

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR ADVENTIST LEADERS, PASTORS, AND EDUCATORS

<p>Spiritual illness</p> <p>Disappointment Discouragement Disillusionment</p>	<p>What are the disappointments - in your own life...in your local church...with yourself...with God? God's cure for disappointment in 1844: the three angels' messages. God's cure for disappointment in 2012: the three angels' messages – as experiential applications, taking them as God's medicine for our own lives and our own churches before we give the messages to others. The messages must be incarnately lived out in the lives of the messengers. This will amplify the integrity of our message.</p> <p>God used disappointment in stretch the early advent believers the years following 1844. Could God not use your current disappointment/s as His way of stretching you? God's cure for disappointment and discouragement: The courage to hope again as He retools your life, in order that you may become a spiritually healthy leader according to His design for your life.</p>
<p>Identity</p> <p>The roots of our identity are found in God's covenant, the everlasting gospel, where God inscribed His intention to save us in the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world.</p> <p>One of the main tasks of Adventist leaders will be to assist others in discovering the dignity and worth of their true identity in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>The Everlasting Gospel – is the foundation for spiritual health for leaders.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's everlasting covenant – His election of you before the foundation of the world 2. Creation: His design for you as an image bearer – your original God-intended identity. 3. Sin and the Fall: Satan's identity theft. We are in confusion about <i>who</i> we are. <u>False identity:</u> What you <i>do</i> determines <i>who</i> you are. <u>True identity:</u> Who you are determines <i>what you do</i> 4. The Gospel, the gift of God's salvation, imputes to us the entire history of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and intercession, and also restores our identity, so we know <i>who</i> we are, because we belong to Him...forever. 5. The gospel God's contains God's assessment of our worth: <u>False self-worth:</u> Your performance + the opinions of others about your performance. <u>True self-worth:</u> What God says about you based on <i>creation</i> and <i>redemption</i>.
<p>Protecting and enhancing your true identity</p> <p>Spiritually healthy leaders will possess a solid sense of their personal identity through these responses to God's covenant.</p>	<p>These responses to the everlasting gospel, amplified as <i>spiritual disciplines</i> for leaders, will enhance our spiritual health and increase our immunity against all of Satan's lies and devices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Fear God</u> – is a <i>healthy fear</i> that guards us against all unhealthy fears, and enables us to face the judgment unafraid. 2. <u>Give glory to Him</u> – because this is God's antidote to pride and self-sufficiency, which is the root problem of Babylon-like living. God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him. To magnify the Lord is to brag about Him. 3. <u>Worship Him</u> – for the genuine worship of the Lamb is the best protection against the worship of the beast, which is any substitute for the saving work of Jesus Christ. <p>Let worship become...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the realization of our true identity. • our participation in Christ's redemptive history, that all the benefits of His life, death, resurrection and intercession will becomes ours as a result of Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary. • the realization of genuine self-worth derived from Christ's worth – "<i>Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.</i>" • our joyful <i>satisfaction</i> with the sufficiency of our God. • our joyful <i>witness</i> to others about our delight in our God.
<p>History</p> <p>To become spiritually healthy leaders we must do an honest assessment and processing of our individual timelines.</p> <p>As we recall our personal timelines, God wants us to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledge and confess personal wrongs and sins. • recall and process all painful experiences, woundedness, and brokenness, and ask for God's healing of these through our identification with the sufferings of 	<p>The 2nd angel's message: "Babylon is fallen..." is God's assessment and judgment on the sin disease of Babylon-like living: looking for love in all the wrong places; the abuse of love, love which has to be "bought and sold," spiritual harlotry, idolatry.</p> <p>Detect in your timeline where you have damaged your identity by depending on idols, god-substitutes, as a means of looking for love in all the wrong places.</p> <p>Through a <i>Babylon-like style of living</i> we break the covenant of our heavenly husband, Jesus Christ, by looking for love in the wrong places. Salvation and spiritual health can only be restored when you come out of the bondage of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bitterness and unforgiveness - anything which takes away your freedom in Christ. • The dependence (intoxication) on god-replacements, idols, - <i>possessions, people, places, position</i> and <i>power</i> to satisfy your deepest needs. <p>Recall, detect and confess all the manifestations of the sin-disease of Babylon in your own life: pride, self-sufficiency, etc.</p>

<p>Christ on the cross (Isaiah 53).</p> <p>Process all such personal pain and woundedness through the principles of Luke 4:18, 19 in order to experience freedom from the bondage of your past history.</p> <p>Damaged Identity through the work of the beast, the antichrist.</p> <p>Detect in your personal timeline the assaults of the enemy on your identity as you discern where the Babylon virus has expressed itself in <i>beastlike</i> conduct (Romans 1:23; Galatians 5:15; James 4:1-4).</p>	<p>How have these sins damaged your own life? the lives of others? your own church? Seek & receive God's forgiveness, and where necessary, the forgiveness of others. The sin-disease of beast worship – trusting in false christ's who cannot save.</p> <p>The 3rd angel's message: Do not worship the beast! God's description of the sin disease of beast worship. When you worship the beast (any substitute or replacement for the sufficiency of the saving work of Jesus Christ) you will damage your own life and the lives of others through the results of such false worship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may use the methods of the beast to do the work of the Lamb. You may try to fill your cup of personal significance by methods that damage yourself and others – force, fear, anger, threats, coercion, manipulation, intimidation – all methods of control. <p>The cure for the 'beast' disease: The worship of Jesus Christ, the all-sufficient Lamb of God, to meet your every need. Contentment with Christ and His salvation is the only sure way to protect yourself against the deceptions of both 'Babylon' and the 'beast.' Christ's sufficiency overcomes feelings of shame and inadequacy, and thus restores in us the image of God, our original identity.</p>
<p>Biblical Timelines</p> <p>At certain times in Bible history, God asked His people to consider their personal and corporate timelines in order to hold them accountable for how the sin-disease of Babylon-like living had damaged their identity, and to restore them to the dignity of their true identity in Him.</p>	<p>Examples of Biblical timelines:</p> <p>Deuteronomy 32 – the covenant song of Moses. Nehemiah 9 – the recitation of God's covenant faithfulness after their return from exile. Psalm 78 – God's blessings in spite of the unfaithfulness of His people. Psalm 105,106,107. A recounting of the covenant history of God's people.</p> <p>Through a recounting of these timelines, God calls for confession and repentance, and offers a restoration of their <i>damaged identity</i>, and the resulting blessings to His people: rebuilding of the ruins and restoring the foundations of former desolations (Isaiah 58:12, 13; Isaiah 61:1-4).</p> <p>Here is the key to genuine <i>revival and reformation</i>.</p>
<p>Personal Timelines – Replacing lies with truth – the work of sanctification.</p> <p>The processing of our personal timelines becomes the basis for a leader's dynamic and credible <u>witness</u> to others about God.</p>	<p>Discern the experiential lies of Satan as you process your personal timeline, and replace these lies with the truths of God. This is an ongoing work that will continue for the rest of your life.</p> <p>An honest processing of your timeline....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can help you rediscover your God-given identity reveals your priorities and values of your life– what have you learned? the position of God in your life reveals where you life is not in alignment with God's purposes. <p>Discover how the footholds of Satan became strongholds that damaged your identity and self-worth. Genuine conversion – a total re-arranging of our values. Study Paul's testimony as he recounts his personal timeline in Philippians 3:4-14 and Acts 26:1-8. Evangelism is to challenge people, with Spirit-directed sensitivity, to become acquainted with their own timelines, and to experience the life-changing power of the gospel in order to stand without fault in the judgment: See Acts 2 & 7 – Peter's & Stephen's testimony.</p>
<p>Destiny</p> <p>Your new life will now become a living and joyful testimony growing out the presence of these covenant blessings in your life:</p> <p><i>Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.</i></p> <p>In the light of your restored identity and the processing of your past timeliness, what is God's <i>calling</i> for your life?</p>	<p>You will experience the joy these covenant blessings in your life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The patience of the saints</i> – accepting difficult situations and people without giving God a deadline to remove them. You can confidently trust Him because He works all things together for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28). <i>Keep the commandments of God</i> – not to earn salvation, but to protect God's gift of salvation to you, already provided through His everlasting covenant. You will keep the commandments, not as a list of rules by which to earn salvation, but as expressions of genuine love to both God and others. <i>The faith of Jesus</i> – as you confess that your salvation does not rest on your performance of the terms of a contract, but is solely based on fully trusting in Christ's covenant faithfulness. Through faith you visualize God's calling on your life. <p>An understanding of your secure Biblical <u>identity</u>, accompanied by an honest processing of the events of your <u>history</u> will result in a dynamic refocusing on God's <u>destiny</u> for your life that the rest of your life will be your best life, as you develop a living <u>testimony</u> to draw others to Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>Testimony Intentionality</p>	<p>To motivate and assist others in the processing of their personal timelines in order for them to discover their God-given identity and to develop a personal testimony about God's specific calling and mission for their individual lives.</p>