



Picking Leaders from the Crowd

Henry Ford said, "I am looking for a lot of men who have an infinite capacity to not know what can't be done." As a pastor I'm sure you share the same desire.

Ultimately, your success lies within YOUR ABILITY to encourage the leaders for your church or organization. The better you are at motivating and keeping your leaders encouraged, the greater your chance for potential success as a church or organization.

Spotting the "eagles" in your organization is the first step to empowering them. The question is: How do you become better at recognizing potential leaders? Start by knowing what they look like.

What do great leaders look like?

1. MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.

Dr. George W. Crane noted, "There is no future in any job. The future lies in the person who holds the job." Potential leaders make themselves valuable because they see and seize opportunities to better the organization - regardless of the nature or size of the task. Leaders are "can do" people. They aggressively seek solutions. You will never hear them say, "There is nothing we can do about it." Excuses are crippling but as humans we all have the tendency to make them. Whether it is a person or a church, those who make excuses will never be successful. John Maxwell has said, "It is easier to go from failure to success than from excuses to success." The founder of Chick Filet, Truey Cathy said, "If it is going to be, it is up to me." That is the attitude of a leader that made things happen.

2. INFLUENCE OTHERS.

They possess the ability to directly and indirectly influence others in your organization or church in a positive way. Though not in a position of leadership, these people are often the ones that others look to for advice and suggestions. They can be spotted when vital decisions are being made because they're the ones explaining what needs to be done.

3. POSSESS A GREAT ATTITUDE.

Attitude is the single most important factor for success. But you can't buy an attitude for a million dollars. Attitudes are not for sale. In Proverbs 23:7 God's Word says, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." In other words, we become what we think. The secret of living a life of excellence or success is simply a matter of thinking thoughts of excellence or success. *Charles Swindoll says, "The mind holds the secrets of soaring."* Great leaders are positive thinkers.



4. PROVIDE CONCEPTS THAT HELP THE ORGANIZATION.

Dr. Linus Pauling said, "The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas." You are today where the thoughts of your people have brought you. You will be tomorrow where the thoughts of your people will take you. Surround yourself with good thinkers and your leadership will escalate.

5. LIVE UP TO THEIR COMMITMENTS.

Potential leaders take ownership of their duties and rarely have to be checked up on. They are not only committed to their responsibilities but they are also committed to the vision and mission of the organization, and they show it by their willingness to complete tasks. They are men and women of their word. They not only talk the talk, but walk the walk.

6. DISPLAY LOYALTY.

Who is trustworthy? Who will stick with the team and me even during the tough times? Though loyalty does not make a leader, disloyalty prevents a person from becoming one.