



How to Be a Thriving Senior Leader

Developing a Powerful Spiritual Life

A thriving church depends on a thriving leader.

Every single one of us has a spiritual life. The question is, is your spiritual life thriving or is it limited and hindered?

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Revelation 2:2–4

How do you keep your love alive for Jesus? How do you keep pursuing Him? How do you keep going after Him? The key is continuing to pursue Jesus.

The grass is always greener where you water it. *Watering* your spiritual life is the key to maintaining passion and love for Him. This comes down to a set of practices that will help keep the fire and flame of your heart toward Jesus alive.

Develop Your Prayer Life

Have a regular prayer time. How do you foster your prayer time?

Build a sense of structure in your life. Regularity makes a huge difference. Establish habit, which helps you to be the person you want to be.

Have a "prayer track." This is a simple prayer model you can follow to help you pray, such as the Lord's Prayer.

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Matthew 6:9–13



Here is the basic model of the Lord's Prayer:

1. **Praise:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name...
2. **Petition:** Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...
3. **Provision:** Give us this day our daily bread...
4. **Pardon:** Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...
5. **Protection:** Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one...
6. **Praise:** Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

“Every, single day, let your heart be warmed by the presence of Jesus. And, then make sure that at least once a week you have a good, extended prayer time.” — Jack Hayford

Another model is the acronym ACTS:

- A – Adoration
- C – Confession
- T – Thanksgiving
- S - Supplication.

Find your best rhythm for prayer. Take a walk, pray and sing, journal and pray, etc.

Study the Word

Spend time in the Bible allowing the Word of God to speak to you. There are stories and truth embedded even in some of the difficult passages. There are genealogies and detailed history that can nourish and feed you. Ask, “Why did God put that story there or mention that person.”

Take time to foster your spiritual life, for out of your spiritual life flows everything else.

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

Proverbs 4:23

Your heart is like a fountain. And if you foster your fountain, pure water will flow out.



“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

John 7:37–39

Another key to a thriving spiritual life is praying or singing in your prayer language if that is one of your gifts. Paul encouraged believers to do so.

As a leader, make sure you are at the cutting edge of pursuing God. Make sure you're the one who's going after the Lord the most. It is from you that a sense of well-being will fall on the rest of the congregation.