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by Berni Dymet




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Year church & community destiny the devil discovering meaning Easter faith fear

Yes! You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks

When we discover who God made us to be, we can maximise our natural strengths, and deal with our natural limitations.

christianity**works**



yes! you can teach an
old dog new tricks

by berni dymet

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INTRODUCTION

A few years back, I co-authored a book with a good friend of mine, Keith Henry, called *My Personality GPS*. It was all about understanding your personality type, so you can live your life to the full.

Keith had been doing a lot of research on personality types, and of course there are many “systems” out there to help people get a handle on exactly who they are.

But Keith approached it from a Biblical perspective, because if God made each one of us to be who we are, then wouldn't He have something to say about that. Who we are and how we can make the most of who He's made us to be.

And in fact, He does have something to say about that. In Romans Chapter 12 the Apostle Paul talks about what you might have heard some people call “our motivational giftings”. I guess a more common term that we’d use these days, is “our personality types”. In other words, our natural motivations – how we’ve been wired on the inside. Here’s what he actually says:

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:3–8)

So what God’s saying here is that we each have a gift according to the grace given to us, according to His plans and purposes, and we

should get on and use those gifts. The teacher should teach. The leader should lead. The giver should give. Those with the gift of compassion should get out there and show compassion and so on.

Now before we started writing that book together, Keith and I, we sat down and talked about it. I kind of realised that each person is wired differently but it wasn't until I interviewed some people – one from each of the nine personality types – that I understood how great the difference was. I actually arranged for nine different people to come in and chat with me on my radio program. You can listen to those interviews at our website – www.christianityworks.com in the series called *My Personality GPS*.

Well, I have to tell you I was completely shocked by what I heard. I asked each of them pretty much the same questions, and yet they gave me completely different answers. I knew that people were different, but really, deep down, I hadn't realised how profoundly different we all are. And those profound differences completely

change how we see the world, how we process what's going on around us, how we respond to different situations.

Every time I think about that experience of interviewing those nine people I still feel that sense of shock of realising how deeply and profoundly different we all are. Most of us – I know I do this – kind of realise that we're all different, but our default position is that everybody should see the world the way we do, and if they don't they're quite obviously wrong. Well that's a mistake that we make at our own peril.

The other thing that struck me was that each motivational gifting that God talks about in the Bible – the prophet, the minister (or server) the teacher, the exhorter (or encourager) the giver, the leader and the person with compassion – not only has different strengths, but also different weaknesses.

And it's identifying those natural weaknesses and doing something about them that this booklet is all about.

For instance a leader – which is my primary personality type – can be brilliant at crashing

through brick walls and making things happen (that's why we need leaders) but on the other hand that strength can be a weakness, because often leaders can roll over the top of other people, damaging their feelings and ruining their relationships.

Someone with the gift of compassion is wonderful at helping us when we're down, when we're in need. But because they have such deep sensitivity, they can very easily be bruised and hurt by even the slightest bump in a relationship, causing them to withdraw and become emotionally depressed and isolated. Each personality type is a double edged sword if you like – a combination of natural strengths and natural weaknesses. Well, none of that is a surprise to God, because He made us that way. Add to those natural strengths and weaknesses the different experiences that each one of us have been through in life – good and bad – and there you have a unique person shaped by their natural tendencies, and their experiences.

And for many of us, we never really get a handle on our weaknesses. We may feel their

consequences, but do we really know what they are, and how to come up stronger in those areas? For most people the answer is no.

See I have this theory – I don't believe that God wants us to be robbed of the great life that He's planned and purposed for us, by repeatedly, over and over and over again, suffering the consequences of our natural weaknesses. I actually believe that God wants to help us with our weaknesses, by bringing His truth and His Holy Spirit to bear in our lives – so that we can truly shine and be all that He's always meant for us to be.

How do I know that? Have a listen to what Jesus said to His disciples:

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. (John 15:8)

God wants us to shine, He wants us to excel, He wants us to do this, because it brings great glory to Him. Now please – I'm not preaching a healthy, wealthy and wise distortion of the Gospel here. The Bible also says that anyone who follows Jesus will go through many trials; they're going to have some tough times. That's a promise.

But through the ups and downs, the summers and winters of life, God wants us to bear much fruit, to achieve many things, to shine with His glory in our lives. Do you see that? I wonder how you're processing that truth right now, sitting where you're sitting, feeling how you're feeling, looking at where your life is right at the moment. I know some people will struggle with that because this part of your life might be a mess ... or that part of your life mightn't be quite as it should be.

So often those messes in our lives are consequences of our natural weaknesses. If you're someone prone to fits of rage and anger (as I used to be – that was my Achilles heel) then you'll be living out the consequences – which are likely to be few if any friends and very few (if any) deep, close, intimate relationships. That's just one example of a consequence of a natural weakness that can ruin your life.

And that's where lots of people are – robbed of the abundant life that Jesus came to bring them, because they haven't yet dealt with their natural weaknesses. In fact not only haven't

they dealt with them, they've come to the conclusion that that's just how they are, that's how they've been wired, I'm just an angry person, or an unforgiving person, or an emotionally fragile person ... whatever ... and that's what I'm stuck with and there's nothing I can do about it and I'm just going to have to live with that.

Does any of that sound even vaguely familiar to you? Well it's a lie – it's the devil's lie, because it's so completely not true. Jesus said of Himself:

I have come to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. (Luke 4:18,19)

Friend that's for me and that's for you.

So in this booklet –*Yes! An Old Dog Can Learn New Tricks* – here is what I've done.

For each of the nine personality types (motivational giftings) I've extracted from the book *My Personality GPS* the following:

- a list of common attributes, to help you locate your main personality type,
- a list of common weaknesses and limitations

of each of those personality types, and then (most importantly)

- what a person of that personality type can do, in order to live their life to the full.

And that last one, is all about the “new tricks” that you can learn, to help you live your life to the full.

So ... something quite different in this booklet. May you be blessed as you explore your personality type and the things you can do to live the abundant life that Jesus came to give you.

Oh, and just in case you're wondering how the seven motivational giftings in Romans chapter 12 turned into nine personality types, here's how:

- I've split the encourager (exhorter) into two – the achieving encourager or the Achiever, and the Encourager, and
- The minster (or server) has also been split into two – the Practical Server and the Theoretical Server.

May you be blessed as you read through this booklet.

CHAPTER 1

THE ACHIEVER

Does This Describe You?

If the majority of the statements in this next list describe you (not all of them, but most of them), then chances are, that you're an Achiever:

- You are strongly motivated to succeed – you love to win.
- You are a positive, busy person who likes to achieve things.
- Some people call you a workaholic, but you enjoy keeping active and upbeat.
- You are naturally competitive, yet strangely you love helping others to achieve.

- You make lists of things-to-do and ticking things off that list is deeply satisfying.
- You set goals and achieve them.
- You are positive and motivated.
- You don't like being disturbed or constrained.
- You are energetic and driven.
- You like self-improvement courses.
- You like to make a good impression.

The Achiever's Low Points

Now none of us is perfect, and Achievers can have their downsides too. Here are some classic low points in the Achiever when they're not at the top of their game. They can:

- procrastinate when under stress and put off making decisions,
- become angry with people who are frustrating them,
- be busy, busy, busy but accomplish very little,
- give up on following through with things,
- tune out of their feelings to go along with others when they're burnt out or feeling low, and

- become passive-aggressive, not outwardly wanting to rock the boat.

How an Achiever Can Live Life to the Full

So how does an Achiever lift their game? How can they be the best at who they are? Here are the main things for the Achiever to do, in order to live their lives to the full:

- Become less selfish in achieving success in your own achievements and become more of a team player and team leader. It's there in your nature, but it's easy to forget when you're driving hard to achieve your own goals.
- Become a little more sensitive to other people's feelings. Show some empathy. It makes you a better team player and a better family member.
- Be prepared to take on the values of the group and see yourself as part of the group, rather than focussing just on your own interests.
- Learn the value of faithfulness, loyalty and supporting others.

The team thing is there in your DNA, but in the rush to achieve, it can end up taking a back seat. Because encouraging the team is part of who you are as an Achiever, as you rediscover your encouragement genes, you'll also discover the deep sense of satisfaction and fulfilment that that side of your nature brings you.

Achievers feel complete when they are both achieving for themselves *and* encouraging others to achieve.

CHAPTER 2

THE ENCOURAGER

Does this Describe You?

If the majority of these (not all, just most) describe you, then there's every chance that you are an Encourager:

- You enjoy life and you're positive and enthusiastic.
- You look to the future and new possibilities, avoiding the nitty-gritty details.
- You enjoy experiencing all the pleasures that life has to offer.
- People think of you as being charming and likeable – they love having you around.
- You feel that you have a privileged life.
- You like parties and having fun.
- You like being free from obligations and responsibilities.
- You have lots of new ideas – they somehow just seem to flow.

- You're a happy-go-lucky person.
- You like planning future activities.
- You get bored easily with “business as usual” and start considering options for the future.
- You're a positive person who looks on the positive side of life.
- You avoid negative, critical people.
- You are an idealist.

The Encourager's Low Points

Now with someone as warm and lovable and charming as an Encourager, the last thing we want to do is burst the bubble by talking about their low points. But we each have our low points and Encouragers are no different.

It always surprises me too, how in a sense, the low points that seem to run as common threads through a particular Personality Type would in many respects be the last ones that we'd expect to find.

And so if you're an Encourager, here are some for you to keep an eye out for. You can:

- have a lack of focus and therefore an inability to see things through and finish the job.
- become critical and judgmental,

- expect everything and everyone to be perfect, even when you're not,
- think you have all the answers,
- fail to listen to others,
- be obsessive and compulsive about things, and
- sometimes become a self-righteous moraliser.

The Encourager's biggest undoing is their natural lack of focus. And so in a competitive world, particularly in a job or in a role that demands focus, people can quickly tire of them.

How an Encourager Can Live Life to the Full

How can the Encourager be at his or her best? How can they rise up to be all that God intended them to be? Well, we saw it in Tim's story didn't we?

The Encourager is at his or her best when they:

- become more focused and less scattered,
- choose one or two passions to follow, rather than being a "jack of all trades",
- study in more detail to gain knowledge and practical experience,
- become skilled and accomplished in their field,
- think more deeply and become more serious, and

- find fulfilment by finding meaning and substance in their life rather than just drifting along aimlessly.

A while ago, I interviewed a classic encourager called Tim. He is a gifted and highly awarded wedding photographer who was struggling in his business. It turns out though that Tim started to find his highest point when he channelled his talents into one particular thing and made it work. He discovered he could still have fun and he could still be an Encourager at the same time as focussing on a business; building something and providing for his young family.

And I know that there is many an Encourager reading this right now thinking to themselves, *So that's what I've been missing!?*

Indeed it is. And remember, if you are an Encourager, you can operate from your soul. You may up until now have been just living for what feels good, but you have the ability to bring your mind and your will to bear; to focus on something and see it through.

This is when Encouragers find themselves at their best.

CHAPTER 3

THE TEACHER

Does This Describe You?

If the majority of these describe you, then chances are, you have this Personality Type:

- You are a trusting person who accepts others without judging them.
- You relate easily to other people.
- You like to be included in social events, but prefer not to be in the spotlight.
- You are easy-going and friendly.
- You are steady and even tempered.
- You like to keep the peace.
- You are positive and don't like negative people.

- You look for the easy way out.
- You like to keep out of trouble.
- You find decision-making difficult.
- You like catching up with family and friends – this is a high priority.
- You are a good listener.
- You can be sensitive to criticism.
- You can be stubborn when people try to dominate and control you.

The Teacher's Low Points

As wonderful as the Teacher can be, everybody has their low points and the Teacher's no different. Someone who's been made to bring transformation by teaching, can become a little frustrated when it's not all happening the way they'd like.

So here are some of the Teacher's low points to keep an eye out for. The Teacher can:

- become anxious and worried,
- doubt themselves and lose their confidence and self esteem,

- be negative and critical,
- become stuck in their ways, not willing to try anything new,
- procrastinate and struggle to make decisions, and
- focus on incidental or trivial activities, while putting off doing the important jobs.

How a Teacher Can Live Life to the Full

So, how can the Teacher be at his or her best? How can they rise up to be all that they can be, to the rest of us? Well, here are some pointers. Teachers are at their best when they:

- choose to be more positive and enthusiastic in what they do,
- make plans for the future and set goals and then put them into action,
- become more focussed and take control of their life if it's drifting.

That's a pretty short list. But for anyone who has this Personality Type of the Teacher, and who feels that they're not firing on all cylinders and that somehow their life isn't quite on track,

it's a list that they'll recognise and one that will resonate with them.

Because what will happen, is that they'll become motivated and enthusiastic again. They get their energy back when they become more active than passive. And their confidence rises back to the level where it once was.

CHAPTER 4 THE CARER

Does This Describe You?

If the majority of these apply to you (not all, just most) then there's every chance that you are a Carer:

- You easily empathise with those who are hurting.
- You can get caught up in the ups and downs of your own emotions.
- You often think about what is missing in your life and what could be better.
- You dwell on past injustices, thinking about them over and over again.
- You are a compassionate person.
- You are a romantic.

- You often feel misunderstood by other people.
- You worry about people rejecting you.
- You can be dramatic and emotional.
- You are self-reflective.

The Carer's Low Points

Here's a list of the things that Carers need to keep an eye out for. They can:

- have a desire to control and manipulate others – in providing care to the hurting, they have a tendency to want to take over in order to make things better,
- unduly crave attention and love and struggle when it isn't forthcoming,
- have fantasises about reality, eventually believing the fantasy is the reality,
- become over-sensitive and dwell on how others have hurt their feelings,
- withdraw into a world of their own thoughts and emotions, and
- become full of self pity.

It's interesting that Romans Chapter 12 actu-

ally speaks very directly and specifically into some of these low points. A while back I interviewed a Carer called Allie and what she said was that the hardest thing about being a Carer is having your feelings hurt and ... *if I'm not careful, it very quickly spirals into depression.* Because the Carer is so heavily using their emotions to care for us, it can really get them down.

Have another look at how the Carer is told to care for people in Romans Chapter 12:

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6-8)

How should the Carer care? With cheerfulness!

The Greek word that sits behind our English translation “cheerfulness” is the word hilarotes – from which we get – hilarious, hilarity. It’s a wonderful picture isn’t it? It’s almost like God’s digging the depressed Carer in the ribs with His elbow, winking His eye, having a chuckle and saying:

Come on, lighten up. Have a laugh with me. Don't take it all quite so seriously.

I just think it's a wonderful encouragement for the Carer. And there it is. In the Bible. In God's own Word!

How a Carer Can Live Life to the Full

Here are the things that Carers can focus on to deal with their low points and to start seeing some transformation happening in their lives, so that they can live their life to the full:

- become more disciplined and responsible – it goes a little against the grain, but it's worth it,
- develop a stronger set of values and higher personal standards to adhere to,
- take control of those feelings and turn them into actions, to do what is right,
- develop a sense of integrity against which to measure and assess your actions,
- develop a structure of right behaviour knowing right from wrong, and
- use your sensitivity more to care for others,

instead of thinking so much about your own feelings.

In other words, use your mind and your will to put some structure around your life. The danger with the heart person is that they're like a cork bobbing around in the ocean of their feelings. That's okay when it's a calm, sunny day. But when the skies are dark and the storm is raging, it's ... well, it's horrible.

That's when we need something to anchor us. That's when the Carer needs some solid ground beneath their feet.

CHAPTER 5 THE GIVER

Does This Describe You?

If you relate to the majority of them, then there's every chance that you have this Personality Type:

- You easily and intuitively sense other people's needs – you just know.
- You are generous in helping others, often putting your own needs aside.
- You are a positive, energetic person who will do anything for those you love.
- You find it easier to give than to receive.
- You often don't have time for your own needs, because you sacrifice those to meet the needs of others.

- Relationships are most important to you.
- You are positive and supportive.
- You are sensitive.
- You find it hard to ask for help.
- You are a busy person.

The Giver's Low Points

If you're a Giver, here is a list for you to keep an eye out for. The Giver can:

- become bossy, wanting to control others,
- become aggressive and confrontational – or bury their anger to breed deep resentment for those who don't deliver,
- lose their empathy and kind feelings when other people don't pitch in and help,
- use flattery to get the attention they want,
- over involve themselves in the lives of others, and
- believe that they are indispensable (in that others cannot survive without them) and use that by way of threats and manipulation.

I was having coffee with a successful

businessman recently and he was telling me about one such person in his business. This woman was probably the most valuable employee in the company. She always delivered. She knew her job backwards. But she was a quintessential control freak. She even organised it so that the keys to the toilets were in her top drawer and when people wanted to go to the loo, they had to come and ask her for the key.

The problem, he said, with this woman was that when it came to growing the business – which he had to do, because it was so successful – she couldn't cope, because she still wanted to control everything, but couldn't anymore. Even though her job was the most secure of any of his employees, she felt deeply and intensely threatened when other people became involved in doing some tasks that she had previously done; as though she was losing control, therefore losing her job.

She's still with the company. She's still the top earner for her employer. But the change that comes with growth has been exceptionally difficult for the owner, and for this woman and

for the other employees.

That's because the Achilles heel of the Giver, is that they want to control things. They want to give, with strings attached.

How a Giver Can Live Life to the Full

So for the Giver, living life to the full is about recognising their inherent value, and not having their self worth tied up so much in what they do. Here are some clues as to how the Giver can live his or her life to the full:

- develop a level of confidence that recognises your unique value,
- enjoy being the special person that you are,
- give without the expectation of reward (i.e. with no strings attached) and with a caring nature,
- have unselfish compassion and empathy for those around you,
- find your own sense of creativity with which to enjoy and relax – you need a hobby, or something to do that is just for you, and
- become satisfied and content in finding your real self.

Again, I find it fascinating that way back two thousand years ago, the Apostle Paul spoke directly into this issue. Let's go back to Romans Chapter 12 for a moment:

*We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; **the giver, in generosity**; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6-8)*

Let's poke under the covers of how the Giver should give for a moment. Paul says – in generosity. Hmm. Generosity is actually not that good a translation of the original Greek word here. It falls short, because it only captures a small part of the meaning of the original word.

And lest you should think that I am playing some conjuring trick, to have you believe that the original Greek word has a meaning that fits with my own agenda, here is a direct cut-and-paste, word-for-word, of the meaning of this word from the online Greek dictionary that I use:

Haplotēs: singleness, simplicity, sincerity, mental honesty;

the virtue of one who is free from pretence and hypocrisy;

not self seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity.

The best synopsis that I can come up with of what Paul is saying here then, is this:

Give with a simple integrity – with no strings attached. Give just for the sake of giving, not to control, but with an open heart. Give generously and honestly ... just for the sake of giving.

God's Word is powerful, and my hunch is that if you happen to be a Giver, then you'll know exactly what He's talking about.

CHAPTER 6

THE PRACTICAL SERVER

Does This Describe You?

Again, if the majority of these apply to you, then you are quite likely to be a Practical Server:

- You seem to have a knack for thinking through detailed problems and coming up with solutions in a way that other people around you just can't.
- You're a warm, loyal, supportive and faithful person.
- You like to belong to a close group of friends.
- When you're making choices, you sometimes doubt your own decisions and you often think about what could go wrong.
- As a result, you sometimes experience doubt and anxiety.

- You make detailed plans and stick to them.
- You like a neat, tidy and well ordered environment – at work, at home, in the car ...
- You like to have clear guidelines from those whom you are serving.
- You like to know where you stand.
- You are a reliable team member.

The Practical Server's Low Points

Here's a concise list of the low points that the Practical Server needs to keep an eye out for. When one or more of them emerges, it can be a sign that all is not well. The Practical Server can:

- try to overcome anxiety by being overly busy,
- deceive themselves and others to get what they want,
- search for security by trying to be someone else,
- rather than be analytical and cautious, become impulsive and risk taking,
- become suspicious and defensive, and
- become angry and critical if they do not get

their own way.

A while back I interviewed a Practical Server called Luke. This is what he said:

... the thing I really struggle with is that I get overwhelmed when too much is happening at once. I need to do one thing at a time. So I've got to be focussing on one thing, I can't be spreading myself out trying to do lots of different things.

For the rest of us who don't spend so much time thinking through the detail, we can be completely oblivious to this. Or we can be critical of the Practical Server, for not being able to juggle multiple balls in the air at the same time, the way certain other Personality Types can.

It's an important thing for all of us to remember – for the person immersed in the detail, too much detail at the one time can be completely overwhelming and debilitating.

How a Practical Server Can Live Life to the Full

But as with each of the other Personality Types, the Practical Server can address some of

these low points. Here's how:

- become more tolerant and empathetic,
- relax and be more positive; not so paranoid
- be more trusting of others – just because they can't see what you see, it doesn't mean that they don't know what they're doing,
- become more friendly and people oriented,
- try to look at the big picture too – the more you get a feel for the context, the less worried you become in the detail, and
- be at ease with authorities, and don't spend so much time trying to work out if they have hidden motives.

CHAPTER 7

THE THEORETICAL SERVER

Does This Describe You?

Again, if the majority of these apply to you, then you are quite likely to have this Personality Type:

- You are a deep thinker who enjoys time alone so you can study and learn.
- At social engagements you find yourself observing happenings more than participating in them.
- You can feel a little overwhelmed in groups and gatherings.
- You need time alone to recharge your batteries and you enjoy spending time by yourself.
- You just generally enjoy sitting and observing others.
- You love to learn and gain knowledge.

- You enjoy spending time with people who have similar interests.
- You like to avoid looking foolish.
- You like to ask questions.
- You don't like noisy, intrusive people.

The Theoretical Server's Low Points

Under stress these are the things that the Theoretical Server needs to keep an eye out for:

- their thoughts can become scattered,
- their actions can become impulsive,
- they can easily lose their focus and become distracted,
- they can become withdrawn and socially out of touch with others, and
- with their life revolving around thinking, details, knowledge and so forth, they can lose contact with time and reality to the point where they never actually achieve anything.

How a Theoretical Server Can Live Life to the Full

So, here are some pointers for the Theoretical

Server who wants to be the most that he or she can be:

- develop more confidence in yourself by becoming more decisive,
- put your knowledge into action – it's surprisingly fulfilling and satisfying,
- stop just thinking and start doing,
- take charge of your life and actions,
- become more dominant and assertive, and
- use your knowledge to discover new and valuable ways of understanding.

CHAPTER 8

THE PROPHET

Does This Describe You?

So here is the list of attributes of the Prophet. If the majority of these apply to you, then there's every chance that that's exactly who you are:

- Integrity is very important to you and you yourself have a high level of integrity.
- You are concerned about maintaining correct standards, being highly responsible and often suppressing personal needs.
- You like to know the rules and you obey them.
- You can be judgemental.
- You are organised and punctual.

- You are highly self-disciplined.
- You are logical and realistic.
- You see things as black or white – there are no shades of grey.
- You are responsible and reliable.
- You yourself maintain high standards.

The Prophet's Low Points

Here is a list of some of the most common low points for the Prophet which anyone with that Personality Type needs to keep an eye out for. The Prophet, under stress, can:

- feel resentful and become depressed,
- lose his or her self esteem and confidence,
- worry about being abandoned and unloved (it is after all a difficult calling),
- become jealous and feel threatened,
- indulge themselves in feelings of moodiness, both highs and lows, and
- experience envy for what others have, which they themselves don't have.

How a Prophet Can Live Life to the Full

But as with every other Personality Type, there are a few things that the Prophet can work on, to become all that God made them to be. Here are the main ones. Remember, even though the Prophet has a tough gig some days, God's plan for him or her – for you if that's you – is a good plan, a wonderful plan. It's a plan that, despite the difficulties and the conflict that the Prophet will often be called to face, involves God's peace and God's joy, no matter what the situation.

So, here is how the Prophet can deal with some of the low points and be all that the Lord made them to be:

- become less judgemental and more enthusiastic about life,
- take time out from work to enjoy social friendship and pleasurable activities,
- enjoy taking more time for fun and relaxing,
- look for the positive in people and situations,
- focus more on the outcome than the details,

- plan for future pleasure and activities – like a holiday, or a social outing with family and friends, and
- try not to be so obsessive-compulsive.

CHAPTER 9

THE LEADER

Does This Describe You?

Here is a simple “bullet point” list of the Leader’s attributes. If you relate to the majority of them (remember, it doesn’t have to be a 100% fit, just the majority) then chances are, that you’re a Leader:

- You are strong-willed and naturally like to be the one in charge.
- You take control and take direct action.
- You like to protect the weak and are protective of others.
- You don’t mind facing conflict and you aren’t afraid of confrontation.
- You have a strong sense of justice and fair play.
- You embrace a challenge.

- You are direct and to the point.
- You sometimes get angry.
- You usually have an opinion.
- Others see you as strong and dominant.
- You are tempted to over-eat.
- You are active, energetic and need less sleep than others.

The Leader's Low Points

So here are the things that the Leaders need to be looking out for, their low points that can bring them unstuck. Leaders can:

- roll over the top of those who are weaker than they are, in order to pursue their own agendas, thereby damaging relationships and compromising their capacity to lead,
- develop a fear that others will take advantage of them resulting in a loss of control,
- withdraw from others and become a loner,
- become aggressive and angry when others don't dance to their tune,
- feel threatened, thinking that everyone is

- against them,
- become depressed and stop taking action, and
 - lose confidence in themselves and their ability to make decisions.

How a Leader Can Live Life to the Full

So, here are some of the key strategies to help the Leader become all that God intended them to be. They can:

- use their strength to help others,
- become more sensitive to others' needs,
- not always insisting on getting their own way,
- become kinder and more understanding of others,
- show empathy by being magnanimous, generous and helpful to others,
- encourage others to achieve and prosper, rather than relying purely on their own capacity to lead, and
- become known as a person of humility, with a big heart for others.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Berni Dymet is a contemporary Christian communicator with a passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus right into the middle of life. He comes from the perspective that this Christianity thing - it isn't just a faith that lives in our heads or even our hearts, but that it actually works right here in the middle of our lives.

Christianity actually works when we dare to accept Jesus Christ into our lives!! Not just as Saviour, but also as Lord.

Millions of people around the globe tune into Berni's radio programs each week. The Lord has given him a special gift for sharing the Gospel in a truly practical way. In a way that really connects into the hearts and lives of real people in real places, transforming their lives. That's what the ministry of Christianityworks is all about. Leading people into a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

But Berni's passion, his enthusiasm and his insights into the day to day realities of life are simply tools in God's hands. The real change agent is God Himself.

And to Him - and Him alone - be all the glory.

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Do you know what your personality type is? Did you realise that the Bible clearly teaches us that God has given us a unique personality type? Well it does and He has – and once we understand who we are, our natural strengths and weaknesses, we're on the path to a much better, a much more effective life.

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