MASTERING THE ART OF FOLLOWERSHIP

The Make of a Leader

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Introduction

In a world that celebrates leadership, the art of followership is often overlooked. Yet, in the kingdom of God, followership is the foundation upon which true leadership is built. Before anyone can effectively lead, they must first learn to follow. The journey from follower to leader is not a leap, but a process of growth, service, and learning under the guidance of those God has placed in leadership.

This book, Mastering the Art of Followership: The Make of a Leader, is designed to help you understand the vital connection between followership and leadership. It explores how faithfully following can shape you into the leader God has called you to be. Whether you are currently serving under a ministry leader or preparing for a future role of leadership, this book provides insights and practical lessons on how to follow well, and how that followership positions you for greater responsibility in God's kingdom.

Throughout the pages of this book, we will examine biblical models of followership, such as Elisha's relationship with Elijah and Joshua's service under Moses, showing how their commitment to following prepared them for leadership. You will also discover the characteristics of an effective follower, such as humility, loyalty, and obedience, which are the very traits that define great leaders.

This journey is not just about mastering a set of skills—it's about cultivating a heart of service and learning how to align yourself with the vision of those God has placed over you. As you grow in followership, you will find that the qualities that make you a faithful follower are the very same qualities that will make you an effective leader.

In today's world, many aspire to lead, but few understand that leadership is shaped in the crucible of followership. Great leaders are first formed by their ability to submit, to serve, and to grow under the leadership of others. Mastering the Art of Followership will not only help you thrive as a

follower but also prepare you for the leadership roles God has for your future.

As you embark on this journey, remember that followership is not a passive role. It is an active, dynamic process that strengthens your character, deepens your faith, and equips you for the greater things ahead. Leadership, in God's design, is not about self-promotion or personal power—it is about service, sacrifice, and stewarding the lives of others for His glory.

This book will help you master the art of followership, so that when the time comes for you to lead, you will do so with integrity, wisdom, and a heart shaped by the principles of service. You will discover that the path to effective leadership begins with learning how to follow well.

May these lessons inspire and equip you to embrace the process of followership, as you allow God to make you into the leader He has destined you to become.

CHAPTER

1

Understanding Followership

Followership is often an overlooked but essential aspect of spiritual life and ministry. In many ways, the success of a leader depends not only on their ability to guide but also on the ability of their followers to trust, obey, and engage with the vision they're given. In the Christian context, followership is about much more than simply obeying commands —it is an act of submission to God through the spiritual authorities He has placed over us.

In a world that values independence and self-determination, followership may seem counterintuitive. Yet, it is central to the life of every Christian, as we are first and foremost followers of Christ. Before we can lead, we must learn to follow well. The art of followership is what prepares us to be effective leaders in our homes, churches, and communities.

To follow is to submit not just outwardly but also in heart and mind. It requires us to trust that those God has placed in positions of authority are there for our benefit and spiritual growth. As followers, we learn humility, obedience, patience, and, most importantly, faith.

The Bible is replete with examples of followership. One of the clearest instructions comes from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Here, Paul emphasises the importance of imitation in the Christian faith. He does not call for blind loyalty to human leadership but for an imitation that is rooted in Christ. When we follow the faith and actions of godly leaders, we are ultimately following Christ Himself, as they serve as His representatives.

In Hebrews 13:7, we are reminded: "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." This scripture highlights the importance of not just following what leaders say but observing how they live their lives. Our spiritual leaders are examples of faith in action. We are to consider their lifestyle, their faith, and their obedience to

God's Word. The Bible calls us to imitate their faith, knowing that through their example, we learn how to walk faithfully with God.

A powerful example of followership can be seen in Elisha's relationship with Elijah. Elisha faithfully followed Elijah for years, even when he was told to stay behind. In 2 Kings 2:2-6, we see Elisha's determination to follow his leader despite the challenges and distractions around him. Three times Elijah asked Elisha to stay behind, but each time Elisha replied, "As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." Elisha's persistence in following Elijah led to his receiving a double portion of Elijah's spirit, showing that faithful followership leads to greater blessings and responsibilities in ministry.

This example demonstrates that followership requires more than just physical presence—it demands commitment, loyalty, and a deep desire to learn from the one God has placed over you. By following Elijah closely, Elisha positioned himself to inherit not just Elijah's mantle but also the spiritual authority needed to continue his prophetic ministry. This story shows us the value of persistence in following the right leader and how that followership prepares us for leadership in God's timing.

Followership, in the biblical sense, is not passive. It requires active engagement with the Word of God and the leadership that has been placed over us. By following well, we not only grow spiritually but also become prepared for the leadership roles God has for us in the future.

CHAPTER

2

The Biblical Model of Followership