

Managing My Personal Growth

“Just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7

Leadership authors Warren Bennis and Bert Nanis affirm: *“It is the capacity to grow and develop and improve their skills that distinguish leaders from followers.”* If you are going to be an effective leader, you must first determine to lead yourself. If you are to lead yourself, you must continue to grow. Maintenance is not leadership. Growth and improvement is what leadership is about. All organizations or ministries that continue to grow have at least one quality in common: a leader who is growing personally.

Three Myths about Personal Growth:

1. Growth is _____.
If we aren't intentional, we won't grow.

2. Growth comes from _____.
Information is useless if unused.

3. Growth comes from _____.
Experience is good only if it is reflected on and one learns from one's mistakes and successes.

Dr. John C. Maxwell's Definition of Success:

John Maxwell has identified personal growth as one of the three major keys to success.

Success is... _____ my purpose in life
 _____ to my maximum potential
 _____ seeds that benefit others

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“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”

2 Peter 3:18

As a leader, continually growing ourselves is a key element if we desire to grow our organization. Managing our personal growth allows room for growth in our organization.

Four Reasons Personal Growth Matters:

1. Gifting without growth leads to _____.
Talent is not enough! Example: King Saul was one of the world's most talented individuals. However, insecurity and fear prevented him from maximizing his potential.

2. Growth prevents personal and professional _____.
Have you ever felt stuck in your life/career?

3. Your personal growth impacts your _____ growth.
What is limiting your organization's growth?

The Law of the Lid – Leadership ability determines a person's level of effectiveness. (John C. Maxwell)

4. Only through continuous _____ can you reach your potential.
If you don't try to improve yourself, you may stay in one place forever.

Discussion:

- In the past, how has your level of commitment to personal growth positively or negatively impacted your organization?

Steps Toward Reaching Your Potential:

1. Make a _____ to change.
Don't just accept change, seek it!
2. Set _____ goals.
Start focusing on growing your area of greatest strength.
3. Learn to _____ the journey.
If you are going to spend a good part of your life doing something, you need to learn to like it!
4. Put yourself in a _____.
Position yourself in a "pro-growth" positive environment.

Managing the Discipline of Growth

1. **Set a _____ to grow every day.**
"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)
Improve a little every day, and over the long haul you will make great progress.

2. **Have a _____ and _____ to grow.**
Even in prison the apostle Paul wanted to create an environment to grow by asking that the Word of God and other books would be brought to him while he was there (2 Timothy 4:11-13).

Some practical suggestions:

- a. Listen to audio lessons.
- b. Read – 2 books per month.
- c. Meet People – Set up 1 key meeting with someone you can learn from each month.

3. _____ **what you learn.** (Ecclesiastes 12:9-11)

- a. Capture it
- b. Label it
- c. File it where you can find it again

4. _____ **what you learn.**
"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:22-25)

- a. Review notes
- b. Review quotes
- c. Share with others
- d. Live it in front of others

The Power of the Process

1. We _____ the event and we _____ the process.

Very often, we hide behind excuses for not growing. We claim we cannot do great things because we're just common, ordinary leaders. *"But these are gifted people,"* you may say. Being gifted has very little to do with it. Maybe you and I haven't been given those bursts of genius, those flashes of inspiration, or the blessing of exceptional talent. Yet we believe that our journey of growth, our creativity along the way, consists of small, deliberate, sometimes unnoticed steps. Amy Carmichael once penned these thoughts:

"Sometimes when we read the words of those who have been more than conquerors, we feel almost despondent. I feel I shall never be like that. But they won through step by step, by little bits of will, little denials of self, little inward victories by faithfulness in very little things of our lives."

They became what they are. No one sees these little hidden steps. They only see the accomplishment, but even so, those small steps were what got them there. We will become what we are becoming today.

2. _____ decisions applied daily compound _____.

As we choose the right decisions each day, they affect our lives in a multiplied way over time.

Discussion:

- How does the compounding power of right decisions influence...
 - Your family?
 - Your church?
 - Your business?

It's what you learn _____ you know it all that counts.

Assessment and Application

Assessment:

- In which of the twelve big decisions do you most need to grow?
- What commitments have you made in the past that you've neglected?

Application:

- Which of the twelve big decisions will be your growth areas this year?
- What will be your growth goals this year?
- Who will be your mentors this year?

Reviewing the 12 Big Decisions:

1. Attitude: Choose and display the right attitudes daily.
2. Priorities: Determine and act on important priorities daily.
3. Health: Know and follow healthy guidelines daily.
4. Family: Communicate with and care for my family daily.
5. Thinking: Practice and develop good thinking daily.
6. Commitment: Make and keep proper commitments daily.
7. Finances: Earn and properly manage money daily.
8. Faith: Deepen and live out my faith daily.
9. Relationships: Initiate and invest in solid relationships daily.
10. Generosity: Plan for and model generosity daily.
11. Values: Embrace and practice good values daily.
12. Growth: Seek and experience improvements daily.