

# Leadership Development - Part 4

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## I. Observations.

### A. Life begins at 18.

1. Hebrew understanding accepted a boy at 18 but not as a leader.
2. Who we are is really important and teenagers ask this.
3. Teens need various experiences.
  - a. We are children of God.
  - b. We are servants of God.

### B. In the 20's we make major decisions.

1. Career decisions.
2. Marriage decisions.

### C. We contribute to life at 30.

1. We get focus.
2. Most of us know who we are.

### D. We invest in the 50s.

1. This is where we invest in others.
2. We get in touch with our mortality.
3. We wrestle with decisions of the past.
4. Physically we are not what we used to be.
5. Two problems are dabbling and plateauing.
6. We want to finish well and leave a legacy and finish well.

## II. God is responsible for our development.

### A. We need to make a time line with three phases.

1. Ministry foundation.

2. Ministry growth.
3. Ministry uniqueness.

B. God sovereignly develops your life.

1. Family background influences this.
2. Social and spiritual influences this.
  - a. Maybe you didn't get followed up.
  - b. Others have had great follow up.

C. Specific responsibilities help us grow.

1. Spiritual and ministry development.
2. God uses us uniquely.
3. We begin to understand our focus and philosophy of ministry.
4. While we focus on ministry God is developing other areas of life.
5. A boundary phase becomes important.
  - a. Our time is limited and we have to decide what to commit to.
  - b. Some decide to come on staff full-time with groups like Navigators.
  - c. I needed much time to make this decision.
6. A second boundary comes up when we evaluate our ministry decisions.
  - a. Some continue in what they are doing.
  - b. Some change ministries.
7. As we age we become more aware of who we are and want to focus more.
8. Finally we develop unique ministries.
  - a. We fit our giftedness to our jobs.
  - b. This will never be perfect but we adjust as best we can.
  - c. Our awareness of who we are comes from evaluating experiences.
9. We desire all to come to convergence where our gifts are used to the most effectiveness.

10. As we grow our spiritual aspect is more important than even our gifts.
  - a. Our position in Christ is preeminent.
  - b. Our being is more important than our doing.
  - c. Ministry become less important as we age.

D. Comments.

1. Obedience is primary.
2. Convergence is our goal.
  - a. Understanding our gifts.
  - b. Considering our goals.
  - c. Considering our circumstances.
  - d. Maturity.
  - d. There are other factors.
3. Where we have choices we need to move toward convergence.
  - a. We need to find where we fit.
  - b. We need patience in this process.
4. Variables that affect our convergence.
  - a. Time.
  - b. Processing.
  - c. God's use of our circumstances and our response.
  - d. People develop toward convergence if they respond positively to God's dealings with us.
  - e. We might be ignorant of God's dealings or we might rebel.
5. We all have a unique time line and God deals with us uniquely.
6. We have identified social based profiles for couples and singles.

III. Boundary processing and the right response. (Psalm 42)

- A. The speaker reads psalm 42.

1. Verses 3 and 10 express the psalmist's trouble.
2. He also expressed his hope in God.
3. Some missionaries reentering their home countries have problems.
4. Some missionaries had supervisory responsibilities on the field but experienced trouble with fellow missionaries.
  - a. He considered leaving ministry.
  - b. He reflected on his negative experience.
  - c. He embraced new opportunities and was promoted.
5. I want to give you a picture of this boundary process.
  - a. I already have an idea of what you're going to experience.
  - b. I want to help you prepare.

B. Leaders are better prepared than followers.

1. Jesus said if your eye is light your whole body is light.
2. Jesus gave his followers radical new perspective.
3. How we see things is crucial.

C. Seven leadership perspectives.

1. View present ministry in light of future opportunities.
2. Forewarned is forearmed; How we respond is crucial.
3. Boundary processing provides unique opportunities.
4. You can get to know God better.
5. Reflect on how God has led you.
6. You will come through boundaries.
7. Boundaries occur when two developmental phases come together.

D. Boundary processing.

1. Tozer left his present church quickly because they didn't believe in conversion.
2. This boundary shift allowed him to operate in his gift.

3. Boundaries have different time lengths.
4. A fellow is graduating with a Ph.D. and his first boundary was six years.
5. I took six years to move from business to full-time ministry.

E. A boundary has three stages.

1. Enter stage.
2. Evaluation stage until the turning point where we look forward.
3. Decision stage where we prepare for the new future.

F. Destiny occurs in three stages.

1. Preparation; Moses in Egypt.
2. Revelation; Moses and the burning bush.
3. Fulfillment; the Exodus.

G. Conflict is a major way boundaries occur in our lives.

1. Life crises make us question why we are here.
2. War also is a crisis.

H. Paradigm shifts move us to new boundaries.

1. My son operates in a charismatic way.
2. I operate in conservative evangelicalism.
3. I had to test my son's gift to see if it were true.
4. God still reveals things today.

I. Isolation can get us to rethink our position in ministry.

1. I became depressed once in isolation.
2. That helped me understand others in depression.
3. We can choose to separate in order to know God better.

J. Negative preparation.

1. Thinking that the grass is greener on the other side.

2. God brings negative things into our lives so that we will willingly go into the next ministry situation.

K. Divine contacts that God initiates get us to move.

L. We make a lordship commitment more than once when God wants to move us into new areas.

M. Training progress like schooling can move us in new directions.

N. Destiny revelation can move us.

O. Sovereign guidance can move us.

H. What happens as we move through these boundaries stages?

1. Retrospective reflection.

2. Decision making resulting in a forward look.