

Life and Leadership Lessons

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I use Clinton's general time-line as a structure for identifying and describing my person life and leadership lessons. I try to update my time-line yearly and prayerfully integrate it with life and leadership lessons for evaluation and identification of additional lessons.

Sovereign Foundations (birth-22 years old)

- Stressful family life – both parents worked, most attention goes to my disabled younger sister
- Rich spiritual history – Godly grandparents on my dad's side, recommitment of parents at Billy Graham crusade in San Francisco, CA (1958), healthy church experience at Peninsula Bible Church (PBC) from 1958-1968, healthy camp experience at Mt. Hermon
- Initial mentoring – DR, children's minister and later youth minister, took an interest in me and continued relationship through college, **major life and leadership lesson** – mentoring can be powerful
- Rebellion – double life as teenager and open rebellion in college, learned of destructive consequences of poor choices and need for God's forgiveness and help

Inner-Life Growth (22-29 years old)

- Redemption – personal relationship with Christ through faith and repentance during my senior year of college (1971), **major life lesson** – the power of God's forgiveness and the hope of real life transformation
- Early sense of calling – sense of destiny that my life could matter for helping others, **major life lesson** – I have a purpose to discover and live out
- Introduction to power of the Spirit – Jesus movement and "body life" at PBC, learned that God can move powerfully and significantly in drawing people to him, **major life lesson** – there is a power source that can change people radically
- Continued mentoring – RS and BS at PBC saw leadership potential in me, **major leadership lesson** – I have leadership potential
 - BG and LS at Mt. Hermon Conference Center gave me opportunities to serve and lead
 - VG and HG at seminary modeled mentoring>empowering>multiplication (M>E>M) paradigm
- First vocational ministry position (1973) – youth ministry at Scott Valley Berean Church (CA), learned about teaching, planning, and working with youth and families
- Formal theological training – M.A. Theology (1976) at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA), learned that I did not fit in a vocational ministry role in a traditional church setting, **major life lesson** – theological knowledge is not enough, it needs to be acted upon in life transforming ways

- Learned conceptual and critical thinking skills
- Learned research skills
- Lay leadership – full-time marketplace job and lay leadership involvement at PBC after seminary, learned about stress of balancing marketplace and church involvement
 - Learned about witnessing in a marketplace environment
 - Learned about small group leadership
 - Learned about Bible study teaching

Leadership/Ministry Maturing (29-42 years old)

- Marriage to Leslie (1978) – new relational context, began learning to love, prefer, negotiate, communicate within context of committed relationship
- Leadership skill development (1979-1984) – worked at smaller liberal arts colleges (Westmont, College of William and Mary, Franklin and Marshall, Houghton) in student development, learned program development, budget, personnel management, and conflict resolution skills, **major leadership lesson** – I connected well with younger people
- Integrity checks – difficult process involving learning about control, manipulation, core values, and integrity, **major life and leadership lesson** – integrity is critical
- Financial stewardship – learning to live within our means, tithe, save, **major life lesson** – be generous, because God was going to be generous to us
- Spiritual formation – realizing that personality, hard work, achievement was not enough, **major life lesson** – I needed to cultivate my spirituality if I was going to become the man God intended me to be
- Vocational transition (1985) – changed from college to local church vocation, **major leadership lessons** – exposure of insufficiency of “doing” paradigm and need to cultivate “being”
 - Need to learn to hear God’s voice
 - Need to understand how spiritual and natural interact
 - Need to be more loving
- Ongoing mentoring – critical role of BC (1988) as upward mentor and exposure to Biblical paradigm of leadership development, **major leadership lesson** – I needed to grow up
- Long-term relationships – importance of marriage and family, learning how to love, serve and prefer others
- Ministry failures – three consecutive difficult ministry vocation situations (1988-1992) where I was either forced to resign or ask to leave, **major life lesson** – I need God desperately

Life Maturing (43-60 years of age)

- Teaching (1992) – after four years of deep processing through ministry failure I ended up with a teaching position at a small Bible college (OR), **major life lesson** – God can restore and promote if you humble yourself
- Team leadership – developed close partnership with JF, president of college, **major leadership lesson** – there is Kingdom synergy in team leadership

- Mentoring methodology – began intentionally mentoring young leaders who I connected with at the college, **major leadership lesson** – my calling is to empower younger emerging leaders through my teaching and mentoring gift mix
- Breaking patterns – stayed at college for six years which was the longest that I had ever stayed in a position before, forced me to begin dealing with some deep issues of fear, selfishness, rejection
- Expansion of influence (1998) – JF was elected president of denomination that sponsored the college and asked me to join him in the national office to start up a leadership development department, **major leadership lesson** – start ups are difficult without resources and authority, but God’s favor can produce Kingdom results
- Prayer and fasting – began to learn how to pray, intercede, and fast for Kingdom results
- Deferred fulfillment (1998-2010) – learned faithfulness and submission to leadership through years of difficulties and challenges as I tried to develop a relational delivery system for leadership development
- Blessing (2005-2009) – received blessing from three primary leaders (JL, JF, BC), **major life and leadership lesson** – power of blessing to encourage, motivate, and break the negative dynamics of rejection
- Close of office – as a result of restructuring in the denomination the leadership development department was closed
- Transition (2010) – support of younger leaders and negotiated “win-win” transition with denomination as I started the Convergence group, **major leadership lessons** – fruit will eventually come from faithfulness and favor comes from healthy submission to authority

Convergence (61 and beyond) – **Disclaimer** – I am uncomfortable with this section. I do not want to be presumptuous here. I trust that I have entered into convergence and others have told me that I have, but I am very aware of my human weaknesses and vulnerabilities. Others are probably a better judge of this and ultimately God is the final judge. I trust that I have and will continue to submit to and abide in Christ so that I can bear “much fruit” while finishing well.

- Start up (2010) – the start up of my own company has been challenging and faith oriented. **major life and leadership lessons** – Kingdom effectiveness comes out of spiritual authority and disappointment can turn into a greater opportunity to influence
- Writing – the development of the concept and the writing of five workbooks has emerged with a more flexible schedule and reduced daily program responsibilities.
- M>E>M – opportunities to pilot the mentoring>empowering>multiplication (M>E>M) paradigm in multiple ministry contexts, **major leadership lesson** – I was wired by God for M>E>M and will use this paradigm as my primary methodology
- Focused life – I have a clear sense of my calling and am being intentional in being focused as I prepare to finish well and pass the baton on to younger leaders in the next generation (who will be equipped to do the same for the next generation)