



FROM THE DESK OF  
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**From Systems to Leading**

When you're scheduled as a guest on a podcast, it's typical for the host to send you a questionnaire ahead of time. It helps establish expectations and gives the conversation a framework to work from.

Recently, I received one that asked how I would teach Fortune 500 leaders the systems and processes that everyone could use to produce better results.

Ultimately, I declined the interview, but the question stayed with me because I think it highlights something we need to pay attention to.

We love systems. And for good reason.

Systems, processes, and protocols are important. They create consistency. They help us govern what we've learned. They let us repeat what works and help others benefit from what we've discovered.

The problem begins when the system starts leading us.

It's easy to keep doing something because it worked before. We won the battle this way last time, so we assume that's how we'll win the next one. Someone else had tremendous success with a particular strategy, so we adopt their process and expect their results.

Before long, without even realizing it, we've moved from being led to simply following a pattern.

That's where I think Kingdom leaders have to be different.

God expects us to learn, develop processes, govern experience, and build upon what He has taught us. But none of those things were ever intended to replace our dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

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Think about how often we see that God would give someone a strategy that produced an extraordinary victory, and then the next assignment required something different.

The lesson wasn't, "**Here's the system.**"

The lesson was, "**Listen to Me.**"

That's a significant distinction.

Your greatest advantage as a Kingdom leader isn't a better system. It's that you have access to the One who knows what this moment requires.

He knows what you can't see. He knows what has changed since the last time. He knows what's coming next. And He knows when yesterday's solution is about to become tomorrow's limitation.

That's why maturity isn't demonstrated simply by how many principles you've learned. At some point, maturity is shown by your ability to discern His leading.

Keep the necessary systems. Learn from your victories and from the wisdom of those who have gone before you.

But hold all of it loosely enough that the Holy Spirit can interrupt it.

There will be moments when He leads you in a direction that doesn't fit the model. There will be assignments where what worked beautifully in the last season simply can't carry what God wants to do in this one.

That's when we must move from systems to leading.

And I believe this is especially important for those of us developing the next generation of leaders.

If all we give them are our systems, they'll know how to reproduce what we did. But if we teach them how to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit, lean into His direction, and have the confidence to follow Him, they'll be prepared for assignments we've never faced and opportunities we've never imagined.

That's a much greater inheritance.

Teach them the principles. Give them the processes. Show them what you've learned. But more importantly, demonstrate what it looks like to stop, listen, discern, and follow.

The Holy Spirit can give you in a moment what no system could ever anticipate. His direction can reveal solutions your experience couldn't produce and create outcomes beyond what the natural process suggested was possible.

Maybe the next level isn't another system.

Maybe it's learning to be led.

Until next month,

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