

The Old Testament: Promises Made [2 Samuel]

1. Why is good leadership like “the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning”? Have you ever known any leaders like this? Why is good leadership like “the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth”? Have you known leaders like this?
2. Following up on question 1, would those who are in your care describe you this way in the positions of leadership you hold, whether in the home, at work, or in the community?
3. What does it mean to lead “in righteousness”? What does it mean to lead “in the fear of God”?
4. How can members of a congregation help its elders lead in the fear of God and not in the fear of man?
5. As we have seen, taking our gifts for granted will encourage pride in us; but pausing and enumerating them will encourage our hearts to be grateful and humble before God. Take a few moments to enumerate some of the gifts God has given you. Now enumerate some of the gifts he has given your church. With these gifts in mind, pray that God would give you a heart of gratitude for them and the desire to use them for his purposes and gain. It might also be helpful to spend a few moments meditating on Paul’s words to the Corinthian believers: “For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?” (1 Cor. 4:7)



9. Let's take these steps of repentance one at a time:

- Are you able to receive the rebukes of others—even from individuals who don't deserve to give them? Are you willing, for the sake of love, to rebuke a brother or sister who is in sin?
- When was the last time you *confessed* sin to God? To another person? Are you willing to embarrass yourself before those you want to impress with a frank acknowledgment of your sin? (In doing so, of course, you should take care that no weaker or younger Christian is attracted to the sin you are confessing.)
- When you are confronted with your sin, either by another person or by the quick flashes of your conscience, do you take steps to *repent*, that is, to cease and desist? Or do you, honestly, go easy on yourself? Are you quick to point to circumstances? Can you think of a recent occasion where you went easy on yourself?
- Once you have confessed a sin and owned up to your responsibility, do you get angry when other parties *still* ask you to *take responsibility for the consequences of your sin*? When was the last time you did that?
- How quickly would your spouse (or parent, sibling, friend, or work partner) say you *grant forgiveness*? Or would they say you ten to let bitterness fester? Or consider the question like this" Jesus told us to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matt 6:12). Would you really want God to answer that prayer?

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10. How can a local church promote these five steps of repentance within its discipleship relationships? What are you doing to promote these things within your church?

11. Both what was good and what was bad about David points us to Christ. The fact that he was God's chosen king over God's people (what was good) points us to Christ's reign over God's people. Yet the fact that David sinned horribly (what was bad) also points us to Christ, because Christ alone would be without sin (David is not the one you should put your hope in!). What is wrong, therefore, with teaching a Bible study, a Sunday school lesson, or a sermon from 2 Samuel and referring only to David? How should we, as Christians, teach about David?