamps that are plugged in. Determine that you and your church will be plugged in and shining.

## 2. LEADERSHIP REALLY DOES HAVE SEVEN PILLARS.

In my last message I covered five of the seven. Each "pillar" is really a "value." A value is something that results from a collection of virtues working together. Virtues come from God. They are the life of the vine. They must be desired, sought after, prayed for, and practiced in daily life in humble dependency upon God. Jesus said, "**Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing,**" (John 15:5 NLT) *When leadership values are studied and practiced without that living connection to the Vine, Jesus, there is a NOTHINGNESS that results. But if leadership values are studied and practiced in a desperate dependency upon God, the Lord ends up being the leader as His virtues, the life of the vine, flow through us.* Leadership counts when God is leading the leader.

You don't have to desire to be a "leader." But you should desire to be CONNECTED to the Vine in vital daily fellowship. You should desire all of Christ's virtues and always want to be like Jesus. If you do

that, you will be a servant to all and the result will be that you lead many to righteousness. You will bear much fruit.

#### HERE ARE THE SEVEN PILLARS OF LEADERSHIP.

1. Vision. Leaders have a vision of how to change things so that the future will be brighter. They are going to something and as a result they can get through anything. We should all have a sub-vision of Jesus's massive Kingdom of Heaven vision.

2. Communication. Leaders can communicate the vision. How powerful the communication is when the Holy Spirit himself is speaking through humble vessels. We should be asking God for the wisdom, love and courage to communicate the Kingdom of God to a lost world.

3. People Skills. Real leaders love and value people. They listen to them and care about their needs and interests. The New Testament is full of verses that teach us how to love and care for people. If these skills are unplugged from a dependency upon God they become fake fruit, mere human charm.

4. Character. This value is all about honesty, trustworthiness and doing the right thing even if it's costly. It's about living in truth rather than self-deception. Since the Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of Truth" and his job is to lead us into all truth, those who listen to him and follow him and are taught by him develop Christ-like character. No leadership character can be better qualified for leadership than that.

5. Competence. This involves skills of organization, order in knowing what the first things are and being both effective and efficient. Efficiency is the ability to climb a ladder. Effectiveness is making sure the ladder up against the wall that needs to be climbed. Competence involves wisdom and knowledge. King Solomon was competent because in humble and desperate prayer he asked God to give him competence in discerning right from wrong and good from evil so that he could judge the people properly. Jesus did all things well. The competence that comes from direct connection to the Vine is the very competence of God.

6. Boldness. This is made up of courage, fearlessness, decisiveness and action. Boldness goes all in. There is no boldness like that which comes directly from the Holy Spirit to empower his people.

7. A Serving Heart. There is no servant so great as the Lord himself, Almighty God, who stretched out the heavens and made the stars without number is the one who feeds the sparrows. When connection to God is severed a satanic corruption occurs and the "leaders" trick or force others to serve them.

In this message I want to enlarge upon boldness and a serving heart. But first, we need to realize that only if the life of the vine flows into us, only if virtues from God flow into us, and only if we remain connected to the vine—only then can true fruit come, fruit that will last. So let us not move away from dependency upon God as if by our own boldness or serving attitude we could do anything. But as we connect with God in utter dependency and humility in seeking earnest prayer then let us labor with all our hearts, for it will take lots of action to bring God massive glory. Remember to "pray without ceasing" even while we labor so that at no time do we lead, follow or serve in an independent way.

### 3. THE SIXTH PILLAR OF LEADERSHIP IS BOLDNESS.

\*\*\*\* I feel that the Holy Spirit has given me a significant statement. Here it is: *"The contractions of boldness give birth to leadership."*

\*\*\*\* An example would be King David. He was anointed to become the future king by the prophet Samuel. However, he was still only a shepherd boy. But when a bear or a lion attacked the flock David experienced a CONTRACTION of Holy Spirit boldness. He pursued the wild beast, struck it, and when it dropped the lamb to turn on him he killed it! After two of these contractions of boldness David took some bread and cheese from his father to give to his three older brothers who were "fighting the Philistines" with King Saul.

David listened to Goliath, a ten-foot tall giant and champion fighter, taunt the armies of Israel and Israel's God. Just as birth contractions come upon a baby and cause that baby to be born, another contraction of boldness pressed hard upon David. He was infuriated that no one would remove the reproach of a mocking demon speaking through a giant.

You know the story. David volunteered to fight Goliath. With the competence that came through hurling stones with a sling for endless boring hours watching sheep, David placed a smooth stone directly

into the forehead of the giant, one of the few places on his body not covered with heavy metal armor. After he felled the giant he cut off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword. From then on, David was a leader. Immediately all the Israelite troops surged forward and routed the Philistine army. While David still didn't have a title or position it is clear that he led Israel to victory over the Philistines that day.

David's boldness clearly came from the Holy Spirit, who came upon him with power! That boldness birthed him into leadership.

\*\*\*\* Bill Hybles, pastor of Willow Creek Church wrote a book called HOLY DISCONTENT. He talks about the cartoon character Pop-Eye, the crusty old sailor who would say, "I cantz standz it anymore! I've taken all I can stanz!" Then Pop-Eye would eat his spinach and overpower the bad guy. Pastor Hybels says that God will bring us to moments where we just can't stand it any more. David just couldn't stand to hear Goliath mock God and the armies of Israel. This "I can't stand anymore" is one aspect of boldness!

\*\*\*\* TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR OWN LIFE. Your gifting involves "seeing" certain things. A teacher sees what needs to be taught. A person with a ministry of helps sees what leader is struggling and what needs to be done to help them. A person with a gift of mercy sees who needs financial aid. A person with a gift of healing notices all the sick. Now when you keep noticing something to the point that it deeply bothers you, **THAT IS A CONTRACTION OF BOLDNESS! PAY ATTENTION TO THAT!** Acting upon that holy discontent births ministries of all different kinds! *Without a contraction of boldness, leadership is not born.*

\*\*\*\* Take another example. Saul was chosen by God to be Israel's first king. He was anointed, they celebrated, and everything went back to normal. He had a position of leadership but wasn't yet a real leader.

Then he got news that Nahash, the Ammonite was oppressing a town in Judah. Nahash demanded their surrender and the terms of surrender was that he would gouge out the right eye of every man. Messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms of surrender to the people. The people all began to weep aloud. 1 Samuel 11:5 **Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, "What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?" Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.**

**When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger. He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.**

**V11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.**

\*\*\*\* Then Samuel said the to people, **"Come, let us go to Gilgal and there reaffirm the kingship."** They did, and had a great celebration.

WHAT REALLY BIRTHED KING SAUL INTO LEADERSHIP WAS THE CONTRACTIONS OF BOLDNESS. Boldness led to victory and as a result his leadership was clearly established. Years later, when he listened to Goliath for 40 days, he refused to act boldly. He had no boldness, because he had departed from the Lord. He had boldly attacked the enemies of Israel for almost 40 years, but habit and human boldness were not enough to come against a demonized giant. *The circumstance frightened everyone but the Holy Spirit!* After David's victory over Goliath, Saul held the position of leadership and the title of king, but David was the real "leader." He led Israel into battle. The girls sang, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." The mantle of leadership had transferred from Saul to David.

#### 4. WE HAVE A DESPERATE NEED FOR BOLD LEADERSHIP.

Our nation basically needs a savior type of leader who can boldly resist the people who hate the Constitution.

\*\*\*\* Carly Farina is a lady who became the first CEO of a major Fortune 500 company in America, Huelet Packard. She is probably going to run for President in the Republican primary. You probably have heard that the entire state of California is in an extreme drought of Dust Bowl proportions. Reservoirs that

give water to entire cities are nearly dry. Ground water has been pumped from wells until most of the wells are nearing exhaustion. It is now said that California will run completely out of water in one year unless something miraculous happens.

\*\*\*\* When Carly Farina commented about this she said something like this: “This crisis is entirely man-made. Radical environmentalists have opposed the building of a single new dam in California for the last 30 years while the population of the state has doubled.” She didn’t blame the drought on so called “man-made global warming.” She struck at the heart of the matter and boldly stated the real cause—a lack of leadership in preparing for the future as millions moved into normally dry areas.

\*\*\*\* Early in Ronald Reagan’s presidency the Air Traffic Controllers Union called for a strike. Since they were federal employees, it was illegal for them to strike. They did it anyway. President Reagan had only been on the job a short time but he acted boldly. He gave them 48 hours to get back to work or be fired. When they refused, he fired every single one and not one of them ever got their lucrative jobs back! From then on, Reagan was feared, and enemies and friends all knew that he said what he meant and meant what he said. He had been placed in a leadership position by voters, but his leadership was ESTABLISHED by bold and decisive action.

As we pray for our next presidential election, watch for the kind of boldness that marks a real leader. Pray that one will emerge from the pack that gets boldness from God!

## 5. MY OWN MINISTRY WAS BIRTHED BY A CONTRACTION OF BOLDNESS

\*\*\*\* The Bible College I attended had an annual candy sale. It was a three-year school, and the grades were freshman, juniors and seniors. Our freshman class was very large, three times the size of the senior class. We expected to win the candy sale contest. But the seniors had a very good advisor, a wise faculty member who guided them to victory. This demoralized our class. The next year we were juniors, and no one imagined we could beat the Senior Class, since now our class was much smaller than the previous year. If we couldn’t beat them when our class was so large, how could we beat them now that we were much smaller?

As our class discussed ideas I spoke up, “I know an absolutely certain way to beat the seniors.” Everyone looked at me. I quoted a proverb, “The Bible says, ‘The hand of the diligent will rule’ (Proverbs 12:24 KJV). All we have to do is be more diligent than the seniors and we will beat them.”

This cheered up my classmates. I was certain we could win and I boldly began to sell the candy. My two roommates followed my example. Together we won the first, second and third individual prizes for candy sales. Our junior class won the prize for most total sales. The seniors didn’t win a single thing.

What I experienced was a CONTRACTION OF BOLDNESS and my actions led our junior class to victory. I was not class president and had no title of leadership. But my bold action led the others.

\*\*\*\* When I began to work in a church I became the first bus captain. Our little town only had 80 inhabitants. Most people drove from other towns to attend the church. The church was in Goshen, Oregon and I lived in Glenwood. Across the Willamette River was a housing development of the City of Springfield. The pastor told me, “Make sure you do not start any more bus routes because you’ll be in some other pastor’s territory and we don’t want to make enemies.”

Every night when I came home I’d look across the river and see those houses and wonder, “Is anyone asking those kids to attend church?” One day the Holy Spirit spoke to me: “GO START A BUS ROUTE ACROSS THE RIVER.” I said, “Lord, the pastor said not to.” The Holy Spirit said, “I am telling you to do it and do it right now.”

I drove over the bridge and parked in that housing development. I was trembling. I said, “Lord, if I sign up only a few kids, I’m dead. You’ve got to give me a whole bunch of kids so that the pastor will know that no other church is caring about these kids. Then I can show him the enlistment cards and get his permission to start a bus route.”

I BOLDLY knocked on the first door. I said, “Hi. My name is Wes and I’m from Goshen Assembly of God. We *have* a bus route in this area and I was wondering, do your children go to church anywhere?”

The little freckled faced girl looked at her mother and said, “Mom. He looks just like my bus captain from California.” That family signed up their kids and the girl happened to be the queen of the neighborhood.

She showed me where all the other kids lived, and since she had rode busses to church in California, she was a very effective salesman to help me sign them up. I soon had 30 to 40 children following me in a mob, jumping and rejoicing. I took a stack of enlistment cards to the pastor and with a huge grin I told him what God had said and showed him the proof that no other pastor was getting those kids for church. He quickly gave me permission to start a bus route there.

It wasn't long after that event that I got on staff as a part time Associate. In six months I became a full time staff member, and now 41 years later, I'm still in full time ministry. But what launched me into full time ministry was a CONTRACTION OF BOLDNESS. When I acted boldly upon direction from the Holy Spirit I had such success that I was soon promoted to run the entire bus ministry.

\*\*\*\* The apostle Paul was an effective leader from prison because of his bold example. Philippians 1:12-14 **Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.**

\*\*\*\* THE EARLY CHURCH PRAYED FOR BOLDNESS!

**“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable our servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”** (Acts 4:29-31).

\*\*\*\* Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabrina were in attendance at a meeting of religious leaders and the Communist Party of Romania. Stalin was leader of Russia, and communism had taken over the nation of Romania. One church leader after another arose to proclaim how the church and the communists could work hand in hand and that there was no problem with Communism.

Sabrina was seized with a contraction of boldness. She whispered to her husband, “Richard, stand up and remove this spittle from the face of Christ.” He said to her, “If I do, you'll lose your husband.” She said back to him, “I do not wish to have a coward for a husband.”

At that he arose and everyone expected him to say something like the others had said. Instead, he spoke of the glorious superiority of Christ and the hollow futility of atheistic communism. As he boldly spoke the whole room began to cheer. He was able to slip out a back door. Soon afterward he was arrested. Both Richard and Sabrina spent many years in prison. Sabrina herself had to eat rats and grass to survive in a work camp. Richard spent years in solitary confinement. But they survived to become leaders of the underground church, formed JESUS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD, and led the Body of Christ world-wide into ministry to the families of martyrs. Their ministry is now called VOICE OF THE MARTYRS. They lived into their late 90's and saw the downfall of communism in Romania.

While his Lutheran pastorate gave him a small position of leadership on a local level, it was the CONTRACTION OF BOLDNESS that launched him into leadership that has affected the entire world.

## 6. THE SEVENTH PILLAR OF LEADERSHIP IS A SERVANT'S HEART.

Jesus said, **“The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves”** (Luke 22:25-28).

All kinds of examples of servant leadership can be given, because the most successful leaders are all servants. Mother Theresa is a great example. She said, “We cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.” She set an example of serving the poor, the diseased, and people society considered worthless. Why? Because God had inspired her to believe those people had VALUE.

\*\*\*\* *You cannot really serve anyone unless you believe they have value. Why does a mother serve a baby? Because the baby is precious!* You could burn down the house and steal the car but don't touch the baby! The baby would be worth more than all the mother's possessions and more than her own life. But that same mother would change the baby, burp the baby, nurse the baby, play with the baby, talk to the baby, cuddle the baby, put the baby to sleep, and then check the cradle every now and then to make sure the baby is breathing! Where does all that serving come from? It comes from a heart that believes the baby is the most precious thing!

\*\*\*\* I have a burden to serve native pastors around the world. Why do I want to serve them? Because I believe they are the feet of Jesus. God told me once to "love me like the women who anointed my feet." Then he told me, "My pastors are the feet of the body of Christ. As the feet carry the weight of the body, my pastors carry the weight of responsibility for the church and like the feet, they take the most abuse. Pour your love on pastors."

So because I have a deep value for them, I want to help them. I invite you to constantly pray for me in this area. My problem is that I don't know how to verify the needs that I hear about other than through discernment. Boots on the ground to inspect the needs and make sure there is no deception is greatly needed. If I could figure out how to do that, perhaps I could serve more.

My big regret in life is that I am only doing beautiful things for a few native pastors. In so many poor countries, these wonderful leaders die for lack of a few hundred dollars. Their children die, their wives die, because they are so very poor. Yet they carry the priceless gospel. Who wants to serve them? Who values them?

Who will serve the elderly in nursing homes? Only someone who believes they have value, that they are priceless human souls even though their frail bodies are failing.

Who will volunteer to teach children and take children to camps and serve as counselors? People who realize children are the "good ground of Matthew 13." I served children so hard for the first 8 ½ years of my ministry because God told me how precious children were to him.

Who will serve the sex traffic victims, sold into slavery and guarded by dangerous men? Only someone who thinks these young girls are precious.

To me, the whole idea of a servant's heart comes from sharing God's opinion of the worth of a person.

Paul wrote, "**As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you,**" (1 Thessalonians 2:6-9).

**CLOSING:** For the last 20 years or more of my ministry I've prayed, "Lord, use me to bring you MASSIVE glory." Once God spoke to me, "*The desire to bring me massive glory is really a call to prayer because you can never bring me massive glory unless you keep your spirit sweet so that you can open a door for me in prayer. Then I will come through the door and do the really great and massive things you could never do.*" Then God told me five ways to bring him glory. Basic glory is living a life of love and letting the fruits of the Spirit emanate out of your life. Added glory is when you win a soul. When Peter first preached thousands were "added" to the church. Multiplied glory is when you train a leader. When the apostles released deacons for ministry "in those days the number of disciples was multiplied." Great glory is when you open a door for God in prayer so that really great things can be done. Compound interest glory is when you live a life of faithfulness. The little things, done day after day, have a compounding effect and result in an exponential curve of influence and effectiveness. Put them all together, and you'll bring God MASSIVE GLORY.

For 41 years I've never considered that I have done anything yet that brings MASSIVE glory to God. My prayer is incessant, my desire unchanging. Yet everything I do seems so small. Now that I'm 65, I realize more than ever that life is short. Now that America is in a free fall, morally and great calamitous judgments are coming one after another I realize I *must* spend more time in prayer. I must bring God

massive glory—and how will my little brief common and single life ever result in that? I WILL HAVE TO PRAY!

\*\*\*\* I DO NOT CONSIDER MYSELF AN AUTHORITY ON LEADERSHIP. However, my opinion is this: The key to all seven pillars of leadership remains a desire to bring glory to God. That desire takes us into prayer and total dependency upon God so that God gets the glory for our Vision. God gets the glory for our ability to communicate. God gets the glory for our people skills. God gets the glory for our competence. King David gave God the glory for his competence as a warrior. 2 Samuel 22:35 **He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.** God gets the glory for our boldness because we know it came and comes from him. And God gets all the glory for our serving hearts because it is the love of God that lets us know the value of a leper, the value of a starving child, the value of the soul of a rich arrogant business man.

So I have not desired leadership. I have desired God. As small as I am, and as brief as my life is, I continue to pray that God will use my life to bring MASSIVE GLORY TO HIS NAME. It is my undying hope against hope that somehow, when it's all said and done, when it's all over, that my life can be summed up by hearing God say, "Well done. You *did* bring MASSIVE GLORY to my name." Then Jesus and I will rejoice and laugh. When I got saved I was filled with joyous laughter but I wouldn't let it out because I didn't want to be disruptive. I've never felt such intense joy since. But someday, when God shows me the fruit of my life, I hope to be filled with that same joy and this time I am going to let it out. I expect that Jesus and I will laugh for joy together.

\*\*\*\* In a recent meeting I was preaching about being defined as THE GENERATION OF PRAYER. I shared how much I desired to bring God glory, and that God was stirring me to pray now more than ever as the only way to insure that massive glory would be brought to his name. I shared that over the years I had led a few thousand souls to Christ, and several thousand have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit through my ministry. I've seen God heal at least several hundred people in very outstanding healing miracles. But it all looks very small to me, as if my prayer would never be answered, and I would only end up bringing God *some* glory instead of a MASSIVE AMOUNT. I said that I would continue to pray that prayer for my entire life and urged everyone there to pray the same prayer.

One of the young men at that church flows in the prophetic and told the pastor he had a "word" for me and wanted to give it to me publicly. At the close of the service this young man said that as he listened to me God reminded him of the preacher who led one little boy to Christ. It was a snowy day in England and only two elderly women and one little boy came to church. The preacher spoke on missions with such passion that the little boy became a missionary—one of the greatest ever, who opened up Africa.

Then this man prophesied to me, "The Lord says I have hidden from you the fruit and the glory to protect you. But you have called prophets forward. You've called evangelists to their field. You've called pastors to their shepherding. You've called teachers to their desk. The Lord says, "You have released the five-fold ministry to the church. The Lord says only you and he know the odds that have come against you. Only you know and he knows the things he did to make you humble and keep your heart pure so that man could not lift you up, so you could not be a man to take the glory. But you stayed a humble man. The Lord says you have not even begun to see the generation upon generation upon generation of the seeds you've planted, of missionaries God's going to send around the world.

When America is done, when the great harvest of the end times comes, it will reap the men and women and children and grandchildren that you have touched.

But in heaven you'll see. The Father will rip it all aside and He'll let you peek into what's coming and you'll know. The Lord says, "I'm so proud of you because through good times and bad you've had the same message. In good times and bad you've encouraged. In good times and bad you let Him use you the way He chose. You have been faithful. And it's not done. And it's not done, says the Lord."

It's comforting to think that God is somehow answering my prayer, even though I cannot see it. Perhaps you will arise to be a leader. Perhaps you will become a missionary. Perhaps you will become a soul winner and an intercessor. Just be the little lamp that PLUGS IN. Many will come to your light. I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.