



Clergy – Peer Learning

Personal Development for Leading Change – Unit 1, Session 2

“How to Lead Change through Breakthrough Prayer”

Handouts

Flood Gates

Elements of Coachability

- 1) *Teachability* – “your willingness to own and exercise your capacity for learning beyond what is currently safe and familiar to you.” (p. 13)
- 2) *Actionability* – “willingness of an inspired leader (or team, or congregation) to embrace teachability, plus the addition of bravery to step forward and actually implement initially uncomfortable new ways of leading and ministering.” (p. 15)
- 3) *Accountability* - “being accountable to others around you to actually put into practice new, unfamiliar skills that you have learned.” (p. 24)

Three types of Breakthrough Prayer

- 1) Threshold Prayer – “brings in prayer the current situation or reality to the threshold of God’s universe-changing, all powerful presence so God can do what we cannot.” (p. 35) This type of prayer is most useful when a church or ministry isn’t certain what needs to happen next but is definitely certain that something needs to change. (pp. 34-35)
- 2) Archer’s Prayer – “breakthrough prayer with a target. Archer’s prayer happens when a church decides to specifically pray together on behalf of the need or hope, asking for breakthroughs that are impossible without God’s miraculous actions, intervention, or direction.” (p. 39)
- 3) Prevailing Prayer – “Praying for breakthroughs becomes who the church is and what it does at every level. All else becomes secondary to corporate and individual prayer as the body of Christ.” (pp. 42-43).

Prayer Approaches

- 1) *Silent versus spoken prayer* – God welcomes and hears all prayer, whether it utilizes spoken words or is offered silently. (p. 45)
- 2) *Touch versus no-touch prayer* – God’s Spirit can work powerfully with or without touch during prayer. Touch is optional so that all are made to feel comfortable. (p. 45).
- 3) *Lights-on / Lights off prayer* – There are times when prayer feels full of God’s light and presence (lights on), and times when no tangible presence of God can be sensed (lights off). God is equally attentive to both. (pp. 45-46)

- 4) Prayer walking – Instead of sitting and praying, walking the areas of your church or community while praying for the spaces or needs of the community. (pp. 46 – 50).

Leadership Components

- *Spiritual Shepherd*: “**Why is this God’s call for us**”? Under the leadership of a pastor whose proclivity is toward the primary leadership component of *Spiritual Shepherd*, a congregation’s heart grows tender in exploring the “why” of life’s deepest questions and recognizing God’s presence within their community of the faithful. (p. 52-53)
- *Vision Crier*: “**Where are we going**”? A leader who is primarily a *Vision Crier* is invigorated by sharing ideas and possibilities to the question of “Where are we going?”
- *Systems / Task Organizer*: “**How will we get there**”? This type of leader is not energized by riding the train but by building the tracks. If the *Spiritual Shepherd* brings “heart” and the *Vision Crier* provides “zest”, the *Systems / Task Organizer* contributes the “grit” that makes things happen.

Conflux Moments

- Conflux moments are what transform your church from a place of occasional keystrokes into that irresistible, captivating, spiritual-growth-motivating concerto of discipleship resourced by the Holy Spirit and described in Acts 2. (p. 87)
- Specifically, conflux moments represents a combustive, synergistic intersection – a living encounter – between you and the heart of God. It’s a converging moment of new, divinely communicated clarity, a mini or major breakthrough that can be almost visceral (and is, for some). (pp. 87 & 88)
- **Examples:**
 - o *Cognitive learning*: “new, life-changing, conviction-prompting information from scripture, reading or listening”. (p. 88)
 - o *Intellectual insight*: “new, dawning discernment that has to do with faith, God, or Jesus – sometimes happening in the midst of grappling with a decision, crisis, or challenge – resulting in your forward spiritual movement”. (p. 88)
 - o *Heart conviction* – “new, piercing perspicacity of belief at the emotional or intuitive level, changing your choices or behavior”. (p. 88)
 - o *Spiritual nudge* – “a brief moment when you experience awareness of God’s tangible presence, or a Spirit-prompted emotion, such as tears, happiness, hope, penitence, joy”. (p. 88)

Core Worship Service Essentials

- 1) Music – that plucks the heartstrings and inspires emotion. Music that is intended to offer God a spiritual backdrop upon which to work with us. (pp. 101-102)
- 2) Worship Service Flow – smooth and simple that is both encouraging and expectant, rather than a format that feels like a meeting marching through a wide variety of separate agenda items. (p. 102)

- 3) Sermon or Message – carefully prepared that brings both scripture with new learning or illumination, and at least one soul shifting new insight. (p. 102)
- 4) Pauses for Silence – artfully timed, and comfortable so my spirit as a worship attendee can breathe, listen, and receive. In the pauses, I become aware of God’s presence in the room and within me. (p. 102)
- 5) Breakthrough Prayer – the speaker or congregation asks God to break through in my life and through our church with new, miraculous possibilities. This moves me, and us to look up and out. (p. 102)
- 6) Personal or Collective conflux moments – that result in breakthroughs that are recognized, named, and celebrated. (p. 102)

Pastor’s Role in Leadership

- *Leader Step #1* – In every setting possible of any size, continue to define and give examples of what genuine disciples of Christ are like – and not like. (p. 107)
 - o Galatians 5:22-23 – “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”.
- *Leader Step #2* – Begin the practice of asking – whenever a challenge, decision, or disagreement arises – “How can this provide a conflux moment for us to deepen our faith, fuel our discipleship together, and discern God’s guidance forward?” Each time you ask that question, courageously give facilitation to the discussion that follows. (p. 111)

Stratagem for Storms

- “It is in the transformational storms of change where genuine spiritual growth takes place”. (p. 150)
- Calming the Crew during the Storm Season:
 - o *Fueling Spiritual Shepherds* – a wise leader of change will help set the stage for God’s Spirit to affirm the answer to “**Why** is this God’s call, God’s journey, for us? (p. 151)
 - o *Fueling Vision Criers* – The Vision Criers are asking “**Where** are we going?” These leaders among your membership are usually impatient for changes and improvements to happen and characteristically believe that the sky is the limit. Leaders need to involve those with this component in the Flood Gate of Breakthrough Prayer to yield a favorable dividend. (p. 153).
 - o *Fueling Systems / Task Organizers* – Let your Systems/Task Organizers, who are concerned with **how** we will get there, have full view of the steps that have been taken thus far related to change, and what is coming next. Invite them to lead the way to “git’ er done”, with plenty of room to own specific undertaking, as well as, receiving the privilege of reporting on completion. (p. 155)