



# THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT OF LEADERSHIP

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## The Most Important Ingredient of Leadership

The main ingredient of leadership is the call. Many leaders have desire and aspirations, but have not accepted the call for leadership. There are many steps that take us into leadership positions, but how can you lead if you have not learned how to follow? The leader has to know what, when, and how to complete an assignment. The first steps in most missions, or endeavors are vital for success.

Why am I here and who dispatched this assignment to me? These are questions many leaders ask themselves, and if you are attentive to the call your answer was usually provided in calling you to service.

Leadership has so many elements for development you have to be sure of your calling. The leader must have a heart for the work they are trying to accomplish. The heart is part of the call and the heart must be shaped by God or the leader will fail. Leaders whether secular or spiritual must allow their minds and hearts to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.

"Following the call does not always require a dramatic response. Sometimes it shows up in a quite persistence. The leader must be willing and able to hear and move when called"(McNeal, R., 2011).

The call should not be taken as something personal, it's not about you it's about the mission. If your call to lead is of God then you will certainly want to dismantle you and inject Him. The call is to guide, initiate and reinforce the presence of God in you, the leader.

If the leader seems to stall in the middle of a project or an event, did they accept the call? Did they even understand the call? These questions are valid to ask of a leader that may "fall short". When the call to leadership is accepted, you will need to have clarity, understanding, and determination in your ability to effectively lead. On page 96 of *A Work of Heart*, Reggie McNeal states, "a leader with a clear sense of call represents a formidable force." You will reach many steps through the course of a successful leadership plan, but the call is the most important stage.

Why would one move forward in leadership before first acknowledging and accepting the call? Once you accept the call, do not fall prey to the common pitfall of many new leaders. Samuel Chand characterized this pitfall as "exaggerated expectations (that) inevitably lead to disillusionment", in his book *Leadership Pain*. According to Chand this is a "common form of leadership pain" (p. 114). It is important for the leader to remember that "the call" is vital to the success of any mission that the leader or organization embarks upon. Failure to accept the call first is certain to lead to a dead end, or an aborted mission. Let us all be attentive to the call of the leader.

## Works Cited

Chand, S., (2015). Leadership pain. Thomas Nelson, Inc. Nashville, TN

McNeal, R., (2011). A work of heart. A Wiley Imprint. San Francisco, CA