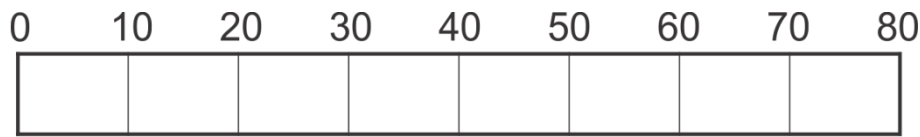


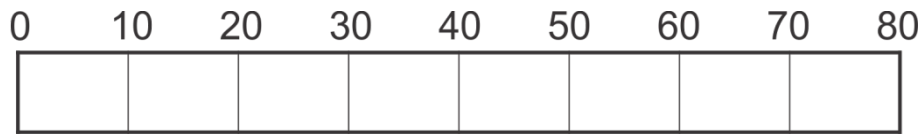
Introduction

Moses wrote in Psalm 90 that the days of our lives are seventy years, or if due to strength eighty years. Thousands of years later, the life expectancy that Moses wrote is still true. On October 8, 2014, the Center for disease control released the following statistics: the average life expectancy of women is 81.2 years, and for males it is 76.4 years. On October 7, 2016, they released their latest findings. The average life expectancy is 78.8 years.

(Psalm 90:10-12) "As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away. {11} Who understands the power of Your anger And Your fury, according to the fear that is due You? {12} So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom."



On the chart above, color in where you are at on the life expectancy. On the chart below color in where the current leaders of the church are. The average age of the pastors at the EMVC are 62.3 years. The average age of retirement is 65 years. The government is trying to push it back to 70 years because the Social Security Administration is running out of money. About how many years of useful service do your current pastors have? What does that mean to the church? What does that mean to you?



As Moses got near the end of his service to the Lord, he had a conversation with the Lord about the future leadership of God’s people. He said that it would not be good for people to be without a shepherd. The Lord told him to put some of his authority on Joshua so that the people could begin to follow him. God called Joshua to be the next leader. God and Moses worked to prepare Joshua to lead the nation.

(Numbers 27:15-23) "Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, {16} "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, {17} who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep which have no shepherd." {18} So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; {19} and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. {20} You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him. {21} Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his command they shall go out and at his command they shall come in, both he and the sons of Israel with him, even all the congregation." {22} Moses did just as the LORD commanded him; and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. {23} Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses."

1. A Man Whom Is The Spirit

We see in this passage several things about preparing for the next generation to lead. First, the Lord tells Moses that Joshua was a man in whom is the Spirit. Joshua was a believer and he had the Holy Spirit. God's hand was on Joshua.

In Acts 6, the Greek widows were being overlooked in the serving of the food. The apostles addressed the problem and asked the church to put forth some men who could be put over the task. They gave some qualifications for the men who would be chosen. They said, "Select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task." The first person that Luke mentions is "Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit." Leaders must have the Holy Spirit. Young Joshua had the Spirit of God.

(Acts 6:1-6) "Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. {2} So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. {3} Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. {4} But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." {5} The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. {6} And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them."

How do we get the Holy Spirit? When we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him." When we receive Christ into our life, we receive the Spirit of Christ. If we are going to lead God's people, we must belong to Christ, and have the Spirit of Christ.

(Rom 8:9) "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

Paul wrote that if anyone does not have the Spirit of God, his mind will be set upon the flesh or the things of the world. Those who have the Spirit of God set their minds on things above. It is vitally important for those who are going to lead God's people to have their minds set on things above. A leader with his mind set on the flesh will bring death, and chaos. However, one with his mind set on the Spirit will bring life and peace. Furthermore, Paul wrote that those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Leaders who have the Spirit of God, and set their minds on the things of the Spirit please God.

(Rom 8:5-8) "For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. {6} For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, {7} because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, {8} and those who are in the flesh cannot please God....{14} For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

Paul also wrote that all who are led by the Spirit are sons of God. Someone who has the Spirit of God can be led by the Holy Spirit. It is important for leaders to be led by the Holy Spirit, so that God's people are led by the Holy Spirit. Joshua was a man who was full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit.

2. A Man Who Knows The Lord

Joshua had the Spirit and knew the Lord. However, it is not enough to just have been introduced to the Lord. A leader must really know the Lord. Moses was a good leader and spent time with the Lord. Moses knew the Lord, and he knew the Lord's ways. In Psalm 103, David wrote that God made His ways known to Moses, but His acts to the sons of Israel. Leaders have to know more than just the things that God has done; they need to know why God does things. They need to really know the Lord. They need to know what pleases God and what does not please God. They need to know what God loves and what God hates. Leaders need to know God.

(Ps 103:7) "He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel."

How did Moses know God so well? Moses spent time with God and fellowshiped with Him. Moses pitched a tent outside the camp and it was called the tent of meeting because he would meet with the Lord in the tent. The presence of the Lord was there, and was evidenced by a pillar of cloud.

(Exodus 33:7-9) "Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. {8} And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. {9} Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the LORD would speak with Moses."

Moses gives us an indication of Joshua's hunger for the Lord in this passage. When Moses would leave the tent, his servant Joshua, a young man, would not depart from the tent. Young Joshua stayed behind and met with the Lord. Leaders spend time in the tent meeting with the Lord.

(Exodus 33:11) "Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent."

The Apostle John wrote some characteristics of people in different stages of maturity. In 1 John 1:13, he said that fathers know Him who has been from the beginning. He also said that children know the Father. Then, in verse 14, John repeats his word about fathers, "because you know Him who has been from the beginning." We begin a relationship with God when we receive Christ. So, we know Him. However, we really don't know Him well. We get to know God really well by staying in the tent of meeting and spending time with the Lord.

(1 John 2:12-14) "I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. {13} I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. {14} I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

How do we get to know the Lord? We get to know the Lord through spending time with Him. What do we do in our time with the Lord? We spend time in God's word. John wrote that in the

beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word is God. **We get to know God through spending time in His word.**

(John 1:1) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

We have been going through the book of Proverbs. Right now we are in Proverbs 6. In verses 16-19, Solomon tells us six things which the Lord hates and seven things that utterly detestable to God. God hates haughty eyes. These are eyes that look down on others. These are eyes that think that they are better than other people. These are eyes that criticize others. On the other hand, we learn that God loves humble eyes. He loves us to encourage and build up others. We learn about God, and we learn about the things that God loves and hates in His word to us. God has revealed Himself to us in His word. We must spend time in His word if we are going to get to know Him.

(Pro 6:16-19) “There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: {17} Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, {18} a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, {19} a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.”

We get to know God through prayer and by listening to Him. One day Jesus came to Martha and Mary’s house. Martha was busy preparing a meal for them to eat. She got rather perturbed because Mary was not helping her in the kitchen. Where was Mary? She was sitting at the Lord’s feet listening to Him. She was getting to know the Lord. Jesus said that Mary had chosen the best part. It is good to serve the Lord. We have all been called to serve. But, the best part is not serving, but sitting at Jesus’ feet. The best part is cultivating our relationship with God. The best part is spending time in the tent of meeting, which is what young Joshua did.

(Luke 10:40-42) “But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” {41} But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; {42} but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

We get to know God by worshiping Him. In Exodus 34, we find that “Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.” Leaders are quick to humble themselves before the Lord and worship Him. They spend time in the tent.

(Exodus 33:11) “Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.”

(Exodus 34:8) Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

In Acts 13, we have a glimpse of what the leaders at the church of Antioch were doing. They were fasting and ministering to the Lord. Like Moses, they were spending time in the tent. Like Moses, they made haste to bow low and worship. Young Joshua was not waiting until he got older to get to know the Lord. Young Joshua would not depart from the tent of meeting. He was spending time getting to know the Lord.

(Acts 13:1-2) “Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. {2} While they were ministering

to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

3. A Man Who Is Commissioned

God told Moses to take Joshua and put some of his authority on him. Joshua had been faithfully serving Moses for many years. Now, God was going to commission him before all the people and give him authority so that the people would learn to follow him. Joshua had already been helping Moses lead; this was not something new. So, Moses laid his hands on him and commissioned Joshua, just as the Lord had directed.

(Numbers 27:18-23) "So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; {19} and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. {20} You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him....{23} Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses."

We do not commission everyone to do a job. We look at the character of a person. We look at the capability of the person. We look at the gifts and abilities of the person. We look at the calling of the person. We would not commission someone to lead worship that did not have the ability to sing on key and with the proper rhythm. Someone leading worship needs to have a good understanding of music, and must be able to lead skillfully. Before being commissioned, we would make sure that this person could do this. We would have ample evidence of his ability prior to commissioning him. The same was true with Joshua. He was already leading people, but now he was commissioned and given authority before the people to lead.

Both Moses and God worked to prepare young Joshua. In Numbers 11:28, we are given another glimpse of how Joshua was prepared to lead the nation. He was the attendant of Moses. He served and apprenticed under Moses. He learned how to do all the things that Moses did. He learned why Moses did what he did. He learned how to lead God's people from the current leader.

(Numbers 11:28) "Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them."

Conclusion

As we look at preparing the next generation to lead, God has already selected Joshuas for this day and time. He is raising up new leaders. God knows who He has created us to be and for what purpose He created us. God told Jeremiah that he had been called as a prophet to the nations before God even formed him in his mother's womb. When he fashioned Jeremiah, He had a purpose in mind for Jeremiah's life. He has a similar plan for each of you. We have different callings, but God has a plan for each of us.

(Jer 1:5) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

David acknowledged in Psalm 139 that God had formed him in his mother's womb. He declared that he had been fearfully and wonderfully made. He also stated that God knew the days that had been ordained for him before he was even born. Similarly, God has carefully created each one of you with gifts and abilities to carry out His plan for your life.

(Ps 139:13-16) “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. {14} I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. {15} My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; {16} Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.”

Paul wrote that God has prepared good works in advance for us to walk in. Paul knew this to be true about his own life. When Paul was saved, the Lord told him the work that God had called him to do.

(Eph 2:10) “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

God spoke to Paul and told him to stop kicking against the goads and resisting Him. God had plans for Paul's life. He was to bear witness before kings and others. Paul was a chosen instrument of God. You are all chosen instruments of God. Though you may not be a prophet to the nations like Jeremiah, or an apostle like Paul, you have been created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has prepared beforehand for you to walk in.

(Acts 26:14-18) “And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' {15} "And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. {16} 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; {17} rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, {18} to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’”

(Acts 9:15-16) “But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; {16} for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.”

There are lots of different areas of leadership that must be passed on. Becoming a leader is a process, not an event. It will take time. In summary, here are some things to consider:

- Future leaders must have the Spirit of God. They must be born of God.
- Future Leaders must know God. They must know His ways. They must know His word.
- Future Leaders need to have transformed lives. They must have the character of Christ. Without the character of Christ, trust will remain an issue with followers. Without the character of Christ, the foundations of the ministry will be unstable.
- Future Leaders must learn to lead. They must be visionary, and they must lead by example.
- Future Leaders must learn ministry skills. They must learn to preach and teach. They must learn to counsel. They must be approved to God as workmen, who handle accurately the word of truth.

- Future Leaders must learn people skills. They must learn to communicate. They must learn how to deal with different types of personalities. They must learn to be gracious. They must learn how to be firm when necessary.
- Future Leaders must learn management skills. Leaders are required to manage the affairs of the church. They must learn to plan ahead. They must learn to delegate. They must learn to be good stewards.

God is calling for a new generation of leaders.

Introduction (Psalm 90:10-12, Numbers 27:15-23)

Your Age

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| | | | | | | | | |

The Age of Your Leaders

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| | | | | | | | | |

- A Man Whom Is The _____** (Numbers 27:15-23, Acts 6:1-6, Rom 8:5-14)
- A Man Who _____ The Lord** (Ps 103:7, Ex 33:7-9, 11, 1 John 2:12-14, John 1:1)
 - We get to know God through spending time in His _____. (John 1:1, Pr 6:16-19)
 - We get to know God through prayer and by _____. (Luke 10:40-42)
 - We get to know God by _____ Him. (Ex 34:8, Acts 13:1-2)
- A Man Who Is Commissioned** (Numbers 27:18-28)

Conclusion God is calling for a new generation of leaders. (Jer 1:5, Ps 139:13-16, Eph 2:10, Acts 9:15-16, 26:14-18)

- Future leaders must have the Spirit of God. They must be born of God.
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