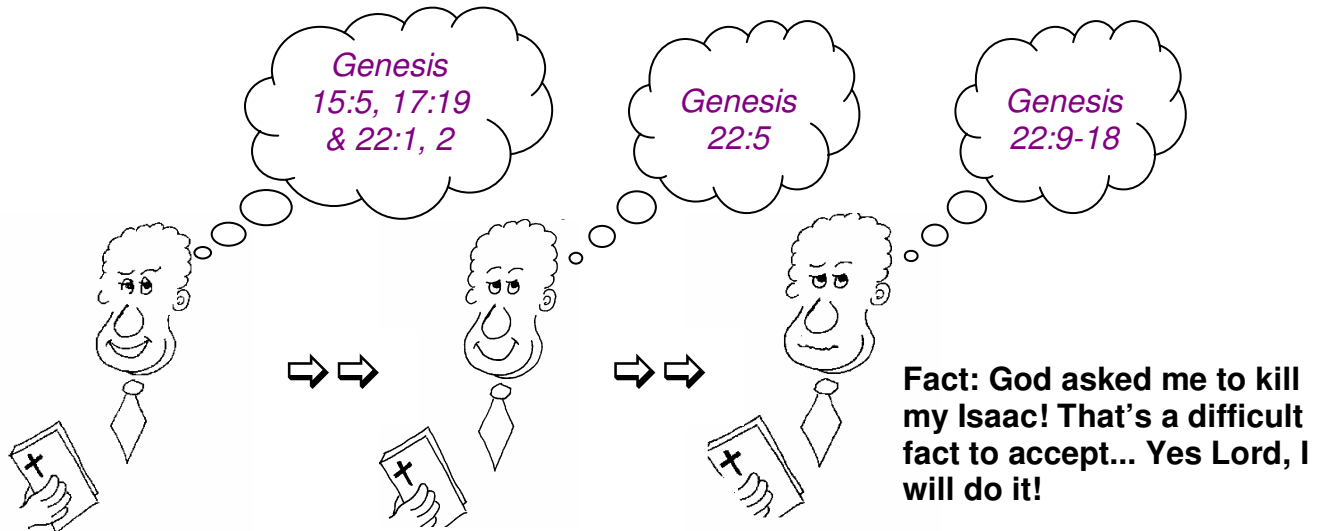


## 5. Attitude of a Leader: I will not stay with the Donkeys! (I will find my Stepping Stones.)

Know the facts, but rely on **His Word!**



As Abraham obeyed God and went to sacrifice Isaac, it was not only Isaac who was being sacrificed. It was also Abraham's will that went to a cross in obedience and trust.

*(Genesis 22:5 NKJV) "And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.""*

Sacrifice your will. Obey His will. It will be an act of worship. Abraham said,

*"...the lad and I will go yonder and worship..."*

**Desire to worship will unstick you and move you to God's will.**

Worship corrects improper thinking that is stuck on facts or circumstances that may be confusing, condemning or contradictory to what God says. There will always be thinking that seems right, but leads to inevitably unsatisfactory outcomes. Why? It denies God's Word. Such thinking limits your life, kills your worship and denies God's will (See Proverbs 14:12, 16:25). **God's Word always overrides the facts** (James 1:22)!

*(Genesis 22:5-6 NKJV) "And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." {6} So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together."*

## Do not stay with the donkeys!

Do not stay with the donkeys. Go and sacrifice. When necessary, *be the sacrifice*. Take up your cross at every opportunity. Cross bearing is always a pleasing sacrifice to God. It will always result in the will of the Father being accomplished. His will is always good for you.

**Know the facts, but rely on His Word.**

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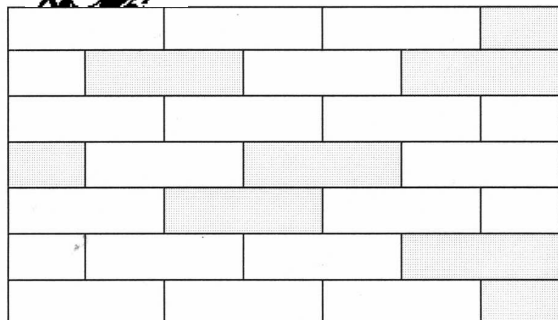
## Leadership Principle #13

### The truth of God's Word will overrule the facts.

(Do not stay with the donkeys! Go with God.)



#### HAVE YOU RUN INTO A BRICK WALL?



It is amazing how much energy it takes to maintain your own efforts at building your ministry! It takes so much energy that there is often little strength or motivation left to do anything else. It is very much like running full steam into a brick wall. Imagine how painful that can be!

We start out with great hopes, a few resources, and a little help. As time goes by, our churches or ministries settle into patterns of growth, but can include barriers or walls to growth. These typically come in the midst of hard work and can be quite disheartening. When numerical growth ceases for a time, our reaction is usually to try to do something different. Why? We judge our success by how many people join us. Often, in our zeal, we hinder, set back or even destroy what God is trying to do. We have judged our success by only one factor and have missed the stepping stones to success that God has given us between the numerical jumps in our church populations.



#### Ask yourself:

 Do I get discouraged over empty chairs I see in my meetings?

1. Do I look at them as opportunities to fill, not empty failures to mourn?
2. How much time do I spend encouraging my people to join me in filling them?  
*You will never build a group without your people doing the seat filling.*

 Do I get discouraged over not knowing what to do next? How often?



*Just relax. There are no surprises in heaven. Keep on doing what you know to do. Add some more prayers and worship to both your personal and church agendas?*

#### Was Jesus successful?

**John 6:44 - 61**

**John 6:53–56**...He says that His flesh is food and His blood is drink.

**John 6:60**.....What Jesus said was not attractive to His followers.

- He was not offering to continue to multiply loaves and fishes to a bunch of people with their hands out. He deliberately offended His followers.

- Eventually He lost most of them. He died between two thieves, with just His disciples and a handful of followers at the cross. Was he successful?

All appearances would argue that He was not! He never gathered a huge following. Many abandoned Him and rejected His message and they killed Him! BUT... He built His church into a force not even the gates of hell can prevail against.

Jesus was never after success. He looked beyond what seemed to be the facts of the moment. He was after something far more meaningful. He was after significance. Significance fulfills eternity's plan. The result: eleven men were forever changed and then a twelfth came and encountered significance on the road to Damascus!



## Five Stepping Stones to Significance in Ministry

(Five Practical Tools  
to Growth in Your Ministry)

### Prayer Tool #1. (First Stepping Stone)

The object of this stepping stone is two-fold. First, by praying with people who are participating with me in ministry, I bring the power of agreement into play. Second, I enlist the hearts of others into my plans, dreams and visions for the ministry.

Day	Time I will Pray	Reason for Praying	Who will I pray with?
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

## My Church Growth Plan **#2.** (Second Stepping Stone)

This is a tool to insure that I focus on what is really important and understand why. It also helps me to include others in many tasks I would otherwise do alone. It reminds me that teamwork is key to God's plan for the church.

Day	Most important action to take today (excluding prayer)	Who will I do it with?	Why is it so important?
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

## My Weekly Mentoring Plan **#3.** (Third Stepping Stone)

As a leader, I must always strive to disciple and train my followers. As I touch and influence those God has given me, they will grow, be equipped for, and released to the work of the ministry.

Day	Who will I mentor? Why?	Subject & Scriptures	What is the goal of this session?
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

# My Plan for Personal Change **#4.** (Fourth Stepping Stone)

*(Romans 12:1-2 NKJV) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

*(Ephesians 4:21-25 NKJV) "if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: {22} that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, {23} and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, {24} and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. {25} Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another."*

## This Week

My Attitude	My Habits	My Leadership Actions in Church (especially during services)
<p>What have I been doing? (Example: I have had a Judgmental attitude →</p>	<p>→ criticizing too much →</p>	<p>→ And so I have interrupted the worship leader because I think I can do a better job of hearing God's voice and flowing with His Spirit)</p>
<p>What I will do differently! (Example: I will stop judging and show patience and love. →</p>	<p>→ I will look for the good in people and go out of my way to give <u>sincere</u> compliments. →</p>	<p>→ I will give the worship service to the worship leader and step back so I can flow in the Holy Spirit with him/her.</p>
<p>successfully changed?</p>	<p>successfully changed?</p>	<p>successfully changed?</p>
<p>yes      no</p>	<p>yes      no</p>	<p>yes      no</p>

Each week: I will meditate often on one Scripture that speaks about change (Example – Ephesians 4:21-24, above). I will use it to remind myself of the opportunity to change in the particular area I have chosen for the week.

**Make Change in your life an act of worship. Trust God for the outcomes!**

## This Week's Brick Wall #5. (Fifth Stepping Stone)

I will identify the single most significant barrier that I face this week. I will look at its destruction as my opportunity for a successful week!

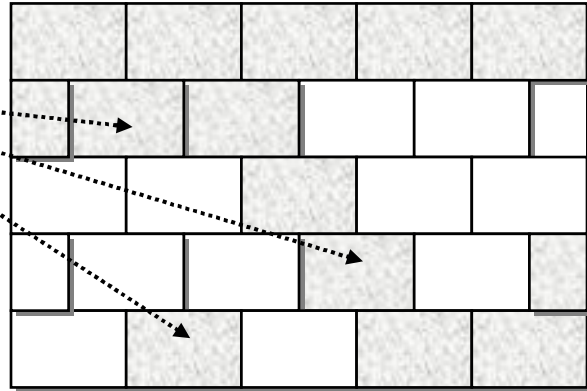
Can I identify any individual bricks in this week's wall? (They will give me a place to begin.)

Brick #1:

Brick #2:

Brick #3:

Brick #4:



Why is it so important this week?

Has my attitude and/or thinking about tearing down this wall been wrong or flawed in some way?



What does the Word of God say about this kind of wall?



How is it described in the Bible?

How does the Word say to attack it?

What specific adjustment (action I take now!) must I make that will enable me to demolish this wall?

### Ask Yourself:



*How much thinking have I been doing without allowing God into the process?*

1. *How does God's Word say I should proceed in my situation, in order to maximize my results?*
2. *What does God's Word say about trusting Him in every situation?*



*Could I have more compassion and concern for the people God has given me? Are they changing and growing as much as they can?*

1. *Can I put some of that energy that is wasted into something more fruitful?*
2. *Can I be a better mentor and discipler with those God has already given me?*

*The answers to these questions are keys to your growth and theirs. Otherwise, you will be making nothing out of something... and the potential in all those people will be lost! You cannot make something meaningful out of something meaningless.*

## **Leadership Principle #14**

### **Only God can make something from nothing.**

- **Do not try to do something with what you have not been given.**
- **Do not try to do something with what is essentially meaningless to eternity.**

#### **Review – Pastoral Leadership Principles**

- #1. **People will follow at a distance for only a season. Close relationships are lasting and fruitful forever. Reach out to your people and be part of them.**
- #2. **Never forget that you are simply a child of God, even when the people think you are more. The battle is the Lord's.**
- #3. **It is delivery boys and girls who kill the giants.**
- #4. **Link your faith to your relationship with the Father.**
- #5. **Be a big picture person.**
- #6. **Don't just do something; Stand there!**
- #7. **You can beg in streets of self-pity... or worship on streets paved with gold. (You can plead for your need... or worship Him in faith, expecting the increase!)**
- #8. **Difficulties are inevitable; Misery is optional. Don't just stand there; Start dancing!**
- #9. **Stretch your heart out to Him in worship, praise and thanksgiving, and He will stretch His hand out to you in provision, protection, promotion and peace.**
- #10. **Excellence is doing the best with what you have. (Do your best... Let God do the rest.)**
- #11. **People of ability are one thing...People of anointing are another! (Position yourself to let God come down.)**
- #12. **"1" is too small a number to produce greatness.**
- #13. **The truth of God's Word will overrule the facts. (Do not stay with the donkeys! Go with God.)**
- #14. **Only God can make something from nothing. (Do not try to do something with what you have not been given, or what seems meaningless to eternity.)**

#### ***Think about it!***

Lord Jesus, we bless you and praise you for your Word, Amen.