

# Spiritual Visionary Leadership

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CBMC is an international, interdenominational organisation of businessmen, leaders and self-employed entrepreneurs. It is CBMC's mission to make Jesus Christ known in the business world as Lord and Saviour and to educate and train Christian business men, professionals and leaders. This is to fulfil the Commission of Jesus Christ to his followers to make disciples (Mt. 28:19,20, 2 Tim. 2:2)

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The material before you is intended as a basis for talks with the other course participants under the leadership of a coach. It consists of a number of studies or lessons which may be done or read within the group as well as individually, at home.

All of the materials as included in the presentations on the day of instruction are also included in this material.

### 1.1 Read

Upon consultation with a coach, a couple of chapters (1-2) of 'Insider' may be read in the period between two days of instruction. These may be discussed in the individual group meetings.

### 1.2 Objective

Confrontation with/insight into yourself (and other people) and discovering how God sees us.

## 2 WHO AM I IN RELATION TO MY CREATOR?

*Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The Lord said to him: "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram." Also, anoint Jehu, son of Nimsi, king over Israel; and anoint Elisha, son of Saphat, from Abel Mehola, to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."*

**1 Kings 19: 1-18**

Elijah feels discouraged, even though he has much experience with God and seen the things He did. Jezebel wants him dead, after his victory over the Baal priests. He runs into the desert and says, "Please, let me die."

God gives him food and an assignment:

"Go to the mountain."

He does not even get a pastoral talk! He goes to the mountain and rests in a (dark) cave. God says: "What are you doing here?" Again, he receives an assignment. He must go outside and stand on the mountain in the Lord's presence. Elijah complies. There he stands in God's grace. He can hide nothing in God's immediate presence.

Everyone of us receives their specific assignment. There is no standard assignment. There are certain things which apply to everyone. There is no model treatment. Everyone is unique. And with each of us, God follows His unique way. The motto for everyone is: come into God's presence. Allow everything of yourself to be exposed before God. God calls us to stand on the mountain in His presence.

God shows that his destructive wrath passes without affecting Elijah. You might say: the judgment does not touch Elijah. He approaches Elijah in a gentle whisper. Again, God asks: "What are you doing here?" Now Elijah voices his complaint. However, God does not provide any answers, but gives him an assignment.

You will not receive an answer to the question whether your partner will ever change; or whether your child will go to heaven; or whether you will recover from

your disease; whether your church will ever reach the proper insight; or whether your neighbour will come to Christ; or whether CBMC will survive; or whether you will survive; or whether the people will accept you when they truly know who you are or what will happen when you quit using your under the counter money; etc.

We often fret for hours about what we do not understand without doing what we do understand. Thus, we compound our problems. Each assignment that God gives is specifically for you. Everything else is God's concern (2 Tim. 2:4). Following God's will, however, releases you from isolation and brings you into fellowship with others.

God wants to teach us to apply his will for us in everyday life and to take up our cross daily. There are many things that distract us from the assignment in this super fast energy consuming information era. If we have any insight into our assignment, we almost have no time to carry it out.

God is going to do something. He will lead us. Understand that this is a vision.

In preparation, please read Genesis, chapters 1 and 2.

It was God's intention that man should enjoy creation out of his own free choice and do what He had prepared for him beforehand (Eph. 2:10): increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

### **Increase in number, fill, subdue**

We have to break with the 'victim mentality' (as Elijah) and we must not let ourselves be controlled by the thought that it is the only way and the we cannot help it. We must not be afraid but do what is good, do what He asks of us. We must take our stand and not avoid the responsibilities. Do not be silent when you must speak. Do not hesitate to do what must be done and be willing to accept the possible consequences.

The word 'subdue' often reminds us first of its negative implications (acting selfishly), but we should think much more of the positive, of taking the responsibility that is given to us. Subdue might also be translated as: caring for, managing, serving.

The 7th day for God was the first day for man. Resting in Him and from that position carrying out the works that He had prepared in advance.

God did not make us as robots. He created us with a free will since He desired that we should be able to freely choose to love Him. For forced love is no love at all. Love wants to be reciprocal. Love implies a confirmation of who you are without scoring. Not because of what you do but because of who you are. Apparently, the response to THE love was worth the "adventure" for God. He enjoys it when we, out of our own free will are enjoying what He has made.

A love relationship starts by giving, without assurance of the response or what it may yield. God said: if you eat of the tree then you will die. Yet death was not the intention, God wanted to give us eternal life.

## 2.2 Reality at a distance

A few random observations:

- In many locations the world is in a chaos.
- Many churches are in decline.
- God's norms and values are no longer acknowledged.
- Creation is abused.
- Families and relationships break up.
- There is disease and death.

This is not a scientific list. Perhaps you recognise it. It makes you feel hopeless. It appears to be without perspective. What can we do about it? You might say that nothing can be done about it.

So we observe:

- More and more people are leaving God.
- All that is beautiful is up for grabs.
- Little is left of God's intention.

**1** *Fortunately, you are in a fairly good situation. Or not?*

**2** *How realistic is your self-concept?*

## 2.3 The reality in you and me

In the reality of daily life we are focused on:

- Our own safety more than anything.
- My perception (for that is the truth).
- Preventing (short term) trouble and sadness.
- Confirmation of who I am.
- Our rights.

We do not like to discuss this reality. For fear of rejection we do not talk about it and keep it at a safe distance. We present ourselves better than what we are and thereby lose the perspective of ourselves. We do not know the reality in ourselves anymore and have accepted the truth that we regard as the basis for our actions. 'I' acts as a reference and a touchstone for all that happens around me. Anything that might hurt me must be prevented. Anything I do has to be aimed at my own safety and survival. My wellness and happiness must have priority. And the only question that I ask myself is: 'What is needed for that?' That is what it is mostly about.

Yet, in our choices we must not allow ourselves to be led by the fear that it might hurt us but whether it is His will and whether it fits His perspective. It concerns His affairs. Our interests are of no consequence. At all times we have to keep asking our Father about it (read 2 Sam. 5:17 ff.). God's clear mission for us may often be different from person to person and from situation to situation.

### **How is it that reality differs so much from God's intentions?**

How come everything went so differently? How come I do not do the good I want to do but, instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do (Rom. 7 verse 18 ff.) ?

- Is it because of reality from a distance?
- Is the reality from a distance the cause of the reality in myself?
- Or is the reality in myself the cause of the reality from a distance?

The latter is the case. The cause for it is the Fall.

### **The Fall**

In order to be able to answer the previous question we must understand what the effect is of the Fall, even in our own life.

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

Genesis 3:6-10

The Fall is based on Eve's temptation by the serpent. He is sly, cunning, crafty, shrewd. From observation, Satan knows Eve's sensitive spot. He makes use of her sensitivity. Eve eats and so does Adam.

Yet God will not forsake man after the Fall. (To which He would have been entitled). No, He finds them and communicates with them:

God asks: "Adam where are you?"

Adam replies: "I was afraid."

"I am naked."

"So I hid."

## Man's core

In his book "Encouragement, Key to Caring", Larry Crabb analyses and discusses a number of aspects of the Fall.

Adam was afraid, he feared. Crabb refers to this as a **core emotion**. Prior to the Fall there was no fear. Immediately after the Fall, man no longer meets the Creator's intentions. Due to the Fall, God has a reason to reject man.

The worst thing that may happen to man is rejection. Man is afraid since he discovered that he is naked (**core motive**).

Man does not meet God's original intention and in order to prevent himself from being rejected he hides (**core strategy**).

In a nutshell:

- I was afraid. - Core emotion
- For I am naked. - Core motive
- So I hid. - Core strategy

We are full of fear (loss, wife, children, job). - Core emotion

We discover that we do not meet the description. - Core motive

We hide ourselves for others to prevent that they will see who we truly are. - Core strategy

In order to give God the opportunity to change our life we must ask ourselves: What am I afraid of, what am I hiding and which strategies do I apply for it?

Our situation is not so good either. We are no better than Adam and Eve. Do we take Romans 3:12 serious? “there is no one who does good, not even one”. If you think that you are in relatively good shape then it reduces your debt and also the cross. There is hardly any way imaginable in which you could offend God more deeply.

Guilt must be clearly expressed. It makes grace even greater. Improvement of the quality of life within the perspective of eternity is not the loss of sadness, pain and difficulties but the loss of guilt.

This is not simple. For continuously we are tempted to backslide into the habits of our old me.

### My temptation

We are always tempted to not trust in God but to base ourselves on the circumstances, on our perception of things (Genesis 3:6).

Gods opponent, Satan, knows any void and he will not rest to fill the void by exploiting your weaknesses. He approaches us with questions such as:

- How are you doing? Good?
- Are you sure about it?
- Do you really have sufficient time for yourself?
- Don't you think you can get more out of it?
- Do you really think you are treated well?
- Is it not about time that you think of your own future?
- Do you experience the imposed limitations as a restriction of your possibilities?
- Do you really know your own possibilities?
- Are you able to blossom? Is it achieving what you expect of it?
- Are there not a number of things you can do much better than your partner? Would you not give it a try?
- Is not it about time that you think about your own interests?
- Are the people really thinking so positively about you? Do you have any idea what they are thinking of you?
- Don't you feel a bit deceived?
- .....

In short, much doubt and insecurity. The feeling that Elijah had when he was in the cave: self-pity.

## 2.5 My core emotion (Genesis 3:7,10)

When you are living without God, you have to develop a survival strategy on your own in order to cope with your core emotion. Fear expresses itself in:

- Fleeing, withdrawal, hiding.
- Fighting.

You may wonder: "What am I afraid of." Is it:

- That people think negatively about me?
- Fear of rejection?
- Fear that people see you as you really are?
- Will I be able to survive it?
- Will I not lose my job?
- Will I not lose my child?
- Etc.

It often relates to quite normal everyday matters.

If we end up in such a situation (for example with conflicts in relationships) then we should not hide but go outside and stand on the mountain in God's presence and ask Him: "What am I really afraid of?" And if we open ourselves to it, He will certainly respond to our question.

**3** *What was I afraid of in the past week?*

## 2.6 My core motive (Genesis 3:10)

A core motive for anyone, is knowing that you are 'naked', unable to control your life without God, unable to steer your life in the proper direction. According to His original plan He did not give you the ability to live separate from Him.

### **What do I have to hide?**

- Hidden sins (There are two categories of sins: the unconscious and the conscious sins).
- A dubious thought life.
- A bad past.
- An unacceptable character trait.

We are in a totally unacceptable condition. We are not as we should be. We are afraid of rejection. It would be appropriate if God did that. We are afraid to be exposed. Intuitively, we know that behind the facade of our decency, our friendliness and our neat clothes, there is someone that people should better not get to know.

God knows all of our thoughts. He wants purity. Take it to Him, He wants to set you free.

## 2.7 My core strategy (Genesis 3:8)

People respond differently to their core emotion. The one person withdraws, hides himself or pretends, the other simply ignores the fear. Yet, others go on the offensive, are aggressive. Other responses are: hiding behind a facade, play acting a role, being fake, having fear of failure, not being able or willing to bear responsibility. In extreme cases it may even cause people to suffer from phobias or to be affected by more severe disorders.

The experiences of our early youth often deeply affect our later life. The pain of your youth (trained lack of self confidence: “You are unable to do that. Act normal, that is crazy enough”) in its uncensored version is copied to your adult life and affects your behaviour.

Fleeing	play acting, drowning it out, covering it up.
Fighting	striving for power, striving for respect.

A practical example of behaviour and consequences can be found in Appendix A.

### How do you hide yourself?

We keep each strategy by which we can protect ourselves available for the moments at which we feel the approaching cold of an oncoming rejection. In our fearfulness we are incredibly inventive. We hide in our money, honour, power, status, luxury, sex, etc.

It can also relate to one's unwillingness to do self-examination. Or perhaps you completely become absorbed in your work or in doing the things that you enjoy. Or maybe you adopt a critical spirit and express criticism about everything. Or it may be expressed by attempting to be funny all the time, to be the popular guy.

Again, other types of behaviour are: macho behaviour, exaggeration, bragging, bluffing, belittling others, crying manipulatively, fake conversion, feigned humility, always being silent during a group discussion, having a drink before you see friends, escaping in watching television, avoiding personal questions.

We have to attempt to make this recognisable in personal situations and to break down each relational conflict into:

- What am I afraid of,
- What am I hiding for and
- How am I hiding?

Take the time to apply this first to yourself, later to the other person.

### Alternative:

If you decide it's okay to be found crazy and/or weak then you are no longer vulnerable. This is only possible if you are convinced of God's love for you, knowing that you have been chosen by Him.

## 2.8 Summary of core items

Since the Fall, God missed man (Genesis 3:9), the separation had disadvantageous consequences for man but also for God.

**4** *How would you like to formulate your life's objective? Where is your focus?*

**5** *How does it convey itself to your business and your family? Are you open to correction?*

**6** *Are your partner/children/close colleagues aware of what you want, of where your treasure is? What are your deepest desires?*

**7** *What are the things you could do, starting today?*

God does not want us to opt for the role of a victim. He wants us to focus on Him, to listen and to carry out his assignment. See 1 Kings 19:1-18.

We may submit our problems to Him. If we trust Him for a solution then we are free from the burden of our problems and we can do what He asks of us.

Understanding of ourselves and acknowledgement of who/what we truly are, as people who start their lives with the consequences of the fall is the basis for development and discipleship.

Discipleship is the basis for leadership and it is, therefore, the topic of course day 3.

**People are not considerate of me . . .**

*Gerard is having a difficult time. With himself and with his friends. He thinks that they act inconsiderately to him and that they do not give him the attention that he feels he deserves.*

*Gerard’s friends love to play squash. A while ago, the three of them played a game of squash together. Yet, they did not invite him.*

*Of course, he did not like it and so he expressed himself in a reproachful manner: “You should have invited me as well!” They replied: “We thought that you did not like playing squash!”*

*“Of course I love to play squash!” he replied. “You should have known by now! “You did not know that I like to play squash?!” “You must be kidding. Everyone knows I love to play squash!”*

*Gerard, who was getting angrier, yelled aggressively: “You are simply ignoring me! I do not want such friends!” He had yelled some more at them and walked away quite angrily.*

*Gerard felt he had been treated poorly. He felt he was the victim of his friends’ ill treatment.*

**What was this about?**

Gerard is not aware that he does not respond assertively but sub-assertively, or aggressively. “Assertive” implies: defend yourself without needlessly offending others. He utilised both other ways of behaviour. He had not clearly communicated what he wanted and he later offended his friends.

All of these three ways of behaviour might be placed on a scale. All the way over to the left you would put sub-assertive (less than assertive), assertive should be placed in the middle and aggressive should be all the way over to the right.

sub-assertive \_\_\_\_\_ assertive \_\_\_\_\_ aggressive



**To which side tips the balance?**

With sub-assertive or aggressive behaviour Gerard did not achieve what he wanted. In fact, he achieved the opposite. His response was aggressive. Moreover, he blamed others which he expressed even more aggressively. Also, he offends his friends by not taking them seriously. He rejects their defense. In stead of experiencing more friendship he has lost them.

If he had responded assertively by saying: “Did you play squash? Great! Next time, I’d love to come along!” Probably, he would have been able to come with them and the friendship would not have been broken.

Fear is the basis for sub-assertiveness as well as for aggressive behaviour. Fear is the core emotion of man and of Gerard. Here it means: being afraid to be regarded as boring or pushy. So you would rather ask nothing. So you do not express yourself. Fear is also the basis for wanting to come across more forcefully than you should by defending yourself too powerfully

or too extremely. So it has to do with being afraid of not being clear enough or of being ignored. So, in order to avoid that we over exert ourselves (core strategy).

The fear has everything to do with not having a real self-concept, i.e. being convinced that God has made you in his image.

*The more your 'self-concept' lines up with reality,  
the less vulnerable you are to criticism*

Without an appropriate self-concept you are afraid of:

- being rejected or exposed. You have a poor self-image and you have already rejected yourself and found yourself lacking the essential qualities. It is your fear that others will reject you as well (alternative: allow Romans 5:8 to convict/convince you)
- falling short (alternative: trust God for all that you need).
- people thinking you are crazy (alternative: be yourself, then you are most interesting to others)
- people not loving you (alternative: allow John 3:16 to convict/convince you)
- losing control of your life (alternative: do as in John 12:24,25)

*By hanging on to an incorrect 'self-concept'  
you become unhappy, you offend others and  
your relationships dry up or break.*

**8** Are you satisfied with yourself as you are?

**9** Do you feel that you are not really allowed to say that?

A negative reply to question 8 may be based on thoughts that do not originate from God. God has made us in his image, . . . and He saw that it was good. It is Satan who causes us to doubt, who whispers in our ear that we do not qualify, that others are much better and definitely 'doing it better'.