Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
Kentucky State University
Spiritual Leadership Retreat for KSU Chi Alpha Student Leaders
October 12-13, 2024

Theme: Biblical Model of Spiritual Leadership

DAY 1

What is Spiritual Leadership?

- Spiritual leadership is a combination of God's endowed natural and spiritual qualities that are used to influence people to achieve God's goals and purposes in alignment with biblical truths.

- **Believing, affirming, and earnestly defending Biblical Truths:**
  - Chi Alpha functions as interdenominational organization on the campus of Kentucky State University.

  - However, Chi Alpha is a student Christian organization founded by the Assemblies of God that articulates **16 Fundamental Truths**. See https://ag.org/beliefs/statement-of-fundamental-truths

Dimensions of Spiritual Leadership

1. **Starts with accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord**

   - You must be born again (John 3)
   - You must first become the follower of Christ before you can lead others.

2. **Developing and demonstrating Christ Like Character** – Godly Fruit.
   - Christ's disciples will be recognized by their fruit. To be a spiritual leader you must show evidence of godliness in your character .

     - A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (Mathew 7:18-20).

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- It is important to be cultivating fruit continually maturing as you follow Jesus. This will be clearly seen as the work of the Holy Spirit in your life produces **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**. (Galatians 5:22-23)

- You cannot produce this fruit on your own, for apart from Christ you can do nothing. (John 15:5).

- Like Apostle Pau believe and claim, "I can do all things in Christ, who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

3. **Calling** – Called to Lead God's People

- Following Jesus is foundational to being His disciple.

  The following bible passages, while commanding believers to make disciples, imply that they must first know Christ's teachings themselves before they can teach others.

- A leader must first be a follower of Christ.
  - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" (Matthew 16:24)

  - This passage clearly shows that to lead others to and in faith, you must first follow Christ and be an example of His teachings.

4. **Practicing spiritual disciplines**

Spiritual disciplines are critical to the ongoing spiritual growth and maturing of all believers. Spiritual leaders must develop daily habits to ensure their own growth. The habits that God uses to grow the believer's spiritual maturity include: spending time alone with God in studying His word (the Bible), prayer and fasting, worship, and service.

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Other Characteristics or Qualities Spiritual Leaders Must cultivate	
Conviction	Embracing and defending sound doctrines (Jude 3).
Community / Connection	Living authentically in close relationships and actively participating in Local Church life (Hebrews 10:25)
Commission	Making Disciples who Makes Disciples who Makes Disciples involves: 1) Obeying the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). 2) Training others to lead and teach (2 Timothy 2:2). 3) Modeling Christ-like behavior (1 Corinthians 11:1). 4) Bearing spiritual fruit that multiplies (John 15:8). 5) Living in loving relationships within the community of believers (John 13:34-35).
Contact	Investing in the lives of others with the love of Christ and friendship by: 1) Teaching and mentoring (2 Timothy 2:2). 2) Sharing life and relationships (1 Thessalonians 2:8). 3) Encouraging and supporting (Hebrews 10:24-25). 4) Serving with humility (Philippians 2:3-4). 5) Loving selflessly (John 13:34-35).
Contribution	Giving generously to God's work is: 1) An act of faith and trust (Proverbs 3:9-10). 2) A joyful, willing offering (2 Corinthians 9:7). 3) A way to honor God (Malachi 3:10). 4) A reflection of Christ's generosity (Acts 20:35).
Commitment	Standing firm through difficulties by: 1) Relying on God's strength (Ephesians 6:10-11). 2) Persevering with hope (Romans 5:3-5). 3) Casting burdens on God (Psalm 55:22). 4) Staying rooted in prayer and God's Word (Philippians 4:6-7). 5) Fixing our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).
Capacity	Ability to lead by serving caring for people (Ephesians 4:11-13)
Chemistry	Relating well with other leaders involves: 1) Humility and mutual respect (Philippians 2:3-4). 2) Unity and collaboration (1 Corinthians 1:10). 3) Encouragement and support (Hebrews 10:24). 4) Servant-hearted leadership (Mark 10:43-45). 5) Forgiveness and conflict resolution (Matthew 18:15-17).

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DAY 2

Are you a true follower of Christ?

- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 – The Great Commission)

    - This passage, while commanding believers to make disciples, implies that they must first know Christ's teachings themselves before they can teach others.

- The Apostle Paul encourages others to follow him as he follows Christ.
    - "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)

- Leaders are called to be examples to others, and to do that, they must live out their faith in Christ.

    - "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." (1 Peter 5:2-3)

- A leader must be spiritually enlightened and mature in their faith before they can lead others.

    - "He also told them this parable: 'Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.'" (Luke 6:39-40)

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How a leader can be spiritually enlightened and mature in faith

A leader becomes spiritually enlightened and mature in their faith by engaging in a journey of growth and transformation rooted in a deep relationship with God, marked by humility, obedience, and the pursuit of Christlikeness. Spiritual maturity is not a destination but a continual process, and it involves several key practices and principles:

1. Deepening a Relationship with God through Prayer and Scripture
   - **Prayer**: Spending time in prayer cultivates a personal relationship with God, seeking His will and wisdom. It is through consistent prayer that a leader can experience God's presence, guidance, and spiritual growth. (Philippians 4:6-7, James 5:16)

   - **Studying Scripture**: The Bible is God's Word and provides direction, correction, and spiritual nourishment. A leader must consistently engage with Scripture to know God's character, understand His commands, and align their life with His will (Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

2. Obedience and Surrender to God's Will
   - A mature leader submits their life to God's will, seeking His direction in all things and being willing to obey even when it is difficult. Obedience is an expression of love and faith in God (John 14:15, Romans 12:1-2).

   - **Surrendering Personal Ambitions**: True spiritual maturity involves dying to oneself (Luke 9:23) and putting God's purposes above personal ambitions. A mature leader seeks first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).

3. Walking in Humility
   - **Humility** is a hallmark of spiritual maturity. Jesus modeled humility, and mature leaders follow His example by recognizing their dependence on God and not exalting themselves over others (Philippians 2:3-8, 1 Peter 5:5-6).

- Leaders are called to serve rather than to be served. Jesus, the greatest leader, washed the feet of His disciples as a demonstration of servant leadership (John 13:12-17).

4. Bearing the Fruit of the Spirit
   - Spiritual maturity is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit in a leader's life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). A spiritually mature leader reflects Christ in their character and relationships with others.

   - **Love and Compassion**: A leader should display genuine love for others, including those they lead, as Christ commands (John 13:34-35).

5. Seeking Wisdom and Discernment
   - A spiritually mature leader continually seeks God's wisdom and discernment through prayer and study of His Word. Wisdom comes from God (James 1:5), and it is essential for making sound decisions that align with His will.

   - **Discernment**: Spiritual discernment allows leaders to distinguish truth from error and right from wrong, especially in complex situations (Hebrews 5:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

6. Enduring Trials and Persevering in Faith
   - Maturity is developed through trials and suffering (James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5). Spiritually enlightened leaders learn to trust God in difficult times and see trials as opportunities for growth. Patience and perseverance in faith build character and deepen their relationship with Christ.

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- **Relying on God's Strength**: Spiritual maturity means recognizing one's weakness and relying on God's strength and grace to sustain them (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

7. Being Accountable and Discipled by Others
   - A spiritually mature leader is accountable to others and remains open to correction and guidance. Leaders must have mentors, pastors, or mature believers who can provide counsel, pray for them, and help them stay on track spiritually (Proverbs 27:17).

   - **Discipling Others**: In turn, a mature leader also takes responsibility for discipling others, teaching them to follow Christ (2 Timothy 2:2).

8. Living a Life of Integrity
   - Integrity is crucial for spiritual maturity. Leaders must align their words with their actions and live lives that are above reproach (Titus 1:7-8, 1 Timothy 3:2). Integrity builds trust and reflects the character of Christ.

9. Seeking Community and Fellowship
   - Spiritual maturity is fostered in the context of a community of believers. Fellowship with other Christians provides encouragement, accountability, and opportunities for growth (Hebrews 10:24-25). Leaders who are spiritually mature do not isolate themselves but are committed to the body of Christ.

10. Focusing on Eternity
    - A spiritually mature leader lives with an eternal perspective, focusing not on worldly success or recognition, but on storing up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). This eternal mindset shapes their priorities and actions.