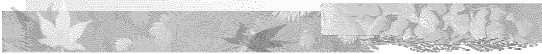


**The Development of a Spiritual Leader**



J. Robert Clinton, *The Making of a Leader*

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**Definition of a Leader**

A leader is a person with

- A God-given capacity
- A God-given responsibility to *influence*
- A specific group of God's people
- Toward God's purposes for the group

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**Six Phases in the Developmental Process of a Spiritual Leader**

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV	Phase V	Phase VI
Sovereign Foundations	Inner-Life Growth	Ministry Maturing	Life Maturing	Convergence	Afterglow

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### I. Sovereign Foundations

- Begins at birth
- God works providentially through family, environment and historical events.
- God works sovereignly. Subject has little control over what happens
- God's hand is not always evident to the subject. Many things only become visible later in life
- God is laying foundations

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### II. Inner-Life Growth

- Emerging leader seeks to know God in a more personal, intimate way.
- Importance of prayer and hearing God.
- Leadership potential is identified.
- God provides crucial experiences to test the leader
- Leader becomes involved in some form of ministry.
- Grows in discernment, understanding, and obedience
- A proper, godly response from the leader allows God to teach the lessons He desires.
- Failure to learn means the lessons must be repeated.

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### III. Ministry Maturing

- Leader begins to experiment with spiritual gifts
- May get additional training.
- Focus is on discovering and developing ministry skills
- God focuses on two things:
  - Identify gifts and skills and using them more effectively
  - Gaining a better understanding of the Body of Christ and how he/she fits into it.
- Primary focus of Phases I, II, III is God working *in* the believer, not through him or her

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**IV. Life Maturing**

- Knows and is using spiritual gifts. Has a sense of priority of what is their best and most effective use.
- Results in a mature fruitfulness.
- May experience isolation, crisis and conflict. Key task is to respond positively to the experiences God ordains.
- Communion with God becomes more important and is the basis for ministry.

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**V. Convergence**

- God moves leader into a role where gift-mix and experience is maximized
- Leader prioritizes and maximizes ministry.
- Leader's task is to watch and trust God as He moves the leader into a ministry that embodies all the development of the preceding phases.
- Some leaders do not achieve this level
  - Lack of personal development, plateau
  - Lack of opportunity in the organization

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**VI. Afterglow or Celebration**

- Leader has broader influence and recognition based on a lifetime of contacts and relationships.
- People seek out the leader because of his or her proven track record in following God.
- The leader's wisdom benefits many others.

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