Pastor to Pastor: The Spiritually Vital Leader
Part 1
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1. Introduction

This presentation by H.B. London, Dallas Willard, and John Ortberg is a discussion about the qualities and practices of the spiritually vital leader. The intended audience for this topic, in its original presentation, was pastors, ministry leaders, and Christian workers, but the content is instructive for contemporary Christians and Christian leaders in all work settings.

Before introducing Dallas Willard and John Ortberg, H.B. London introduces the topic by sharing three qualities of spiritually vital leaders:

- Spiritually vital leaders pursue holiness.
- Spiritually vital leaders want peace in their lives.
- Spiritually vital leaders surrender themselves to God.

Throughout the presentation, the speakers offer practical suggestions for ways to develop that kind of spiritual vitality.

2. Definitions

a. Spiritual Vitality

Each of us has a spiritual side of the self where our thoughts, our feelings, and our tendencies to action are an invisible part of the person.

Vitality in that area means that we are drawing our life from _____ – that our walk with the Lord gives us what we need in order for that part of our lives to be good and right or peaceful.

b. Holiness means that we are living from God, that we are _____ in where our life comes from. The new birth that has come brought new life to us and is being developed.

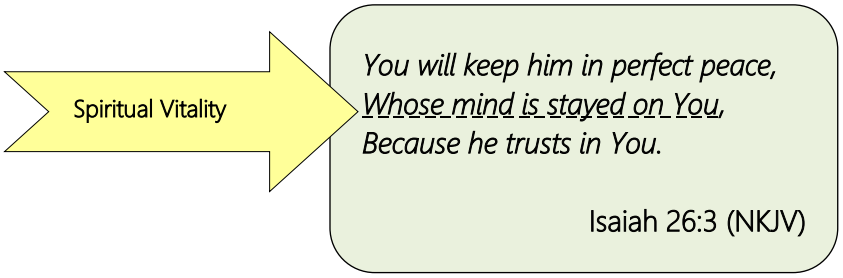
c. Spiritual Formation

- Spiritual formation refers to the fact that there is a _____ by which the inward person is being formed.
    - We want to get to a place where we're not struggling with that inner life.

- The problems that break people down in ministry and in life are problems of inward struggle, lack of ability to access the resources for life, and so on.

- The spiritual side is being formed. It is formation by the _____ _____.

- What happens as we grow is that easy, routine obedience to Christ comes to us. The struggle becomes something negligible. That's how we have peace.



The mind being stayed on God is the pipeline through which the spiritual vitality flows in.

- Spiritual _____ is something that's going to happen to you no matter what you do. As you learn to live in your ministry and your life with God, then spiritual formation becomes something that is just a source of _____. It isn't an extra burden. It isn't a job on top of the one you've already got. It's the source that you learn to dwell and abide in.

3. Keys to Spiritual Vitality

a. If you don't understand the significance of what you're doing, it is difficult to carry on in life.

Romans 11:13: *For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, **I magnify my ministry.***

- I _____ my office, my work, what I'm here for - not I magnify _____. We have that calling of God on us to bring *his* life into the world and to bring people into his life. The message that we bring the people is *God so loved the world*.

  The world does not have alternatives to this. When I get up in the morning and when I go to work, I think, ***"God so loved the world. I get to be a part of that today."***

- We need to walk in a sense of the _____ to which we are called. We need to see our present life in the light of where it's going for _____.

- You have to remember you have this little period here – *training for reigning.* This is not the whole thing. Jesus taught with his parables and his teaching that we're going on to something that will never end, and we will live and reign with him for ever and ever through ages of ages.

  Revelation 22:5 (NKJV): *There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

b. How do I magnify my office in a way that's not about my ego?

- I will not talk about _____ ministry because, in my view, I don't have one. God has one; I get to be a _____ of it and to identify what _____ is _____ in my time. He has called me into that. To look at what He does and not what I do is the secret.

- With no exception, once you get in that position, then you begin to see things happening that you cannot possibly attribute to _____ because your expectation is of God, your hope is in that. The great theme of God-with-us, which is biblical from the beginning to the end, is what makes it real. *See Genesis 26:12-16.*

c. We have to think of success in terms of what God is doing as we go along.

- We are successful if God is _____ what He _____ to accomplish as we go along in our work and our day-to-day existence.

- This turns up wonderful, surprising things when we see the results of our labors in those terms because we are then totally free of _____ and _____ from men and women.

- The way we can look for success is to look for the _____ and _____ of God in specific things we're doing moment-by-moment – that's where we look for it.

- God is doing the work. When we get that idea of success, we can rest in that. That will enable us to take the little moment-by-moment occasions of life as the place where God is working.

d. How do I gauge whether or not I am being effective in my work?

- Look at what you do with the manifest blessing of God day-by-day.

- Look for the effects of God. Look for where you couldn't possibly have accomplished that – when you see things happening that you cannot possibly attribute to yourself – that's when you know your calling.

- I'm not doing this work because I have to out of my own inner need for _____. You do it for the _____ of _____.

- If you don't have your sense of significance and success at the level of your _____ existence, then the inward struggle will _____ you _____.

- We should expect great things of God, but, when they happen, we should be able to stand aside and say, "Isn't God wonderful!" and, when they don't happen, we should be able to stand aside and say, "Isn't God wonderful!"

- It can help us if we keep a couple of things in mind:

    - We want to love and serve those who are close to us.

    - In ministry, the big things are up to God. The small things are what we want to pay attention to and, then, we do our best wherever we are.

    - The person we're becoming is _____ _____ than what we accomplish.

        - What God gets out of our life is the _____ we _____, and, in fact, that's about what we get out of our lives, including the personal relationships we have with others. We just remember that and surrender that to the Lord.

        - We don't want to become people who are ragging ourselves endlessly about our spiritual condition because that is an area of _____. We make an effort. We keep that in our minds.

        - In moments of choice, I don't slip into deception or manipulation because I know that _____ the person I'm _____.

        - The person I'm becoming is precious to the Lord.

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are wholly set on him.

2 Chronicles 16:9

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

John 4:23 (NKJV)

That's where vitality comes.

Vitality comes when we have that inner attitude toward God, which
He inspires and helps us with, that hooks into the life which is inexhaustible…the life of the Trinity.

And that's available to us.

We've been given the keys to the Kingdom.

The keys are not for keeping people out.

The keys are for us to get in and bring others in with us.

4. What is it that church ministry cannot do?

   a. Church ministry cannot give me a sense of _____.

      We all have the need/desire to be somebody. That's not a bad thing. It gets distorted easily and that's why, when we go wrong with it, it's so destructive. But the desire to be somebody and for the world to be different because I'm in it is a good thing. It's a clue to _____ we are and _____ God made us.

b. Church ministry cannot replace God as the sense of my soul satisfaction.

- Who I am becoming is more important than what I am doing.

- My experience may be that satisfaction comes when I do something because then I get a little burst of praise or gratification.

  - When I am looking for satisfaction in the responses of other people, I'm like a rocket ship running on the _____ fuel.

  - Part of trust is to try to run on God and to trust him enough to unhook myself from those wrong kinds of fuel.

    He will give me the energy to do what it is that He wants me to do, but He will do it in a way that is under the _____ yoke and not the _____ yoke. Matthew 11:28-30: "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"

- We cannot live with an _____ _____. If we can't satisfy it in God, then we'll try to find another way to satisfy it. It is not sustainable to live a life with a soul that is dissatisfied. It is like a body starving for food or oxygen.

- Without spiritual vitality and spiritual formation, without that sense of structure, we're really living on the edge.

c. Church ministry will not put me in control of outcomes.

- We release the _____ to God.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

Psalm 23 (NKJV)

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.

John 7:37 (NKJV)

- It is not a question of working hard – it's *how* you work at working hard. Working hard can be a wonderful, even life-giving, thing.

- When my work gets me approval from other people and wins applause and I seek identity and success from it, then, whether I get it or not, I'm hooked. I'm in trouble.

5. What brings joy to me outside of the gratification that comes with "success bursts"?

   a. If I do not find a way to find soul satisfaction, I will be useless in trying to help other people because I'll always end up using them. I have to find a deeper source of soul satisfaction. Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV): *"…the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

      We're drawn to joy, but we don't think a lot about the fact that it's part of what gives us the strength to withstand _____. The joy of the Lord *really* is spiritual strength in a very concrete way.

   b. Philippians 4:11-13 (NKJV): *"I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

      Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV): *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."*

      - You learn the secret of simply dwelling on God – in the richness of God. That isn't just a mental thing; it's plugging yourself into _____.

      - When we turn our mind to God and delight in him, then the joy flows, and the sufficiency, and the "I can do all things through Christ…." That's "The Lord is my Shepherd."

      - For a lot of people, even a lot of us in church ministry, when I think of turning my mind toward God, I do not associate that with the easiness. I associate it with "I'm supposed to do that" and with extrinsic rewards (like earning a badge if I memorize enough Bible verses).

      We have to get over performance and all of those [extrinsic] things.

      We do that by positioning ourselves in life in the Kingdom of God.