

Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda

Henry T. Blackaby , Richard Blackaby

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Next to their *Experiencing God* classic, *Spiritual Leadership* is one of Henry and Richard Blackaby's most highly regarded and best-selling books to date, encouraging business and church leaders alike to follow God's biblical design for success. In fact, the Barna Group reports that pastors list it among today's most influential writings on the topic of how God develops, guides, and empowers spiritual leaders.

In this new trade paper edition of *Spiritual Leadership*, the Blackabys update their notes on the key points regarding a leader's challenges, character qualities, influence, decision making techniques, and more, all the while focusing on how leaders discover and promote God's vision for their organization and move people on to His agenda. There are also new chapters on leading change and leading teams.

Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda Details

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Author : Henry T. Blackaby , Richard Blackaby

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Tracey says

Really validating to my faith. Leadership in the workplace and ministry a like, do well under the authority of Jesus. The proof is here;)

Josh Miller says

Best book I have read this year! Also one of the top leadership books I have read all time. One of the things I love about this book is that it is not geared just towards those in full-time ministry. Much of the book does address those in the pastorate, but many lessons and illustrations apply to the leader in any situation - secular or ministry. The main thought put forth is SPIRITUAL leadership in any setting.

The authors must have emphasized dozens of times the importance of a spiritual leader staying close to God...have an intimate walk with the Father...knowing the will of God in situations before going forward. I loved it!

The format of the book was quite helpful. At the end of the chapter, a "Concepts & Scriptures for Consideration" section was included. Many of the key themes from that chapter were boiled down to single sentences to emphasize the truth contained therein. In addition, a list of many Scripture verses to study/consider when addressing the particular need.

The book addresses young leaders as well as older leaders. Personally, I was challenged nearly every chapter as the book really addresses what spiritual leadership is and what it is not. Too many of today's "Christian" leadership books boil leadership down to only what can be seen by others (known as buildings, bucks, & bodies). While the authors acknowledge if no one is following, one is not a leader, they propose a foundation that is Biblically strong.

The following are the chapter titles:

The Leader's Challenge

The Leader's Role: What Leaders Do

The Leader's Preparation: How God Develops Leaders

The Leader's Vision: Where Do Leaders Get it and How Do They Communicate It

The Leader's Character: A Life That Moves Others To Follow

The Leader's Goal: Moving People On to God's Agenda

The Leader's Influence: How Leaders Lead

The Leader's Decision Making

The Leader's Schedule: Doing What's Important

The Leader's Pitfalls: What Disqualifies Leaders

The Leader's Rewards

I would (and most likely will) give this book to any Christian I believe has leadership potential. It will only

help them grow into the leader God would have them become!

Connor says

A really good book on leadership from a Biblical worldview but the Blackaby's could benefit from reading Zinsser's On Writing Well because the book dragged on and seemed redundant at times.

Meshach Kanyion says

Good Content but Unnecessarily Long and Laborious

This book is filled with wisdom and insight. The truth it proclaims cannot be denied. The trouble is in getting to and through the content. The authors speak, not authoritatively, but like they just read a lot of books. Their authority is only their research, not their experience.

To be sure, I'm well aware of the Blackaby's and their leadership, but the book doesn't read as if a leader wrote it. It reads like a researcher wrote it.

They throw in so many, "It was said of Winston Churchill... Martin Luther King Jr. once... Eleanor Roosevelt experienced..." Sometimes I just wanted to scream, "YOU'VE MADE THE POINT, NOW OFF TO THE NEXT ONE!"

The book could be significantly reduced in length without these unnecessary illustrations.

That being said, if you are good at hacking through weeds, you will find a treasure here. But if not, look elsewhere.

Mark says

Blackaby has some really good points in this book. My problems with this book are threefold.

First, I'm not sure that this book was what I needed at this point in my walk. I'm not leading any group, ministry, organization in ways that require (or possibly even allow) the type of leadership that Blackaby describes.

Secondly, many of Blackaby's big points seem relatively intuitive. How does a spiritual leader lead? By knowing God and following His plan. OK...not terribly insightful, but very true. Maybe this ties in to point one, but I probably need to more fully grasp following His plan.

Third, and probably more importantly, I feel that he repeats himself a lot and says in 30 pages what could probably be said in 10. So he lost my interest at times.

Dominique says

This book is incredibly practical, albeit a scholarly treatise on the subject of spiritual leadership. In early 2016, my pastor, two friends and I went through this book chapter by chapter and met to discuss the study questions. Not only was I encouraged and challenged in my reading of the material, God used the study group to build me up in ways I will continue to reap benefits from for decades to come.

Karla Goforth Abreu says

This is an insightful book on spiritual leadership for both the secular and church workplace. It is easily read and should be required reading for all pastors and leaders.

Abby Burg says

Out of all the books I've read on leadership, I think this would be the first one I would hand to someone entering spiritual leadership. Maxwell's 21 Laws would be second, but this would be first. So much valuable insight on what it means to be a leader who seeks God's face and moves people in to His agenda.

Rob says

This book is a classic. It takes contemporary leadership and contrasts them with those we see in the Bible. It is a long read but worth it.

Walt Walkowski says

Very good book on leadership, though I would have hesitated to include Robert E. Lee as one of my models of leadership given his role in the Civil War.

Jay Drummond says

Very good encouragement and focus.

I found the commentary on tools, emphasis, challenges, and rewards a very complete work on current and future leadership. Enjoy.

John Nichols says

Great book but don't expect easy reading. This is a book requiring time to stop, consider, and digest. End of chapter summaries are useful for review or researchers. My copy is now highlighted with personal notes added and I expect to return to it often.

Kathy Howard says

Biblically solid and God-honoring view of leadership for Christians in ministry or secular leadership positions. Full of practical and wise advice.

Troy Neujahr says

I'm done with this book for now, choosing to set it aside instead of finishing it.

I want to improve my leadership as a pastor . . . but that's just it. As. A . Pastor. I don't wish to become the CEO of a church. I don't wish to learn techniques how to influence people to my agenda. The Blackabys have made one too many assumptions about Scripture, filling in the gaps where Scripture is silent with secular leadership concepts thinly disguised as super-spiritual practices.

This book is just not serving for where I want to go as a pastor. Not now. So for now, I'll shelve it and focus upon a better aspect of pastoral ministry--shepherding and curing souls instead of leading an organization. Perhaps I'll come back to this book in the future and feel more kindly about it. And perhaps not.

Eric Fehr says

I rarely give books a 5 out of 5 rating, but I truly feel that this text deserves it. Blackaby and Blackaby provide greater insight to leadership than any other resources available. While they cite research provided by others (including Kouzes and Posner, Greenleaf, Chambers, and others), they also develop the idea that all of those resources tend to be incomplete because they forget one key ingredient to successful leadership: God. Through building our relationship with God and seeking to become a servant, we become Spiritual Leaders - Spiritual Leaders are leaders who seek to move people onto God's agenda.

I recommend this book very highly.
