



Free Resource

FROM LEADER BREAKTHRU



Five Choices—*Habits of Those Who Finish Well*

LEADER | Breakthru

About This Resource

Very few things are original. Almost all of what we know has come from the insights of another. We each stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

The source for many of the ideas, paradigms and concepts within the resources at Leader Breakthru come from the teaching of Dr. J. Robert Clinton. (www.bobbyclinton.com).

This resource is offered to you for free, to use, copy or include in your resources with just two caveats:

1. In your work, you acknowledge Leader Breakthru and Dr. J. Robert Clinton.
2. As you find better ways to communicate these truths, please share your insights with us.

Audio Introduction

This resource comes with a short audio clip that has two purposes. First, it will help you better understand and apply the concepts within this resource. Secondly, it is designed to help you replicate the learning and concepts for others.

Five Choices

The following excerpt was taken from the writings and research of Dr. J. Robert Clinton

In a major address to congress, in fact his farewell speech, Douglas MacArthur, General of the Army, climaxed his memorable speech with these now famous words:

I am closing my 52 years of military service. When I joined the Army even before the turn of the century, it was the fulfillment of all my boyish hopes and dreams.

The world has turned over many times since I took the oath on the Plain at West Point, and the hopes and dreams have long since vanished. But I still remember the refrain of one of the most popular barrack ballads of that day which proclaimed most proudly that--OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE; THEY JUST FADE AWAY."

And like the old soldier of that ballad, I NOW CLOSE MY MILITARY CAREER AND JUST FADE AWAY-- AN OLD SOLDIER WHO TRIED TO DO HIS DUTY AS GOD GAVE HIM THE LIGHT TO SEE THAT DUTY.

Good Bye.

MacArthur's ending is now marked in history.

What does the end look like for Christian leaders, marketplace or vocational leaders? For old Pastors or Church planters? For Christian businessmen? For faithful, older lay leaders? What will be their final goodbye?

The Bible mentions nearly 500 leaders. Some are merely mentioned by name, while others we know much more.

Leaders like Moses, David, Paul, and Jesus have an overwhelming amount of material to analyze. Many have some data. Even those having data do not always give the data needed to ascertain how they finished.

Dr. J. Robert Clinton identified several categories of possible finishes:

- cut off early
- finished poorly
- finished "so so" (limited somehow)

- finished well
- can't be sure.

Cut off early means they were taken out of leadership (assassinations, killed in battle, prophetically denounced, overthrown). Some of these were traced directly to God's doing. Typical examples of those cut off early include: Abimelech, Samson, Absalom, Ahab, Josiah, John the Baptist and James.

Finished poorly means they were going down hill in the latter part of their ministry. This might mean in terms of their personal relationship with God or in terms of competency in their ministry or both.

Some typical examples of "finished poorly" include: Gideon, Samson, Eli, Saul, Solomon.

Finished "so so" means they did not do what they potentially could have done or should have done. They did not complete what God had for them to do. This might mean that there were some negative ramifications from their ministry or reign which lingered on even though they were walking with God.

Some (in my opinion) typical examples of finished "so so" include: David, Jehosaphat, Hezekiah.

There are also many who seem to bridge more than one category (cut-off and finished poorly, cut-off and finished "so so", finished "poorly" and "so so" or finished "so so" and "somewhat well."

"Finishing well" means they were walking with God personally at the end of their lives, contributing to God's purposes at some high realized level of potential.

Clinton identified a series of characteristics of leaders who finished well. Those characteristics form the basis for this Five Habits resource.

Can a leader finish well?

Abraham did it. Moses did it. Job did it. Joseph did it. Joshua did it. Caleb did it. Samuel did it. Elijah did it. Jeremiah did it. Daniel did it. Jesus did it. John did it. Paul did it. Peter did it. **You can do it too!**

Five Habits of Effectiveness

Effective leaders learn to become intentional about their character growth and formation.

Romans 8:28 assures believers that every facet of our lives works together for good, conforming them to the purposes of God. Through many people, events, life experiences, God shapes the character and the life of a Christ-follower into the image of his Son.

FIVE HABITS OF EFFECTIVENESS CHECKLIST

As you read each statement check the number on the continuum that most accurately describes you. Circle “0” if the statement on the left represents you exactly; circle “5” if you feel you are perfectly described by the statement on the right. Numbers “1” through “4” reflect the various positions between the two extremes.

Section One

I have a desire to do some personal growth projects, but I seldom have the time or discipline to do so.

1 2 3 4 5

I view my personal development as a lifelong learning process and am regularly involved in study projects.

I hear of various workshops And seminars that others find helpful, but I seldom attend.

1 2 3 4 5

I regularly attend workshops And seminars that help enhance my personal growth and development as a leader.

I am simply too busy or have little desire for continuing formal education.

1 2 3 4 5

I enjoy and am committed to continuing my education, and have classes I am currently enrolled in as part of an education program.

I do some things for myself, but I don't really feel fulfilled or that I am growing as a person or leader.

1 2 3 4 5

I work to develop my “whole” person and set improvement goals for wide areas of personal growth development.

Section Two

I feel overwhelmed by the needs of the existing work and life demands that seldom, if ever spend time investing and developing others.

1 2 3 4 5

I am always in the process of investing in, and developing others, and have a pool of new leaders to promote.

It is often hard for me to imagine that I have something to offer in a mentoring relationship that would help others in their walks with God.

1 2 3 4 5

I have a good understanding of the role I play in others lives, and an estimation of the strengths and abilities I can offer to other leaders.

I feel isolated and “alone” in the battle and feel there are few who are really there helping me grow.

1 2 3 4 5

I deeply value others and have a regular series of relationships that are committed to help me grow and develop.

If honest, I really don't have goals focused on my own personal development needs and issues I need to work on.

1 2 3 4 5

I view my development as a high priority. I have intentional goals I am working, and have obtained mentor/coach to help their accomplishment.

Section Three

I often am frustrated, wondering if I am doing what God really wants, and what He intends for me to do with my life.

1 2 3 4 5

I feel the things I do each day are Both meaningful and contribute to my life (Biblical) purpose and reason for existence.

I sometimes get glimpses of what I should do with my life, but typically these visionary moments get lost in busy activity of life.

1 2 3 4 5

I have thought deeply about why I exist as a person and have clarified my personal calling and vision. I have a good idea of what God is calling me to accomplish.

I often work based upon the “need of the moment” or tyranny of the urgent, as opposed to a clear life plan or direction.

1 2 3 4 5

I am established a way to sort through my priorities, and make decisions based upon God's call on my life, and my core values and convictions.

I am often, easily frustrated by changes in the direction of my work or life situation.

1 2 3 4 5

I have a clear direction in life, but also able to allow God to teach me new things and the directions I should go.

Section Four

I nearly always feel “buried,” having more to do than we can handle. Getting away for us seems impossible.

1 2 3 4 5

I regularly schedule times away for personal retreat and reflection.

I feel that “personal” time is selfish, especially when there is so much to do at work and home.

1 2 3 4 5

I feel an investment in my personal walk with Christ will cause us to experience deeper intimacy with Christ and greater effectiveness.

If someone were to ask me how long has it been since I felt the presence of God, I’d have to respond, “quite some time.”

1 2 3 4 5

I regularly sense God’s presence, experiencing times of renewal and freshness in my walk with Christ.

Although I know the spiritual disciplines are important to real being a Christian, I seldom have time to focus on them.

1 2 3 4 5

My walk with Christ is greatly enhanced through regular times with God, and usage of a variety of spiritual disciplines.

Section Five

I have trouble rising above the current circumstances to get a big-picture perspective on my life.

1 2 3 4 5

I make continual efforts to understand my current circumstances in light of what God has been doing in my lifetime

I realize that God is at work in my life, but I seldom am able to understand how and what He is at work doing in my life.

1 2 3 4 5

I believe and act based on the conviction that daily circumstances are a part of God’s ongoing shaping of my life, and that I can recognize patterns of his work.

I have trouble trying to keep track of the many areas of our life: home, office, etc., and often feel disorganized.

1 2 3 4 5

I do feel a sense of order in our life because I am able to integrate my activities, and see how things fit into God’s big picture, perspective on my life.

I hear others talk about their life being “called” and of their vision, but I rarely feel that I really have a sense of calling or destiny.

1 2 3 4 5

I continue to grow in a sense of a unique, personal destiny for my life that is God ordained.

FIVE HABITS OF EFFECTIVENESS

1 . Effective leaders maintain a learning posture throughout life. Leaders pursue three types of training: informal training (personal growth, projects, personal research), non-formal training (workshops, seminars, conferences) and formal training (continuing education, degrees, etc.)

2. Effective leaders recognize leadership selection and mentoring as a priority. They are committed to mentoring and being mentored. Be alert to potential leaders in your arena of influence (2 Corinthians 1:3–4; 2 Timothy 2:2).

3. Effective leaders who finish well have a dynamic life calling and philosophy (personal mission statement). There are three key elements—biblical purpose, values and vision—to a personal mission statement. A leader’s calling usually emerges in his middle to late 30s. The ability to articulate that calling and role typically surfaces in the mid-40s and 50s.

4. Effective leaders experience repeated times of renewal. Effective, godly leaders develop intimacy with God which, in turn, overflows into all of their ministry. The essential ingredient of leadership is the powerful presence of God in a leader’s life and ministry. Leaders incorporate the spiritual disciplines into their walk.

5. Effective leaders increasingly perceive their ministry circumstances in terms of a lifetime perspective. God brings along many destiny experiences to shape a leader’s ministry. Leaders manifest a growing awareness of their sense of destiny.

Go back and total your score in each section. Record your totals in the boxes below.

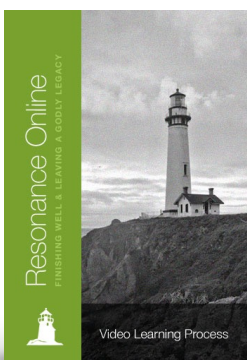
Section One Total	<input type="text"/>	<i>Maintains a learning posture together throughout life</i>
Section Two Total	<input type="text"/>	<i>Commitment to mentoring and being mentored</i>
Section Three Total	<input type="text"/>	<i>Dynamic, unique life calling and purpose</i>
Section Four Total	<input type="text"/>	<i>Repeated times of personal renewal with God</i>
Section Five Total	<input type="text"/>	<i>Live with a lifetime, big-picture perspective</i>

Your scores profile your relative strengths and weaknesses in each of the five habits. Do not base your interpretation only on your numeric scores in each section, but also on how the scores compare with each other. Grouping your lower scores can help you determine an overall area where you the need to focus and intentionalize your efforts.

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RESOURCES ON FINISHING WELL



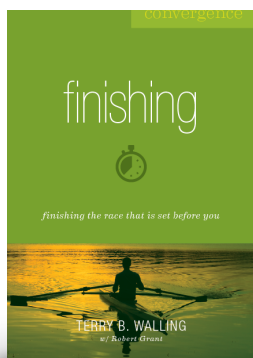
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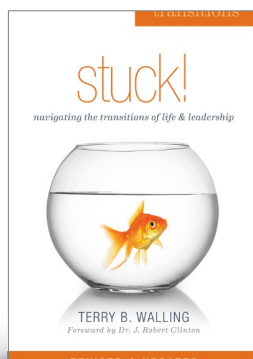
Finishing

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