

NINE PROVISIONS FROM GOD FOR LEADERS

From the life of Moses

INTRODUCTION

For you today “Nine provisions to leaders” and they are all taken from the life of Moses. Of course, there will be a little homework assignment afterwards. This lecture is really helpful, I think, especially for new leaders. So, you can use this later on with some other young budding leaders.

I. GOD GIVES AN EMOTIONAL INVESTMENT IN THE WORK

God gives an emotional investment in the work. It's one of the provisions God gives to you. You become super interested. How do you see the following?

A. My heart is in the work



Nobody doubts whether the heart of Abraham Bible is in the New Life for Churches work or not. The question doesn't even exist. Everybody knows the answer: my heart is in the work.

Think about Moses. Was his heart in the work? Or did Moses say, 'I've been forty days with God in prayer on the mountain and I haven't eaten. I need a couple of weeks of vacation first.' Or when the Israelites sinned, what did Moses say? 'Yeah, we are all sinners, what can I do about it? No, he said, 'God, wipe me out of your book, but save these people and give a guarantee that you will go with us. There is no use of us going to the Holy Land if you don't go with us.' Sometimes he was upset with the people. He said, 'How long will you quarrel and argue? I'll get you water out of this rock' and he hit that rock. It shows that his heart was totally in it.

B. I know this work inside out



So the leader will know his work inside out. If God has called him, if he loves his work, he will be meditating on it all the time. There are many things that I don't know much about, but our particular New Life ministry here -- I know lots about that!

Moses went to Pharaoh and Pharaoh said, “Well, what will it be today, Moses?” Moses replied, “Well, I don't know yet. I will pray, have a fast and after lunch time I'll tell you.” That is not the way it was. Moses knew and he knew every step of the way. When reading the Bible you can feel who Moses was. I would say you probably feel that he is the strongest leader in the whole Bible. I don't know anyone in the Bible from whom I get this feeling. We are going to deliver the Israelites!! It doesn't matter what happens! I mean, it is so strong!



C. I give my time and resources

He doesn't look at what time it is. It's time to go home but he is not interested in that. He is interested in the success of the ministry and in the blessing of God upon his work. An hour more or less is not important to the leader. All of our missionaries work like that, constantly doing something extra. The ministry is important, not that little bit more or less time. Of course there are other resources to invest also. You know if someone needs a taxi, here is 5 grievnafor a taxi. Whose grievna? I don't know. Maybe mine, maybe New life's, maybe from somebody else. If we are clean before God, there is no difference between the value of ministry money or the value of personal money. It has the same value. If I need it, I need it. I may buy it from ministry money or from personal money. If I don't need it, I won't buy it from my own money. But if I don't need it, I shouldn't buy it from New Life money either. There should be no difference. We also have many other things to share: our apartments for guests or just different things to help someone or whatever need may come up. Moses gave up everything. We don't read anywhere that he got a salary, or that he took things from the people for himself, 10% like a tithe or so, nothing. We read that he was overworked. There were long lines of people from morning till evening, waiting for him. He spent lots of time praying. **Moses gave everything.**

D. I can do nothing else

I can do nothing else other than New Life ministries right now. If I had to stop it, I probably would need a year to change over to something else. God could give me a new calling, of course. I have done children's work, I've been a pastor, but when God calls a person he can't do anything else. For instance, can you imagine Moses sitting on a throne? A portable throne with two sticks through the throne and they are carrying him while he sits there with the crown on his head, King Moses. Now I'm no longer a young man but until this moment I never ever thought of Moses as King Moses. He could do nothing else but take the Israelites out of Egypt to Palestine. We can have no other picture. Can you imagine David being Moses? I can't. Delivering the people was Moses' specialty.

E. It's the only thing I want to do

I won't do anything else, because I believe that for me this is the very best thing I can do for Jesus. If I don't believe that then actually what I do is sin, because then I should do something else. I should do the very best thing, and that is the only thing I can do. Now in the beginning Moses did not want to do it. God was angry with Moses and it was a problem for Moses. Because of that he had to use Aaron and it always causes difficulty if you have to depend on a translator or someone else. But it became, of course, the only thing that he wanted to do.



II. WHEN GOD CHOOSES A LEADER, HE AFFIRMS THAT LEADER THROUGH OTHERS

When God chooses a leader, he affirms that leader through others. In other words, God tells other people about this individual. God gives other people the knowledge that, yes, he is the leader. He gives the other people joy to work under that leader or to work with that leader.

To affirm means to make firm. Leadership for instance is often first given by appointment from earthly authorities. You go to a new area somewhere in the country and you say, 'I am the New Life representative appointed by our organization's leadership team.' What can they do about it, the leadership team said so? But what if two years later they say, 'You say you are a leader, but we don't want to study with you. We want to study with someone else. We want to follow someone else.' Over time God has to confirm your leadership and it's basically done through **humility and quality**. The more pride and the lower the quality, the longer it takes for the leader to become a real leader. A leader needs followers and therefore he has to earn the respect of the people before they will become his followers. It must be earned.

Now affirmation is optimal for the growth of the leader. For instance, in some regions they had short-term missionaries working and now there is a stationary missionary. In the beginning of course students were thinking, "Well, he is a little bit different. The other one did this and this new brother does this, and we don't know what is better or not." But in the second year, the people have forgotten who was working there before; they love this new leader. So more and more people affirm that, yes, this is the right pastor or leader here. That means he can have a bigger ministry. God can use him in a bigger way.

III. GOD GIVES THE LEADER A MENTOR (S)

God gives that leader a mentor or mentors. We are thinking about Moses. Think about the quality education he got. He had the best education in the whole world. Egypt was one of the richest, biggest and most important countries. Nobody got anything better than the children of the king did. He was one of the children of the king. He was one of the cousins. He was in the palace. God gave mentors to this person. Mentors are necessary for leadership. The children of the king, they were prepared to be leaders. They were prepared to think about the future. They were prepared to give instructions. They were prepared to think about which general they could believe, and which general they could not believe. They were prepared to give long distance instructions; they were prepared to learn to read reports and believe certain parts of the reports and not to believe other parts. God prepared Moses to lead all of these four million people, none of whom could read or write--absolutely nothing. God prepared him. That's true of most other leaders.

IV. GOD BUILDS ON THE LEADER'S STRENGTHS, EXPERIENCES AND BACKGROUND

God builds on that leader's strengths, experiences and background. That's why, for instance, many times you can see a person who was raised in a slum neighborhood from a drunken family taking a ministry with drug addicts or some similar ministry. God knows your strengths. He made you. He knows you precisely. We have another lecture that deals with the things we can't do. Often you may feel 'I don't know or I can't,' but God has created you. He knows your strengths and He knows your experiences.

New Life for Churches' missionaries, for instance, prefer to work with candidates who have done several courses, who also have been active in other spiritual ministries, and who are mature adults, at least 25 years old. Then we take them for a year and a half and train them and prepare them in church planting and church leadership. God knows that person's background, his family, his strengths and weaknesses, his church where he has grown up, all these details.

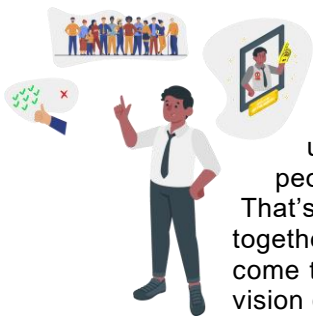
That's the way it was with Moses. He had given to Moses these mentors in Egypt, but Moses was a little bit thrifty. He wanted instant success. He thought, if two guys are fighting, you kill the Egyptian and you have success for the Israelite. Then Maybe God said: All right why don't you try that with the sheep and ask your father-in-law. "My sheep were kind of fighting so I killed a dozen of them. How do you feel about this?" But that did not work. After mentoring God then took him into the wilderness to give him additional training in the wilderness.

The Israelites when they came into the wilderness were shocked, 'This is the wilderness. There is nothing here.' Moses said, 'Wilderness? This is home!' He lived there, so there was no surprise and no stress for him. "You can live here forty years!" So we see that God prepared that background for Moses. He worked with all those sheep for forty years and in the end, Moses was still Moses and the sheep were still sheep. Understand what

I'm trying to say. After forty years when the last Israelite died, that Israelite was still a slave of Egypt mentally. When you look at that nation, you can see they always had that slave mentality.

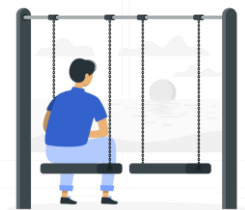
Then there was a second generation who all had been born in the wilderness. They grew up thinking, there must be a better place somewhere so let's go. And they went in. But the people who had the slave mentality didn't go in to take possession of the new opportunities.

That's what happens many times in various regions. The first years it doesn't always come together the way you want it to. Possibly with some of the older men you are training it doesn't come together. Then out of the second generation there begin to come people who grasp the vision of New Life for Churches.



V. GOD OFTEN REFINES THE LEADER'S CHARACTER IN OBSCURITY

God often refines that leader's character in obscurity. The apostle Paul had a high education but after he got saved, he disappeared for about three years somewhere in the wilderness. He needed time to think about all the Scriptures in terms of Jesus. God prepared him. That's true of most other leaders. Jesus had forty days of preparation in the wilderness. Moses, coming from a palace, had to learn everything about manual labor. Moses had learned to be served all the time and now he had to learn to serve. Those sheep never served Moses once. If he just one day did not serve them, they would all die. Every day he had to give them water, grass and heal them and just serve them without end. What did Moses do for forty years with these Israelite slaves? Where do you read that they were serving Moses? But he had to serve them for his whole life. God prepared him in obscurity.



VI. GOD INSTILLS IN THE LEADER THE VALUE OF HARD WORK

God instills in the leader the value of the hard work. This is one of the things that I really value about my father. He loved the soil and he loved to grow things and worked on that all the time. He loved his work. He could always work a little bit longer in the evening. Sometimes on Sunday it was hard for him to do nothing. I learned from my father to love my work. When I want to relax I still always want to do a little bit more of New Life.



Moses had to learn to work hard. God totally took away from him a life of pleasure. With the sheep there were no girls, no parties, no dances and no nice soft bed. Just work. If you don't learn to enjoy your work, you'll quit serving Jesus Christ. Because there will always come a time in your life when worldly work will be easier and shorter hours and better paid with more vacation. Let me ask you a question. How many lazy church leaders do you know? Big leaders like provincial superintendents or pastors of a large church. Almost without exception they are all hard working people. If they weren't that way per-

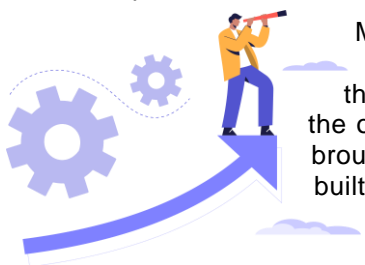
haps, yes, there would be that little church with 13 and a half members or something like that. But real church leaders are hard workers. God gives that to a man when that man becomes a leader. I've heard of lazy people totally being changed to become hard working individuals when they found Christ. In English we have a special saying 'To get to the top, get off your bottom.' With this you can read Proverbs 6:9.

VII. GOD SUSTAINS THE LEADER WITH A POWERFUL VISION

God sustains that leader with a powerful vision. There are always distractions. There are always other possibilities and there are always other ministries. But God gives that person a vision and even when the other people desert him, he will stick with that vision. When Jesus passed out bread, people were following him everywhere. Then he said, 'You know something; the Son of man is going to suffer. They are going to beat him up and even going to kill him.' Then he said to his 12 disciples, 'They've all left. Will you also go away?'

There are times, when a leader is not popular. Or his ministry is not popular. The New Life ministry especially has some unpopular elements. It takes a long time to disciple people. Personal mentoring means you need to talk, not only about people's good points, but also about their not so nice points. You don't see instant success. It's working with a few, not many. That's where the temptations are. In one province a man did the whole Romans/Galatians course in one month with the group--fast. Some people like to do work with all the church members, or work with women, who are more educated, study faster and are more spiritually interested. There are all these ideas. But a real leader has a firm vision.

A vision is the world's most desperate need. (-ua Taras Shevchenko) (-ruTsar Peter the Great had a vision of westernizing Russia and he built St. Petersburg.) Lenin of course had a vision. Different people have had visions. Thomas Edison had a vision for inventing things like electricity. Columbus had a vision. There are all kind of stories about mutiny on board of those ancient ships because they thought they were going to fall off the earth. But the captain had to have a strong vision. "No, we won't turn around. We can do this."



Moses had a vision. Ten times he had to go to Pharaoh before they were successful. The very first thing Pharaoh gave them was more work than ever before. So there it was, "Oh, Moses, please, go home, leave us alone. You know the results are the opposite from what we want." But Moses stuck with it and he completed that. He brought them out. Moses also had the vision to build a portable temple for God. He built that portable temple — the Tabernacle. They used it for about five hundred years until after the Judges, till David and Solomon. So he had the vision to bring them through the wilderness and he did bring them through, right to the Jordan.

VIII. GOD BRINGS OTHERS ALONGSIDE THAT LEADER TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS WEAKNESSES

A. Every leader does have weaknesses

But God brings others alongside that leader to compensate for his weaknesses. You don't have to go to the capital and tell your church leaders there, "Aren't you lucky you have me! I'm an expert and with me there will be no problems." Well, the first problem just started "pride." Moses had a weakness in terms of being able to speak properly or easily. So, God gives someone else to compliment the leader. That's why I believe in group leadership. I don't believe in Western-type leadership of one pastor who is the boss in the church. I believe according to Ephesians 4:11, that there should be a group of leaders in the local church. You have a much stronger spiritual ministry with group leadership.

B. God provides others to balance the leader's ministry

I'm a person who likes to open doors. "Let's try that," or, "Oops, I just have a new idea." So with me there are some people who like to close doors. "Oh, no, no, be more careful." Sometimes you need some of these people. You need people who provide a balance. Moses had Aaron, Hur, Joshua and the 12 tribal leaders. Pay close attention to the following:

C. Leadership assumes everything will change — Management assumes everything will stay the same

Let's just think about Ukraine in the late nineties and think about the president. He is the leader and he assumes everything will change. He is making new contacts with the West and he is making new laws. People are being paid their salary; the pensioners are getting money. Then there is the management. Supposedly many things should have changed in Ukraine. But in fact through the bureaucrats very little changed because the bureaucrats, the administrative people, assumed that everything would be just the same. Now it was even better for them because they still had the old laws and there are new laws, so now there were two sets of laws to take care of!

You will find that you have those people. To change a person who does administrative work is difficult. You have to change your files and you have to change all these things. But the leader is just thinking about change. Everything will change. New Life for Churches hopes to see many changes in the churches here. New Life wants to see a new church where we'll have many men and not only women; a church in which we would have practically trained leaders and not just educated leaders; a church where we have patience and love instead of the other things; a church where we have team leadership instead of dictatorship; and a church where we have a spirit of constantly starting new churches.

IX. GOD SUPPLIES WHAT IS NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN MINISTRY

A. God did not give Moses what he expected, but He did give him what was essential

God didn't give Moses money. He didn't give him an army. He could have given him other material things, but He gave him a symbol and a staff. The symbol was putting his hand inside his coat and it would become leprous. People then would know that God had called him. **He is the leader; he is God's man.** That was what Moses needed and nobody ever questioned that. Never! It's always, "Moses is God's man." He is the boss, the leader, the called one. Then He also gave him the staff. The staff was for Moses the sign of authority. He used it with Pharaoh. He used it with the Israelites at the Red Sea and in different places. He used that staff as God's instrument.

God supplies what is needed to succeed in ministry. God doesn't just call a person and then send that leader out to see what will happen. Look at the physical strength God gave to the apostle Paul. I mean for all those years he walked, he was beaten and he almost drowned. But what can you do, he always stayed alive and healthy. God gave him everything that he needed.

B. There are ten things that God supplies leaders with so they can succeed

The first five things are "God things."

1. A calling

Only God can do that. Oleg has said several times to us how he felt a call. If you just go to some other area or country because you think, well, this is kind of a nice opportunity. It won't last. Somewhere along the line you have to come to grips with it: God called me. God wants me to do this. Many of our missionaries have said this is exactly the place where God wants them.

2. God gives spiritual giftings

For myself twenty years ago I never thought I could do some administrative things and leadership things that I need to do now. I never thought I could do these things. But if you use your talents, God will give you more talents. All over the world Christian leaders testify that God has given them special provisions to do their specific task.

3. *God's hand upon him*

If he is a real leader from God there will be things that other people will shake their heads over, 'How can he do that? How can he be successful? Look at what is happening?' There are unexplainable things. The book of Acts tells us that 'signs and miracles' were following their leaders. That is what you need to look for in your own life. ***Is God doing unexplainable supernatural things in your ministry?***

4. *Favor with people*

Moses got the favor of the elders of Israel. Moses got the favor of his enemies. He got great respect among the Egyptians. You don't read about the Egyptians respecting Pharaoh at all. Finally the Jews wanted to go with Moses and the Egyptians wanted to get rid of him. So he had the favor of the people. Otherwise he could never have led them through the Red Sea.

5. *Passion for ministry*

Many times we see it in the life of Moses. It was like Moses was God himself. He just really wanted to serve these people, to help these people, to complete this mission.

These are all 'God things.' Nobody can give them to you; you can't get them yourself, buy them or take them from the Internet.

God also supplies five practical things. We'll begin with number 6.

6. *God provides training*

The 12 disciples spent three and a half years with Jesus just preparing for that ministry. They weren't naïve; they had been with Jesus. Several of them had a private business. One was head tax collector and others had some other businesses.

7. *Resources*

He gave Moses resources to carry these people through the wilderness. God gave Moses the resources among the people for building a tabernacle. All they had to do was go to the Egyptians and say, 'I need a cart.' The Egyptians replied 'Well, wouldn't you like two of them? Please, go take both of them.' The Jewish people took everything they needed for 40 years. When they were kind of running out of some things at different times, God would say, 'No problem I'll supply it. You need food, you need water or you need meat? I'll supply it.'

8. *A strategy*

There needs to be a plan. God gives that plan to the leader. I can in specific detail tell you how God gave me the plan for New Life Ministries in Ukraine. Now I see that it was really God's plan. Step by step all the important things are coming about.

9. *God gives a possibility to develop a team*

Leaders need a team. Any ruler or manager of a factory, or a boss, they all need a team to oversee the people. Moses had 12 elders. One for each tribe. Plus a special section for worship.

10. *A partnership*

God gave to Moses Aaron and then as time went on He gave him Joshua. So he had a partnership. A couple of leaders doing the ministry together.

CONCLUSION

These are nine provisions that God gives to leaders. We've taken them all from the life of Moses. We trust it will be a blessing to you. Repeat them from time to time. Think about them and see if these things are happening in your life. If something is missing, get on your knees and ask God to supply these very things.

There may be other things God supplies for leaders but these nine are a very impressive set in the life of Moses, possibly the greatest leader in the Bible. Let us thank God for the great examples of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel and Peter and Paul.

The best example of all is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Himself.

Let us imitate Jesus. Let us praise Him. Let all that breathes praise Him.

Let the whole earth praise Jesus the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Amen and Amen for all eternity.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by New Life for Churches. You have the privilege upon completion of your practical assignment to use this lecture with others.

Practical assignment

Completed

- Choose two of the following to complete before the next conference. Bring a written report of your work. ☐
- a) Locate Bible references from the life of Moses for each of the nine points.
 - b) Find Bible verses to match for each of the 9 points from the lives of 3 other Bible heroes.
 - c) Preach one special message exclusively to deacons or preacher boys based on this lecture.