

# The Seduction of the Leader

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God never gives a leader an easy task - when in the Bible did God give someone an easy job?

**Strengths that are vulnerable to temptation, especially if the leader becomes stressed:**

### **Risk-taking**

- Leaders are action-oriented; prefer change
- Organizations have a tendency to desire “sameness;” are afraid of change
- When the value of mission goes down and the value of survival goes up, don't take risks for the sake of taking risks.
- Low tolerance for boredom does not constitute a good leader
- Boredom is a dangerous experience for a leader
- Wise leaders have a relentless commitment to building accountability into the structures of their life and work; someone should always know where you are – don't hide

### **Superb Verbal Skills**

- Leaders can talk; they understand the power of words
- When the pressure's on, people who are very good with words tend to misuse them – distort the truth to distort the outcome. Be careful – people are watching!
- Leaders should practice the spiritual discipline of silence – it's hard to talk without sinning. Set aside extended periods of time to not speak. Meditate, be still, listen.
- You can live without getting the last word.
- You can live without winning every argument.

### **Strategic Thinking**

- Leaders stay up nights thinking about this – it's a part of their brain.
- You must live with a chronic sense of sanctified dissatisfaction with the way things are.
- The danger is in getting focused on ME and forgetting other people – they become tools that you can use to help you.
- One of the most strategic things you can do is serve in non-strategic positions - something that won't help your career at all – and don't tell anyone about it.

### **Passion**

- Leaders love to be gripped by an intense sense of urgency' it's not draining to them.
- Resistance, inertia and complaints will not be overcome by a passionate leader.
- A church can drift from mission to complaint management.
- Danger – passion can get misdirected, addictive.
- Leaders need to become experts on passion management – monitor your passion for God and your family.