

LEAD: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church

by Paul Tripp (pg. 48)

Fruit in the ministry is the result not of our wise planning and diligent execution but of the loving operation of God's rescuing and transforming grace. He produces the fruit; we are but tools in his redemptive hands. He calls us to himself, conscripts us for his work, produces commitment in our hearts, gives vision to our minds, empowers us to be faithful and disciplined, brings people under our care, softens their hearts to hear the gospel, produces conviction and faith in their hearts, empowers their obedience, transforms their lives, and calls them into his work.

Of course, we should plan, of course, we should work to be good stewards of the people and resources God entrusts to us, but as we are giving much time and energy to these things, we must not let prayer become a perfunctory habit, attached to the beginning and ending of leadership gatherings. As I stated earlier, prayerlessness in a leadership community is always a result of putting credit where it is not due. Your leadership community is in trouble if your leaders are more excited about a strategic planning meeting than a prayer meeting.

A catalog of ministry achievements should make us even more prayerful, because we want to honor the one who has given us success to our work, we want to continue to acknowledge that we cannot do what we've been called to do without enabling grace, and we need protection from the temptations that success brings.