



## **The Making of a Leader: Recognizing the Lessons and Stages of Leadership Development**

*J. Robert Clinton*

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**The Making of a Leader: Recognizing the Lessons and Stages of Leadership Development** J. Robert Clinton

By studying the lives of hundreds of historical, biblical, and contemporary leaders, author Robert Clinton has determined six stages of leadership development to help you determine where you are in the process.

Each chapter in this leader resource concludes with a personal application section.

Ideal for pastors or anyone in a position of authority.

## **The Making of a Leader: Recognizing the Lessons and Stages of Leadership Development Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Making of a Leader: Recognizing the Lessons and Stages of Leadership Development for online ebook**

### **Elena says**

One of the best (albeit very technical) book on leadership as ministry. Longer review here:  
<http://gribook.me/posts/2-leadership/>

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### **delilah says**

one of the best leadership book that I have read in times.

the research result included in the appendix was definitely the best

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### **Jennifer Grosser says**

I'm still processing this book and what I thought of it. It left me a little cold, but I do think he made some important points about leadership (particularly godly leadership) regardless.

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### **Daniel Bulek says**

Clinton provides an essential tool for leadership development and growth in his book as he unpacks carefully researched timeline of leadership emergence and correlating tasks of growth.

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### **Jonathan Esterman says**

In my opinion, it is difficult, if not impossible, to improve this book. Why do I say this? First off, Clinton has regularly been updating this book to be relevant to the current leadership team, taking and cultural differences and integrating them into timeless leadership truths. This book has material that is highly applicable for all leaders in all organizations, even though it is written in such a manner the only Christian leaders would consider reading it (due to its high level of spiritual content). Perhaps my most critical comments on about the book is how spiritual it is, in that it limits those who need the lessons most from learning about them.

The point is valid, that the lessons must be taught with a spiritual component, as the leadership concepts and principles taught in this book are based off of Y'shua's leadership in Scripture and G-d's overall intent for our lives. My only other criticism is that this book is highly applicable in nature, which requires the reader to evaluate themselves and implement the changes immediately, instead of reading and a theoretical capacity. Then again, this is also a benefit and that it requires maturity and growth instead of informing about it, but leaving the reader without taking action.

Full of anecdotes and examples, Clinton does indeed write a singular title. The applications in this book are not limited to leaders, as what Clinton describes are everyday life processes. In this capacity, I believe that Clinton could have easily titled this book "The Making of a Christian" instead.

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### **Bruce says**

Good on process of leader development. Phases, Processes and Principles. Ministry development and Character development. Philosophy of ministry using principles stated in first person plus modal verb.

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### **Glen says**

This book is a clinical look at leadership development. At times I found the terminology distracting in the early sections but chapters eight, nine and the appendixes contain some very beneficial insights.

Clinton's emphasis on life principles is exceptionally helpful. There is a good synthesis of the various concepts in the final chapters that helped me overcome the more mechanical nature of his development clusters.

Reader's will find the questions at the end of each chapter to be helpful in applying main precepts. Furthermore, the book has some excellent life principle lists that demonstrate the essence of a strong philosophy of leadership and authority.

A good read that helps you evaluate your personal perspectives in light of the ever pressing need to form more capable leaders for the kingdom.

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### **Pam Manley says**

This book was added to my library over 20 years ago when my boss asked the staff to read it. I recently pulled it off the dusty shelf when it was required reading for a class I was taking. As I flipped through the pages, I noticed it wasn't marked up. Not one highlighted sentence. It made me wonder if I had even read it the first time. After reading the required chapters for my recent class, I realized why there wasn't anything highlighted. I just might not have read it the first time around and know why.

I've read many books on leadership, but this is the first one where I feel like it reads like a classroom text. Too scientific or technical. There isn't life in the book. I don't remember very many examples from the author's own experience, other than the very first chapter which was a lengthy letter.

There are little nuggets, however, which are helpful. At the end of each chapter there is a list of questions that are meant to be practical for the reader to apply to his/her own life. While I like this approach, I didn't apply them as the author intended.

Because of the dryness of the text, I have no intention of finishing this book or ever picking it up again. It will probably see another 20 years of sitting on a dusty bookshelf.

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### **Lisa says**

Every Christian leader should read this book at least once...

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### **Nick Tarter says**

#### **Great book**

This is easily one of the best books I've read on leadership. I highly recommend it. I'm certain that you will not be disappointed.

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### **Tiffany says**

A technical book on the process of leadership development for Christian leaders. This book looks for emergent patterns that can speak to lifelong learners as they undertake their own leadership journals. Its foundational assumption is that God directs the development of the character to lead, gifts individuals to lead; and directs the application of their leadership gifting toward fruitful ministry. The emergent leader doesn't shortcut the process. Character matters to God; and that's where the development process begins. God will first work on who you are before working on what you do. God processes a person by bringing activities, people, and problems into the life of the leaders. Leaders can plateau. Leaders can also stall at a stage within their development failing to learn the intended lessons.

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### **Christina says**

I have now read this book twice. The first time was during one of my college classes on leadership the second time was recently during an internship through my church. Each time the things that I have noticed have been different—though that might be because of the focus of the reason for reading. In college we were told to focus on the structure of building our ministry principles as well as what the stages of leadership would look like in our futures. This time I read as a leader and was reading through with the lenses of ascertaining not only “where” I was in the stages but also how to continue to move forward towards “convergence”—where ministry just flows through, and more importantly from, my relationship with the Lord.

I think that this will be an important tool to keep close as I continue to walk in ministry—I know there are more things to learn and “see” through reading this book. I think my professor in college explained that he had multiple copies of this book on hand because it was what he gave those who exemplified qualities of leadership in ministry. I can see why a bit better now.

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## **Chauncey Lattimer says**

If the book accomplishes nothing else, the reader will have recognize just how important "patterns and processes" are in the development of a leader. In his own words, J. Robert Clinton states that the book is about "spiritual dynamics." He begins by identifying one of his very important presuppositions: "Effective spiritual ministry flows out of being, and God is concerned with our being. He is forming it. The patterns and processes He uses to shape us are worthwhile subjects for leadership study." From this perspective, leadership "is a dynamic process in which a man or woman with God-given capacity influences a specific group of God's people toward His purposes for the group." He will return often to this definition.

Clinton has utilized a time-line approach to illustrate what he defines as the "five development phases" of leadership: sovereign foundations, inner-life growth, ministry maturing, life maturing, and convergence. A sixth phase is also identified - afterglow or celebration - admitting, however, that it is rare for anyone to reach this stage. He admits that stages 3-5 often overlap, pointing out how development is actually spiral in nature.

The book contains several helpful illustrations, as well as a glossary of the specialized terminology utilized in the text. This is an excellent book for those involved or studying the concept of church / para-church leadership.

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## **Wade Woodbury says**

Amazing book! This gives the outline of a leader's life in stages. These include the stages of sovereign foundations, inner life growth, ministry maturing, life maturing, and convergence. Any Leader should read this, highly recommend. I felt like this gives a clear picture of almost any situation a person finds themselves in. The quote I love from this is, and the foundation of the book is, "Ministry flows from being."

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## **Karl Mueller says**

While this is not an easy reading book, *The Making Of A Leader* is a must read for anyone involved in leadership development. Bobby Clinton identifies patterns and processes of how God works in the life of a leader over a lifetime that are crucial to understand in your own leadership development and that of others. I have used the material in this book (and the manuals used in classes at Fuller Seminary on Leadership Emergence Theory) for over 20 years. It has been of immense help to me and those I have worked with. It scratches where people itch. One of the books that has shaped and deeply influenced what I believe about developing leaders.

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