



## SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP – A WORK OF HEART

From *A Work of Heart* by Reggie McNeal:

**Spiritual leadership is a work of heart.** Many leaders ignore this truth. Caught up in helping others maintain their hearts, they frequently ignore or neglect their own.

Symptoms can be – bewildered, discouraged, even devastated.

Leaders who understand their leadership is ultimately a matter of heart intentionally look after their own in the midst of dealing with the hearts of others.

Leadership development often focuses on skills and information enhancement assuming the spiritual center is working and “formed” but these assumptions are wrong. Conspiracy of neglect contributes to the problem.

Functionalism has replaced spiritual formation.

Program manipulation and methodological prowess often serve as mere stop gap strategies for genuine spiritual leadership.

Empty spiritual leaders flock to conferences that tell them “how to” and go home just as empty.

Great spiritual leaders are great not just because they are great leaders but because they are great “spiritual” leaders.

We think “if we do what X did we can see the same results...” maybe, but probably not because what X did grew out of their walk with the Lord, and ministry assignment.

Capturing and mimicking techniques will not deliver spiritual breakthrough. That happens only at heart level. No long term spiritual gains can be posted unless they show up in evidence of the leaders own heart developments.

Across the American religious landscape are cores of institutionalized expressions of Christianity that lack spiritual vibrancy or a sense of mission that moves beyond mere survival needs. They search for ways to “do” church or accomplish their vision without attending to the fundamental heart issues of their constituency.

No methodological fix can stir these groups into being spiritually prepared to practice obedience that will bring them into active participation with God in His mission in the world.

The all too stylistic emphasis does not create communities of faith. It can power a mechanical operation that harnesses activism and materialism to build churches that obscure the agenda of God.

Millions of Christians in our culture have no idea what God is up to in their lives because we focus on the external, the material, the political.

***We will never get genuine spiritual revival if we don't get down to some serious heart business.***

An African pastor addressing a USA Christian-leaders conference said *“the American church is about behavior modification and sin management. It's amazing how much the American Church has achieved without the help of the Holy Spirit.”*