

Quotes & Proverbs

By Nathan Hedge

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Role of a Leader

Help People Reach Their Full Potential Catch Them Doing Something Right

Look for the things people do right and you will help people reach their potential.

**A leader should enable people to be all that they can be.**

The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives.

--Albert Einstein

To hold a dream inside is to deprive the rest of the world of a blessing.

**A leader should not only make their dream a reality, but enable others to do the same.**

You can't build a reputation on what you're going to do.

--Henry Ford

Talk is good, but only action produces results.

**A leader should be a doer.**

"All men die, but not every man truly lives."

--William Wallace from Braveheart 1995

A ship in a harbor is safe but that is not what ships were built for.

If we never leave the harbor, we will never know our destination.

**A leader should set out for the great unknown in order to find their purpose.**

"PRAISE is the only criticism that is constructive."

--Dr. Louis Bledsoe

Negative comments kill momentum.

**A leader builds enthusiasm with positive appraisal of others.**

Leadership is the act of getting somebody else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.

--Dwight Eisenhower

Strive to make your vision and passion contagious, and others will share it.

**A leader should inspire and motivate through giving others the desire to contribute to something bigger than themselves.**

A leader is a dealer in hope.

--Napoleon

Point the direction, give purpose, add meaning to life and you have given one the greatest gift of all...hope.

**A leader should help others realize the optimism of the future.**

"Greatness lives in one who triumphs equally over defeat and victory."

--John Steinbeck

**A real leader models the idea that the amount of effort resulting in a loss should be equal to the effort resulting in a win.**

"A small leak can sink a great ship."

--Unknown

All leaders have weaknesses, but they must patch those parts of their life.

**A team is only as strong as its weakest link.**

A leader is a person with a magnet in his heart and a compass in his head.

--- Vance Havner

Others are drawn to people who are going somewhere.

**A leader should be one who leads others to the right place.**

"If you don't have anybody following you, you're just out for a walk."

--John Mills

A leader isn't really a leader without followers.

**A leader should check to see who is following before he starts his journey.**

Good leadership is knowing how much of the future can be introduced into the present.

People can only take so much of a vision at a time, and cannot be overwhelmed.

**A leader should use discernment and wisdom to communicate their vision.**

"The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on..."

--Walter Lippman

If others have the will to carry on after a leader leaves, that is legacy, the ultimate goal of leadership.

**Leaders should strive to leave a living legacy wherever they go.**

Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.

--Warren G. Bennis

Dream up a vision. Now make it happen!!

**A leader should be one who takes the vision and helps others make it happen.**

John Wesley's Rule for Christian Living

Do all the good you can,

By all the means you can,

In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever...

You can!

**A godly leader should be a godly person FIRST!!**

The act of being wise is the act of knowing what to overlook.

--William James

Most things are just fluff, the rest is treasure. But to get the treasure, we must sift through the fluff.

**A leader should see the difference between treasure and fluff.**

"Delegating work works provided the one delegating works too.

--Robert Wolf

Even leaders with a great staff must be willing to do some hard work.

**A true leader NEVER asks another person to do what he would not do himself.**

"A good leader makes people feel bigger when they are in his presence."

--Unknown

Determine to encourage people to see who they have the potential to become.

**A leader should enable people to feel as though they can conquer the world.**

Listen well enough to lead through their eyes;

Relate well enough to communicate with their hearts;

Work well enough to place tools in their hands;

Think well enough to challenge and expand their minds.

As we develop others in every way, we do the same with ourselves.

**A leader should be, or strive to be, well rounded and balanced.**

"People tend to stay motivated when they see the importance of the things they are asked to do."

--Unknown

Allow people to see what they are contributing to the cause that is greater than themselves.

**A leader should constantly keep followers informed of the general progress being made as a result of their effort.**

The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between the two, the leader must become a servant and a debtor. That sums up the progress of an artful leader.

--Max DePree

First cast the vision. Lastly thank those who made it possible. In between be a servant.

**A leader should realize that he is only a part of what makes the whole function effectively.**

"The wise learn many things from their enemies."

--Unknown

Even the most evil of men have done some things well enough to be copied.

**A leader should always keep his mind open to whatever sources God may use to teach us. It may come from the most unexpected place.**

The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.

--Harvey S. Firestone

Leaders develop people.

**People are the greatest asset and liability to any organization.**

Leadership has a harder job to do than just choosing sides, it must bring sides together.

--Jesse Jackson

A leader must often play the role of a mediator between two sides and bring peace.

**A leader should place personal feelings aside for the sake of unity.**

People are persuaded by reason, but moved by emotion; [the leader] must both persuade them and move them.

--Richard Nixon

The leader must be sensible and make people feel the need to take action.

**A leader should be a motivator and a mover of people.**

## **The State of BEING a Good Leader**

"Character is power."

~ Booker T. Washington

We motivate people out of what we ARE, NOT out of what we do.

**Leaders ARE.**

"One ministers out of what one is."

-- Dr. J. Robert Clinton

A leader's actions come out of who that leader is on the inside

**Be holy & good on the inside to do what is good and right in the outside world.**

"Character is the fundamental attribute of all great leaders. It's more important than anything else. Character is everything."

--General Norman Schwarzkopf

Self explanatory.

"You must never lose sight of your objective, but stay flexible."

--General Norman Schwarzkopf

**A leader can be determined to accomplish the goal but be open-minded enough to accept other options on how to do it.**

"Leaders must stand for the absolute truth."

--Phil Stevenson

Without absolute truth, the leader has nothing to guide him.

**A leader who does not take a stance for what is absolute is just a person leading people to nowhere.**

**What a person believes to be absolute forms who that person is.**

"The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in times of great moral crises maintain their neutrality."

When you're faced with a busy day, save precious time by skipping your devotions.

Signed, Satan.

BE consistent in time with God in order to BE a godly person.

**A leader cannot BE a godly leader without BEING with God.**

"All of God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God, because they reckoned on God's being with them."

--J. Hudson Taylor

When we remove ourselves from the picture, that's when God can do the most.

**Godly leaders are those entirely dependent on the power of God to accomplish all tasks.**

"Be willing to stand for the right, and correct principle, committed to your purpose even if you have to stand alone."

--Miles Monroe

The great reformers of the world were willing to stand alone in the midst of trouble and strife.

**A leader is a representative of what is right.**

"There are no office hours for leaders."

--Cardinal J. Gibbons

You are never NOT a leader.

**A leader IS a leader, by WHO they are, not where they are.**

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

--Leo Tolstoy

Change yourself and you can change the world.

**A leader should not ask anybody to do what he is not willing to do himself.**

The best reformers the world has ever had are those who began with themselves.

--Unknown

Start inward, and work outward.

**A leader must lead himself before he can lead others.**

I am more afraid of an army of 100 sheep led by a lion than an army of 100 lions led by a sheep.

--Talleyrand

Keep the sheep in their place, put the lions in front, and watch what happens.

**A leader, as a lion, can make his followers, as sheep, bold and brave.**

Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.

--Colin Powell

Never tie success with your position, base it on who you are.

**A leader already is a leader, the position comes after.**

"The greatest truths are the simplest... so are the greatest men and women."

--Unknown

Don't get all caught up in theories and strategies, just be yourself.

**A leader is easy to figure out because they acknowledge nothing special about themselves.**

"God is more interested in what happens in us, than what happens through us."

--Unknown

Inner-development matters most to God, and it ought to matter most to us.



**Leaders are concerned about what is happening in the lives of the people following more than what the people are doing.**

"A true leader will pass on his cause, not his name."

--Jason Blevins

**The real test of a leader is that the people give more attention to the cause than to a leader.**

People's minds are changed through observation, not argument.

--Will Rogers

We can only change people through our example.

**In order to make change, we have to BE the change.**

"Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character."

--Albert Einstein

Our character stems from our general outlook on life.

**A great leader has a great attitude.**

A leader's attitude is caught by his or her followers more quickly than his or her actions.

--Unknown

Attitude should be the thing that drives our actions.

**Leaders should be sincere in every action.**

"A leader's ability to lead comes from what he does from day to day."

**What we do in our everyday lives is what gives us the power to lead effectively.**

"Good leaders must first become good servants."

--Robert Greenleaf

Every leader is a servant. How can he lead if he has never served?

**Leaders must serve effectively in order to lead effectively. "He who does well with little will be given much."**

The behaviors and traits enabling a mobster to gain and maintain control over a criminal gang are not the same as those enabling a religious leader to gain and maintain a large following. Yet certain general qualities--such as courage, fortitude, and conviction--appear to characterize both.

--R. M. Stogdill

**Lots of people can have leadership qualities with the potential to be great leaders. But the best of those are the ones who use their gifts and talents for the purpose of good.**

"Some effective leaders are good, and some have used their power to do horrible, evil things."

--Tim Elmore

**You don't need to BE a good person to lead well. But a good person DOES lead well.**

Your attitude determines your altitude!

-- Author unknown

Our attitude determines how high, how far, how deep we will go.

**A leader can only go as high as his optimism will take him.**

"Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

God only uses the willing heart to lead.

**"When others see a shepherd boy, God may see a king."--Ray Boltz**

When a person is deciding if he respects you as a leader, he does not think about your attributes. He observes what you do so that he can know who you really are.

--Donald Clark

Anybody can do great things. People want to see the great person inside.

**True leaders let God in them shine in all that they do.**

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

--Mark Twain

The determination to do what is right is so rare in today's world, that it shocks people to think anybody would still do it. Determine to be different from the world.

**Leaders are those people who determine to do what is right despite the whole world opposing them.**

The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth.

--Nick Bohr

**Often the two extremes are both right, but the real truth lies right in the middle. The leader must discern where the middle ground is and strive to get there with all that he is.**

If you fear making anyone mad, then you ultimately probe for the lowest common denominator of human achievement.

--Unknown

No matter what leaders do, someone will not like it.

**A leader who is only concerned about pleasing others is a pansy.**

"Do small things with great love."

--Mother Theresa

To do even the meaningless tasks in love shows the extent of the love of God.

**Leaders put their all even into cleaning the dust in the lights.**

**Character Traits of a Leader**

Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines.

--Satchel Paige

Don't just rely on God in the hard times.

**A leader needs God all the time, not just when there's nowhere to turn.**

Pray as if everything depended on God,

and work as if everything depended on man.

--Cardinal Spellman

Balance my part and God's part in all tasks.

**A leader does not sit on his rump, nor try to do it all himself.**

We will either find a way or make one.

--Hannibal

Determination produces results.

**A leader sees no obstacles.**

If a leader demonstrates competency, genuine concern for others, and admirable character, people will follow.

--T. Richard Chase

Be smart, caring, efficient and true. These qualities draw people.

**Leaders are balanced individuals, not emphasizing one leadership trait over another.**

You must live with people to know their problems, and live with God in order to solve them.

--P.T. Forsyth

Be real, aware of those around you, but never losing sight of God.

**We can see others' problems by walking in their shoes and solve them in God's working through us.**

Be aware of the world around you, with your eyes fixed on God and the reward to come.

--Nathan Hedge

Realistic leaders are objective enough to minimize illusions. They understand that self deception can cost them their vision.

--Bill Easum

Leaders are aware of what is sensible. Anything outside of that is foolish to pursue.

**God can do everything, but he won't do it all through you.**

Confidence is contagious, so is lack of confidence.

--Unknown

Followers will get what the attitude of the leader is, be it optimism or pessimism.

**Leaders model what they want their people to have.**

Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.

--Unknown

Babe Ruth hit 714 Home Runs and struck out 1,330 times.

**Leaders who strike out a lot will also have produced a lot.**

Courage is contagious, when a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.

--Billy Graham

Let one man take a stand and others will soon stand by him.

**Leaders are people who possess the courage to give their lives for a cause.**

Courage is grace under pressure.

--Ernest Hemingway

The real test of a leader comes when one must humbly show grace when the world says not to.

**Leaders are to reflect God and His character. God showed His grace when the heat was coming hard, as should we.**

Have enough confidence in yourself to let the other fellow take some risk.

--Robert J. Buckley

Have faith in both yourself, and the person you delegate to.

**Leaders have enough self-confidence to let others do the work.**

Character is what you are in the dark.

--D.L. Moody

Integrity is consistency of character.

**Leaders who are not the same out of the spotlight as they are in it are hypocrites.**

People Who Feel Good About Themselves Produce Good Results

--Unknown

Self-esteem is the beginning of quality.

**Leaders see the good in what they do and encourage others to see the good in the work they do.**

"The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg...not by smashing it."

--Arnold Glasco

Patience is not forcing the results prematurely.

**Leaders are patience masters.**

A leader is best when people barely know he exists,

not so good when they obey and acclaim him,

worse when they despise him.

--Lao-Tsu

Leaders must not become the focus of the organization, for better or worse.

**Leaders possess the ability to give others the credit in all that is accomplished.**

He who is to be a good ruler must first be ruled.

--Aristotle

Effective leaders understand what it means to be ruled, the rest are tyrants.

**A leader who experiences the troubles and heart-aches of their followers is truly a leader of the people.** (i.e. Bill Clinton --> "I feel your pain")

I believe every Christian man has a choice between being humble and being humbled.

--Charles Spurgeon

If one chooses not to be humble, he will be at the mercy of others.

**Leaders should model humility so their people won't stumble.**

Lord, when I am wrong, make me willing to change;

when I am right, make me easy to live with.

So strengthen me that the power of my example

will far exceed the authority of my rank.

--Pauline G. Peters

**Great leaders possess an open mind and heart to change when wrong and humility and meekness when right.**

The first step toward leadership is servanthood.

--John Maxwell

Service lays the foundation for leaders.

**Show me a leader who doesn't serve and I'll show you a tyrant.**

When the best leader's work is done the people say, "We did it ourselves."

--Tao-Tsu

The greatest feeling for a leader is for the people to rejoice in accomplishing a goal in which they worked together.

**The mark of great leadership is how much ownership is given to the followers.**

I skate where the puck is going to be, not where it has been.

--Wayne Gretzky

Anticipation is the key to success.

**Leaders must visualize what the next move is before it is made.**

Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you may help them to become what they are capable of being.

--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

**Accept people as they are, but see them for who they have the potential to become.**

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

--Gen. George S. Patton

Sometimes we just need to let go and let others take their turn.

**Leaders allow others to bring part of themselves into their tasks by not being a picky mother.**

A leader is one who sees more than others see,  
who sees farther than others see,  
and who sees before others do.

--Leroy Eims

A leader's vision is the sight of the organization.

**Leaders must see farther than their followers to challenge them to see further.**

The first concern of the leadership of the church should be for the filled seats, not the empty ones.

--Charles Spurgeon

Work with the people who show up and you'll reach the ones that don't.

**Leaders work with whoever comes to them.**

"If something goes wrong, it is more important  
to talk about who will fix it than who is to blame."

--Unknown

Focus on the blame, and destroy the organization. Focus on the solution, revive it.

**Leaders see the positive outcome of crises and make it come to pass.**

A wise man seeks much counsel. A fool listens to all of it.



--Larry Burkett

We must filter what we hear and compare it with the standard of the Bible.

**Leaders must practice & promote discernment or risk leading others astray.**

Diplomacy is the art of knowing what not to say.

--Matthew Trump

Sometimes what we think ought to be said is best left unsaid. The key is to know what and when.

**Leaders know when not to say what they are thinking.**

"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort."

Quality will never be accomplished without common sense and sweat.

**Leaders should define quality by how they do their work.**

Our greatest glory is not in never failing but in rising every time we fail.

--Confucius

"What really matters is what you do when you get up." --Jim Lo

Real optimism is aware of problems but recognizes the solutions,

knows about difficulties but believes they can be overcome, sees the

negatives but accentuates the positives, is exposed to the worst but

expects the best, has reason to complain but chooses to smile.

--Arthur Ward William

Nuff said.

"To be a good soldier you must love the army. To be a good commander, you must be willing to order the death of the thing you love."

--Gen. Robert E. Lee in Gettysburg

Leaders must sometimes surrender the things closest to their hearts for the sake of the cause.

**Every leader understands what it means to sacrifice.**

"Good leadership is remaining cool and unruffled under all circumstances."

--Thomas Jefferson

Immediately after the defeat at Gettysburg, Gen. Lee rode among the surviving men and told them to never let the enemy see them run. The result...they wanted to charge again, despite the odds against them.

**Leaders who keep their cool even in the midst of a major loss to the cause he holds dear will inspire others through that example.**

"I not only use all the brains I have, but all that I can borrow."

--Woodrow Wilson

Nobody can do everything with no more than their knowledge.

**Resourcefulness is a key to leadership.**

"Do what you can with what you have, where you are."

--- Theodore Roosevelt

Awareness of the current situation is vital to the future life of any organization.

**Leaders pull their resources together and make it work.**

## **Encouragement for Leaders**

To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.

--Elbert Hubbard

No matter what I do I'll be criticized.

**Criticism only comes after success.**

A problem is a chance for you to do your best.

-Duke Ellington

**Be optimistic when problems come your way. It is only another opportunity.**

"Success is never final.

Failure is never fatal.

It is courage that counts."

--Winston Churchill

Never celebrate or mourn too early. Focus on how well you did it.

**In the end, it will be asked how bravely I stood in the face of evil.**

"People who don't make mistakes always end up working for those who do."

--Unknown

**Mistakes make us a more effective leader, providing we learn from them.**

"The school of life offers some difficult courses, but it is in the difficult classes that one learns the most."

--Corrie Ten Boom

**In the hardest of times, God is teaching us the greatest lessons that will guide us from that point on.**

"The person who has no enemies has no followers."

~ Don Piatt

**If a leader is successful, there will be opposition.**

He who risks and fails can be forgiven. He who never risks and never fails is a failure in his whole being.

--Paul Tillich

**Failure is not a thing to be feared. It is merely an opportunity for growth.**

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

--C. Coolidge

**It's the tough-bulldogish-hangontoitiveness that gets us through.**

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.

--Margaret Thatcher

Sometimes once just isn't enough.

**Leaders will fight until the war is won.**

"Troubles are a lot like people--they grow bigger if you nurse them."

--Unknown

**DO NOT FEED THE PROBLEMS.**

"You cannot push anyone up the ladder unless he is willing to climb."

--Andrew Carnegie

Some of the sharpest people are not willing to grow, sometimes despite our urging.

**Leaders recognize when people don't want to grow beyond who they are now and let them go.**

"Leaders don't inflict pain. They bear pain."

--Max DePree

Leaders are the targets of the world.

**Leaders don' just bear pain...they work through it.**

The price of greatness is responsibility.

---Winston Churchill.

**When one is burdened with a vast amount of responsibilities, he has already proven himself worthy.**

I have so much to do today; I'll need to spend another hour on my knees.

--Martin Luther

**When we feel burdened, we always know who to go to.**

If you're not falling down, you're not learning.

--Quote by a leader cited by W. G. Bennis & B. Nanus

**The best lessons are often learned when we're on the ground.**

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcomings, who knows the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at best knows in the end the high achievement of triumph and who at worst, if he fails while daring greatly, knows his place shall never be with those timid and cold souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

--Theodore Roosevelt

**The real issue is how hard I try. The reward knows how it feels to fail and succeed. Critics know neither.**

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."

--Ronald Kendall

Success is the product of work.

**Sometimes it may seem useless, but the leader MUST keep working.**

Give yourself fully to your endeavors. Decide to construct your character through excellent actions and determine to pay the price of a worthy goal. The trials you encounter will introduce you to your strengths.

--Epictetus

In the toughest of trials, a leader's gifts are seen and refined.

**The leader, who endures the fire, will live to play the lyre.**

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