

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Ray Evans

10 Publishing
a division of **10**ofthose.com

Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (Anglicised Edition). Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica (formerly International Bible Society). Used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Publishers. All rights reserved. 'NIV' is a registered trademark of Biblica. UK trademark number 1448790.

Copyright © 2016 by Ray Evans

First published in Great Britain in 2016

The right of Ray Evans to be identified as the Author of this Work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher or the Copyright Licensing Agency.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-910587-74-4

Designed by Diane Warnes

Printed in Denmark by Nørhaven

10Publishing, a division of 10ofthose.com

Unit C, Tomlinson Road, Leyland, PR25 2DY, England

Email: info@10ofthose.com

Website: www.10ofthose.com

CONTENTS



Introduction	11
Life and Leadership	15
Local Church Leadership	35
An Article That Described Me	41
A Talk That Enlightened Me	45
A Passage That Helped Me	49
A Habit That Shaped Me	53
An Observation That Startled Me	57
The Challenges That Still Face Me	59
Conclusion	63
Notes	69
Further Reading	73

INTRODUCTION



We hear the word leadership a lot, but what exactly does it mean? Derek Prime, an experienced Christian leader quotes this definition, '[Leadership is] the ability to encourage and equip other leaders.'¹ That seems like an enormous task, doesn't it? Not one to be taken on lightly... if at all. But what if you feel God is calling you into that very position?

If that is so, we will soon find ourselves faced with a myriad of questions.

'How can I be a leader? How can I lead others – God's people... even God's leaders! I don't think so... I'm not even sure how I'd start to work that out, even if God wanted me to do it! I'm not up to it. I can't do it... maybe God will call someone else.'

If that sounds like you, you're in good company. Moses, that great leader of God's people, couldn't quite get his head around what he was being asked to do when God called him into leadership of his people, Israel. God's call was on his life, but Moses balked at the whole idea. Frankly, he didn't feel equal to the task (see Ex. 3 and 4).

Of course, with hindsight, we can see that it was obvious that the Lord had been preparing him for the job he was calling him to do; God always equips us when he asks us to step up or step out. A spell at the top of the ancient Egyptian world, hard knocks in the school of life – where Moses faced misunderstanding and personal rejection – and the difficult years of managing the unruly on a daily basis (even if it was a flock of sheep!) had all been part of God's wonderful preparation of this great servant-leader. It is worth checking out C.S. Lewis's great insights into those 'long, monotonous years of adversity'.²

As you may be pondering the question, 'Does the Lord want me involved in leading his people in some way?', you too may also be questioning whether you are 'fit for purpose'.

One part of answering that question is to recognise that the Lord has been moulding you into the person he wants you to be – and that he has been doing that all your life.³ Like Moses, many of us can't see what the Lord is or has been accomplishing in us, and others can. We need encouragement to reflect on all that God has been doing and preparing us for.

Professor Donald Macleod, former principal of the Free Church College, Edinburgh, was once asked about the need for an assured 'call' to the ministry before taking a change of life direction. I heard his response and it surprised me. He said that in his own experience, and his colleagues' opinion, those with a very strong sense of 'call' were often the least capable, and those with a very questioning and even unsure sense, were those with greater ability. Those with a *willingness to serve*, as their church requested them, had gone on to be a blessing to the cause of Christ.⁴ So if you don't feel up to the job, or are questioning whether God is asking this of you at all, don't let that put you off exploring what the Lord may have for you in terms of leadership.

I certainly couldn't see in myself 'leadership qualities' before I got involved in serving his people. I started in (very) small ways, but as others encouraged me, and with my willingness to serve, it led to training and then taking on the responsibility of being a pastor of a church. I had only the vaguest sense that I had 'leadership capability'. But looking back – as you may do too – it is possible to see that the various experiences the Lord allows can all be used by him to make a potential leader for his people.