

CONTENTS



Preface	9
Acknowledgments	11
PART 1: PERSONAL GROWTH	13
1. Characteristics of Great Pastors	15
2. Discovering Joy in Ministry	19
3. Reflecting the Holiness of God	22
4. Keys to Flawless Character	25
5. Steps to Pastoral Health	29
6. Creating a Dynamic Devotional Life	33
7. Facing Personal Attacks	37
8. Pastoring the Pastor	41
9. Powering Up for Ministry	44
10. Making a Good Impression	47
11. Surviving Change	51
12. Thriving amid Adversity	55
13. Improving Your Integrity	59
14. How to Get Time Off	63
PART 2: FAMILY LIFE	67
15. Making Your House a Home	69
16. How to Get Along with Anybody	73
17. Marks of a Healthy Family	76
18. Financial Habits for Life	80
19. Bringing Out the Best in Your Family	84
20. How to Make Others Feel Important	88
21. Creating an Atmosphere of Affirmation	91
22. Power Listening	95
23. Say Good-bye to Bitterness	98

PART 3: MINISTRY	102
24. Delivering Consistent Pastoral Care	103
25. Adding Doors to Your Church	107
26. Conducting the Funeral	111
27. Conducting the Wedding	115
28. Planning the Worship Service	119
29. Extending Your Influence	123
30. Ensuring a Second Visit	126
31. Leading a Worship Team	131
32. Inspiring Confidence	135
33. Effective Evangelism	139
34. Improving Your Print Image	143
35. Ten Tips for Hospital Visitation	147
36. Reviving a Lukewarm Church	151
37. How to Offer Correction	155
38. What to Do When Members Leave	159
39. Recruiting Top Volunteers	163
PART 4: LEADERSHIP	167
40. The Prerequisite for Church Leadership	169
41. Five Marks of a Great Leader	173
42. Casting Faith-Inspired Vision	177
43. Building a Winning Team	180
44. Directing Attention	184
45. Evaluating Opportunities	187
46. How to Recruit Leaders	190
47. Tips for Training Leaders	193
48. Seven Teams You Need	196
49. Ensuring Institutional Integrity	200
50. Five Ways to Expand Your Expertise	203
51. Becoming a Spiritual Leader	207
52. Leading Under Authority	211
53. Managing Change	215
54. Managing Risk	219
55. Leading in Uncertain Times	222

PART 5: COACHING	225
56. Enlisting Others to Achieve the Vision	226
57. Inspiring Others to Succeed	229
58. Becoming a Leader Who Inspires Confidence	232
59. Orchestrating the Work of Others	236
60. Qualities of a Mentor	240
61. Taking Responsibility for Your Ministry	244
62. Team-Building Tips	247
63. Defining Success in Ministry	251
64. Inspiring Others to Dream	254
65. Inspiring Others to Follow	257
PART 6: COMMUNICATION	261
66. Essential Preaching Skills	262
67. Preaching for Life Change	266
68. Earning an Audience's Attention	270
69. How to Get Your Message Across	274
70. Using Story in Preaching	278
71. Using Humor Effectively	282
72. How to Talk about Money	286
73. Communicating Your Vision in Writing	290
74. Keys to a Successful Board Meeting	294
75. Staying on the Cutting Edge	298
Afterword	303

CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT PASTORS

You've seen them on Christian TV. You've read their books or magazine articles. You've been to their auditorium-packed seminars. Their names are familiar. Their churches are full on the weekends and alive with activities during the week. Their church campuses resemble a small college. They are the superstars of the Church. Untold numbers of pastors have been called "good pastors," but these select few are considered "great pastors."

What makes them so great? They attended the same colleges or seminaries as other pastors. They all started out with insignificant preaching assignments. They all have mowed a church lawn or changed lightbulbs in the church basement sometime in their ministry. But the question is, does a rise in ecclesiastical stature make a great pastor? Can you be a great pastor in a smaller church? Are some pastors struggling with self-identity when, in the eyes of their parishioners, they are considered one of the greats? Of course!

A multi-thousand-member church doesn't make a great pastor. A multi-million-dollar church campus doesn't make a great pastor. A multi-degreed seminarian doesn't make a great pastor. Many pastors are

great pastors in spite of all that! There is something more, something far deeper and far wider. Some have been inducted in the pastors “hall of fame” who had little of the church’s recognition. Some have spent their entire ministries in bivocational pastorates and have had a greater impact for Christ than all the rest. So what’s so great about great pastors?

If we look carefully, we’ll see that great pastors share five essential characteristics.

They Know How to Pray

Of course there isn’t a “prayer gauge.” Heaven doesn’t have a list of those who spend more time in prayer than others. What makes these people great in prayer? Practice. Great pastors believe in the power of prayer and practice praying on a daily basis. Practice? Is prayer a discipline—like brushing your teeth? I believe it is. You are taught something because you either don’t know how to do it or because you want to improve your skill.

The disciples asked the Savior to teach them how to pray. (See Luke 11:1.) They wanted to improve their discipline of prayer. They had regularly witnessed the Son of God praying to His Heavenly Father. They saw or heard His intensity, His humility, and His dependence on His Father. They witnessed the strength He gained from those regular times of prayer, and they wanted to be like Him.

You will do many things that you thought at first were impossible because you believe God in prayer to do it through you. Great pastors understand that it is their connection to God—not their skill—that will sustain them. They are known as prayer warriors and have a prayer routine. Great pastors get out of the church “loop” and spend time alone with God, and they are more concerned about spiritual health than church health.

You may or may not have a megachurch, but you can be a giant in prayer.

They Have Personal Integrity

Unfortunately, many pastors will spend long hours on a pedestal—high enough for everyone to watch their every move. Great pastors will pass the test. They won't always do the right thing, but they will always seek one thing: Christlikeness. They will seek to be like the Master in their personal life and in their ministry. A great pastor always speaks the truth and has the courage to correct his or her mistakes. The words "I'm sorry" aren't pulled from their mouths like an impacted tooth. Great pastors take responsibility for their actions. They lead with integrity. They understand that when they're confronted with compromise, there is one right moral choice—and they are willing to make it.

Great pastors realize that they are ambassadors of the Kingdom. They make personal choices or lead others to make choices that are good for the Kingdom—good administrative choices, good ministry choices, and good relational choices. They are known for their "tough love." Their resolute demeanor has an underlying compassion that affects their every attitude or action.

They Have Great Flexibility

Great pastors understand that their way isn't necessarily the best way. They copy the best of the best—unless it compromises their character or calling. Leadership in any arena comprises two components. The first is technical expertise, or the ability to get the job done. It is important for a pastor to be proficient in the skills of his or her discipline. Great pastors are willing to step out onto the ecclesiastical edge. They are willing to do things differently if the end result is the building up of the Kingdom.

They Are Team Builders

But there is another component of their leadership. Great pastors are willing to pass the torch to a new generation. And they surround themselves

with eager learners. These leaders are mentors as well as learners, helping those around them learn what they have mastered.

They Have a Sense of Direction

Great pastors know how to clarify their vision. The Apostle Paul had the unique ability to focus his energies on what really mattered. First and foremost, he focused on Christ. Great pastors have a well-grounded sense of identity. They seek the direction of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in their ministries.

Great pastors are willing to lead their people into unmapped territory if God designs it. They know where they are going and they are willing to take others with them.

They Have a Great Commitment

They know that they could have excelled in other vocations. But great pastors understand that they have more than a job. They know they have answered the call of God. They accept the risks that come with their calling and are willing to pay a price to succeed. They have counted the cost of answering their call, and they do not look back.

Great pastors aren't great because of the size of their church. They're great because of their commitment to excellence.

Does that describe you?