

The Leadership Principle of Inspiration



“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when dreams come true at last, there is life and joy.” Proverbs 13:12

Underline the key concepts found in this principle.

Inspiration comes from dreams. To foster inspiration, we must create an environment where minds can dream and work freely. We channel the inspiration by providing boundaries that become the framework or guideline for creativity. To motivate means to stimulate the mind and spirit of a person. This is done by presenting possibilities and dreams that can become reality, which will encourage them to pursue those dreams for their own future. If people are led rather than driven, they will be motivated from within and won't need to be controlled by external laws. This becomes their purpose or reason for living. In our businesses and organizations and even our families, if we provide incentives or dreams within the framework of our personal goals and ambitions, both will benefit. Our intent for inspiring others will always have to be for their benefit as well as ours, otherwise it would be unfair and in the end boomerang on us.

Fear is also a motivator. If we control people by fear only, we are poor leaders. Good leaders understand the importance of rules and even fear of the consequences, but also understand that laws can generate resistance. If there are only laws, sooner or later there will be rebellion. If we have no dreams or see no opportunities, we lose hope. When we lose hope, we get angry and feel unfulfilled, which may turn into despondency and even cause some to

commit suicide. As long as there is hope, we can (and most of us will) keep on going. Hope comes from seeing possibilities, and possibilities come from active and creative minds. In order to develop a long-lasting, successful family, business or society, we must design a system that gives everyone personal dreams, opportunity and hope.

We were made to have ideas and to be creative, to calculate and analyze situations. When leaders try to stifle this creativity, sooner or later people will analyze the unfairness and break away from its control. We cannot stifle individuality forever. Communism was a good example of this. Their system was built on keeping everyone equal and having all things in common. Their idea was to give man food, clothing and shelter, and expect him to be happy. This sounds good as a philosophy, but it does not work because we are not all designed to be the same. We are all created equal, but our outcomes will be different because each one of us can make choices. We have different gifts, temperaments and creative ideas. This means some will pursue things more than others, thus bringing different levels of understanding and opportunities.

BENEFITS

1. By encouraging creativity, we create an inspirational environment that benefits everyone.

Action Plan for Inspiration



2. People who are inspired see a better future for themselves.
3. We will see different gifts and talents emerge, enriching us all.
4. No one is the same. When we inspire each one to develop their individual talents then together we reach new levels we would never have reached alone.
5. Less control or micro-managing is necessary when people are inspired to reach common goals.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Write out your vision. Keep it simple. Include specific groups that will benefit from your dream.
2. Share your vision with others. Make sure everyone who depends on you or your organization knows and understands what it is.
3. Live your vision. Convey your dream in what you do and what you want to achieve.
4. Give incentives. Good leaders offer excellent incentives to help others to achieve their dreams. This will cause people to be more self-motivated and need less direction.
5. Fight for it. Overcomers never surrender. Those who surrender never overcome.

Effective leaders use incentives and

dream-planting for motivation 10 to 1. Fear must be a part of leading, but only as a last resort. Focusing on incentives and dream planting creates a powerful force within families or employees. They will in turn become self-motivated and will need less management. Their work becomes their own because they are working toward personal goals which is part of the overall vision.

Remember... thoughts produce actions, actions become habits, habits form our character, and character determines our destiny!

REFLECT AND RESPOND

1. Have you been more successfully motivated by fears or dreams?
2. How do you respond to rules?
3. Have you ever lost hope? Explain the feeling.

Evaluate yourself from 1 to 10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
What specific action can you put into practice to test the benefits of this principle?										
Check list for the daily reading of this principle	M	T	W	T	F	S	S			

Completed

Not completed