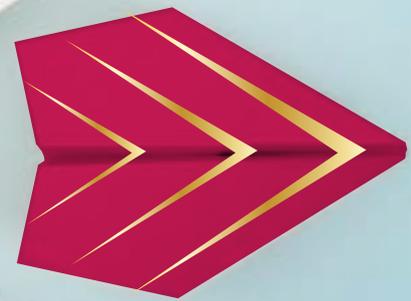


5 TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE **LEADERSHIP**

By Dr. Keith Farmer



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My mom worked in the factory in Detroit and I could have gotten into a lot of trouble, but instead I learned at an early age that I liked helping people, and I credit my association with my mentor who helped me learn that at a young age.

”



About the Author

If there is anyone who truly understands how to take lemons and make lemonade, it's Dr. Keith Farmer. At the age of 13 while growing up in Detroit, Dr. Farmer lost his father and credits a spiritual mentor in the community, Dr. Frederick G. Sampson, a noted Theologian and Pastor for helping him stay on track and discover his purpose.

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Mention the word “leader” and your brain will surely light up with images and names of different personalities that fit the mold – and you’ll certainly think of both good and bad examples.

While it's true that some people are wired with the ideal characteristics of an effective leader, leadership is something that is developed. Potential does not always translate to a realization, unless it is harnessed – and this applies to leadership.

In this eBook, I will share with you five tips for effective leadership. Whether you are a potential leader or are currently already in different leadership roles, I hope these tips will serve you well in making sure that you develop yourself and your people excellently.



Tip #1: Be a good follower.

A good leader is always a good follower first. If we know how to follow well, how to honor the leaders in our lives, and how to demonstrate loyalty to their leadership, then we will have gained meaningful insight into how we can be good leaders ourselves.

When we know what it is like to be a follower, we will also be able to empathize with the people who follow us, as well as be attuned to how we can best develop them. Being a good follower also develops in us an attitude of humility and an openness to learn from other people.

Ask yourself this: **Am I a good follower? What are the things I need to work on in order to develop this aspect well?**

Tip #2: Don't lead based on feelings.

Great leadership is never primarily founded on emotion. If we led based on what we feel at the moment, imagine how sketchy our leadership and direction will be when our emotions change from moment to moment! This is not to say that we should never consider or factor in our emotions when we lead - they should just not be our primary tool in making decisions.

Where then should we base our leadership? Two major things: VISION and VALUES. Vision keeps us on-track with our desired future and outcome. Vision keeps us aligned with the “why.” Values keep us grounded in reality. They guide us on how we are to lead in the present and what kind of culture and environment we set for our people to thrive in. Values keep us attuned to the “how” – the methods that we use as we lead, and what guiding principles serve as our compass in making daily decisions.



Tip #3:

Don't be affected by other people's opinions.

Truth: People will always have something to say. Leaders are primary targets of opinions, as people know they have the final say and have influence on those they work alongside. While it's good to know that people want to be involved in a decision-making process, a wealth of opinions – no matter how well-intended – may end up paralyzing leaders who have the tendency to want to please everyone.

Here's another truth: You can't please everybody. If we led with the desire to make everyone happy, you will end up disappointed with such an expectation. Value opinions, and the value the people to give them to you – but choose whose opinions truly matter. But don't let opinions pressure you into making a decision you cannot live with.

Tip #4:

Be dedicated.

Leadership requires commitment. It's that simple. If a leader only pursued his vision whenever it was convenient, then we can be certain that fruitfulness is a long way away. Leaders need to be dedicated to their vision and commit themselves to whatever it takes to fulfill it. Dedication is best seen not in the best seasons of leadership, but in times of crises and crossroads. When you model dedication to your people, they will have the assurance that you are forging a path for them to follow and will be inspired to pursue that path with the same level of commitment.

Tip #5:

Lead by example.

A great leader is always defined by his integrity. Those who walk their walk and model what they preach are always respected. There can never be a better example for people than their leader's life. How we model our values and how we cast our vision as leaders can either build or break our credibility. We can have a great vision, and we can have a great system or process; but if we ourselves are not willing to embrace and exude the things we expect our people to follow, then it will be difficult for people to join us. And even if they do, they may only be following out of fear or obligation, not out of respect and loyalty.





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