

THE LEADER'S EDGE

*“Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.”
(Proverbs 9:9)*

Category:

Leadership Excellence

Rating:

Content: A

Style: A

Memorable Quotes:

“Lifelong learning actually means life unlearning—a willingness to put yesterday’s ideas, attitudes, and approaches under the knife of new insights and new challenges.”

“He died at thirty; they buried him at sixty.”

Mark Twain

“Their job, their role, their current assignment is the venue or platform from which they pursue their life mission. No matter what job they take or role they fill, they redefine the position to fit their mission, not the other way around.”

“Feeling the call ‘to pastor’ is different from feeling the call ‘to be a pastor’. The call to pastor contains a spiritual dynamism that transcends a vocational career path. Pastoring can be expressed in many ways . . . The call does not hinge on having a title of ‘pastor’ or drawing a salary from a congregation. The venue is negotiable; the mission is non-negotiable.”

BOOK SUMMARY

Practicing Greatness: 7 Disciplines of Extraordinary Spiritual Leaders by Reggie McNeal, Jossy-Bass, 2006.

Core Content

Extending Jim Colin’s ideas in the book, *Good to Great*, Reggie McNeal argues that we can generally get by with “good” leaders in normal times, but our current era of volatile transition calls for “great” leaders. McNeal goes on to define a great leader as a person who intentionally cultivates 7 critical disciplines which include both extraordinary character and exceptional competency.

The following 7 disciplines form the core of the book’s content:

1. ***The Discipline of Self-Awareness***

- Understanding our family of origin, hidden addictions and compulsions, our boundaries or lack of them, our call, talents, key events in our lives and destructive patterns.

2. ***The Discipline of Self-Management***

- Managing our feelings - emotional intelligence
- Managing expectations of ourselves and others
- Managing temptation
- Managing money

3. ***The Discipline of Self-Development***

- Developing an unlearning curve
- Participating in peer learning networks
- Building on strengths (developing a “strengths” culture)
- Developing through failure

4. ***The Discipline of Mission***

- Discovering your mission: call, passion, talent, personality
- Liberating permissions of mission: meaning and significance, excellence, energy, intentionality

5. ***The Disciple of Decision-Making***

Elements of Good Decision Making

- Ask the right questions (wrong question: How do we grow this church?; right question: How do we serve this community?)
- Get enough of the right kind of information
- Consider timing
- Involve the right people
- Operate with the right motives
- Understand intended outcomes
- Learn from mistakes

6. ***The Discipline of Belonging***

- Belonging to family
- Belonging to friends

<p><i>“Leaders are at home with themselves and with God. They are not untouched by the dark side. They do not ignore it; in fact, they are keenly aware of their susceptibilities and vulnerabilities to failure. They refuse to be captures by it or to allow it to be the book on them.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Belonging to coworkers ➤ Belonging to mentors ➤ Belonging to followers <p>7. The Discipline of Aloneness Experiencing Wilderness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Observing Sabbath ➤ Extended prayer times ➤ Fasting
<p><i>“The world is waiting for you to walk onto the stage of leadership. It is hoping for a great performance. You will have rehearsed your lines when no one else is looking.”</i></p>	<p>Discussion Starters</p> <p>Who is one leader you know that you would place in the “great” category? What contributes to their leadership greatness?</p> <p>Rate your current experience of each discipline: (1 = low; 10 = high)</p> <p>Self-Awareness: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Self-Management: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Self-Development: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Mission: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Decision-Making: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Belonging: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Aloneness: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10</p> <p>What is one area of leadership strength you want to build on and leverage toward excellence?</p> <p>Which discipline do you most want to cultivate? What next steps could you take to practice “greatness” in this area?</p>