THE MID-POINT CAREER CHANGE: THRIVING IN YOUR CALL TO CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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Stages of workplace culture shock

1. Honeymoon
2. Anxiety
3. Adjustment
4. Acceptance
THE RESULTS OF A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BIBLICAL LEADERS

1. Few leaders finish well
2. Leadership is difficult
3. God’s enabling presence is the essential ingredient of successful leadership
4. Spiritual leadership can make a difference
CHARACTERISTICS OF FINISHING WELL

- They maintain a personal vibrant relationship with God right up to the end.

- They maintain a learning posture and can learn from various kinds of sources – life especially.

- They manifest Christlikeness in character as evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

- Truth is lived out in their lives so that convictions and promises of God are seen to be real.

- They leave behind one or more ultimate contributions.

- They walk with a growing awareness of a sense of destiny and see some or all of it fulfilled.
WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO FINISHING WELL?

- Finances – their use and abuse
- Power – its abuse
- Pride – which leads to downfall
- Illicit relationships
- Family – critical issues
- Plateauing

WHAT ARE THE ENHANCEMENTS TO FINISHING WELL?

- Perspective
- Renewal
- Disciplines
- Learning posture
- Mentors
Adoption of the sovereign mindset

A sovereign mindset is a way of viewing life’s activities to respond to God’s purposes in them.

Paul had a leadership value: he sought to always see God’s hand in his circumstances as part of God’s plan for developing him as a leader.
- For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, Ephesians 3:1 (NKJV)

- I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called. Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

- So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places. Philippians 1:13 (KJV)

- Don’t be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but share also in the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 2 Timothy 1:8 (NIV)

- Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy [our] brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow laborer. Philemon 1:1 (KJV)

- Yet for love’s sake I rather appeal to you, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Philemon 1:9 (NKJV)
A sovereign mindset is a way of viewing life's activities so as to see and respond to God's purposes in them.

FOUR KEYS TO PAUL'S SOVEREIGN MINDSET INCLUDE

1. Paul recognized God's hand in life happenings—no matter who or what the immediate cause.
2. Paul submitted to God's deeper purposes in life happenings.
3. Paul learned and used the lessons derived from these life happenings.
4. Paul shared those lessons (and God's provision in them) with others.
FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-7

- God will meet us in deep processing.
- We are helped in order to help.
- Deep processing tests our own value in the sufficiency of Christ.
- Our own development through processing gives us hope that our followers can also know the sufficiency of Christ in their deep processing.

FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-11

- We really trust in God when we come to the end of our own resources.
- Deep processing is meant to be shared.
- Deep processing shared brings partnership in prayer.
- God receives much more praise when our situation is solved.
PAUL HAD A SOVEREIGN MINDSET. HE KEPT IT TILL THE END. IT WAS ONE OF THE SECRETS OF HIS FINISHING WELL. THIS LEADERSHIP VALUE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO A CHRISTIAN VIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LEADER.
FINISH WELL!