

## **Three Goals for Spiritual Leaders**

### **By Bob Young**

#### **First, set your vision**

Develop a vision; a strong vision is essential to successful ministry. Sometimes ministries seem to succeed without a vision. One must recognize that every ministry can be even stronger by working purposefully with God on God's agenda in this world. "If we aim at nothing, we'll hit it every time; we'll always be successful." When we try to live without a clear purpose or goal and without concrete plans for reaching the goals, honesty will cause us to admit we are failing to be all that we could be with God's power and spirit.

Set specific goals and measure the results; develop a plan. Identify, shape, and refine the vision. It is extremely self-indulgent to expect God to fit into his agenda what accidentally comes your way. In a world filled with both good and evil influences, it is extremely naïve to assume that whatever comes our way is always of God. God has clearly revealed his eternal plan, and his expectation is that his plan also be our plan. So let us not hesitate to develop a vision for that plan.

Set your own personal vision, and learn how to lead the church in vision-casting. Such is an essential responsibility of a leader.

#### **Second, grow your skill set**

Everyone can improve. Once you set expectations, it is time to strengthen the points of weakness. We play to our strengths and work on our weaknesses. That often means doing things we would rather not do. It means that in ministry I cannot spend all of my time doing the things I like best.

To grow as a spiritual leader, consider the biblical foundations and teachings about leadership to determine your desired leadership skill set—developing your spiritual life and example, knowledge of and personal application of the Word, demonstrating how to apply the Bible in your own life and teaching and counseling about how to sharpen Bible application; mentoring and equipping members and facilitating ministry; and developing future leaders. These are some of the things spiritual leaders do in the Bible. Probably none of us will excel in all of them, but we can grow our leadership skills sets.

#### **Third, grow your relationships**

Become more outwardly focused; identify those whom you can touch and help. Most of us touch lots of people every day. Develop relational bridges of influence and example to advance the kingdom.

Getting back to the foundation of what it means to be church in the contemporary world means intentionally, purposefully doing God's work. God opens doors that are unseen to those who are not prayerfully looking beyond the obvious. God wants his people to be his message, his model of reconciliation. A primary role of spiritual leadership is developing kingdom people—finding new people and growing the people who are already present.