



Three Temptations of Leadership

To Be Relevant

“I’m not defining myself by what I can do, but who God says I am.”

So many people define themselves by their abilities, gifts, or talents. To them these things make them relevant in today’s culture. If they can define where they fit into the world, then the world will accept them.

During the first wave of Covid we became familiar with the term, “essential worker”. There were certain jobs that the government deemed as essential to the continuation of society. They had certain privileges that other workers didn’t. Those of us who were not essential couldn’t do certain things during the lock-down because we were not essential.

All of us want to believe that we are essential to life. But for the believer our lives are not defined by what we can do, but who God says I am. He says you are His child. He says you are worth the sacrifice of his only begotten son. He says you are an important part of the Kingdom of God.

The next time you’re tempted to be relevant by what you can do, remember it’s who God says you are that matters.

To Be Spectacular

“When God is available you don’t have to be spectacular.”

This is the celebrity syndrome. Many leaders think they must add some pizzazz in order to be spectacular. They are lead away by satanic forces to thinking it’s all about how they look, how they speak, or the clothes they wear. Some even believe that they must own a private jet to take them on their many speaking engagements and meetings.

The latest smoke machines and lighting must be installed in their churches to look good. The staging must be just right so that people will possibly be attracted to their places of worship.

Don’t read what I’m not writing here. I always think our buildings and staging should be the best they can be. But the temptation is to rely on those things instead of the presence of God. Only He is spectacular.

The next time you’re tempted to be spectacular, look into the eyes of the humble, servant leader Jesus. Point people toward him. If you need a smoke machine to do that, go for it. (Although I’d draw the line at a private jet!)

To Be Powerful

“You can’t be powerful and love people.”

Many of the leaders in the Bible were tempted to be powerful and were lead away from a God centered life. In some instances they used what little power they had to bully their way to the top, leaving a trail of wounded, abused and in some cases dead people along the way. When the people of God wanted a king, many came and went without loving the people they were ruling, therefore leaving the Kingdom in a mess.

In the church today many tyrannical leaders exist. They are pastors large and small congregations and lead with an iron fist. They declare themselves as “the Pastor” therefore the power of authority rests upon them. AS a result, staff and volunteer leaders flee because of the abuse they are experiencing.

The next time you’re tempted to be powerful, remember what Jesus did when he was tempted with the power. He ran from it. Instead, he loved people. Even to the point of asking his Heavenly Father to forgive those who were crucifying him. He shared the power of the God’s love with everyone he encountered. He asked many to follow him. He had close friends that he loved with all of his being. Because of that love, he and those followers set the world upside down.

That’s why we are here. To advance the love of God with all we come in contact with.

So, who does God say that you are?

Are you pointing others to the spectacular Lord that we serve?

Do you really love every person God brings into your life?

Keep Lookin’ UP! Monty



February

7—Forge, 10:30 and Leadership Team

8—Rose Day

14—Valentine’s Day

20—Presidents Day

24-26—MVP Retreat

27—Priority of Preaching, Henderson Hills, Edmond

March

5-12—Annie Armstrong Missions Offering Week of Prayer

7—Forge, 10:30 @ WOBA and Leadership Team

12—Daylight Savings Time Begins

13-17—Spring Break

April

4—Executive Board, 11:30 @ WOBA

7—Good Friday

9—Easter Sunday

14-16—Spring Retreat at Falls Creek

17—Tax Day

21-22—Women’s Retreat at Falls Creek

23—WOBA VBS Training, 6:00 at FBC, Skiatook

26—Administrative Professionals Day

28-29—Men’s Rewired at Falls Creek

May

9—Forge, 10:30 @ WOBA, Leadership Team

14—Mother’s Day

28- 6/31—Week 1 & 2, Children’s Camp at Falls Creek, Madill

29—WOBA Closed, Memorial Day

31-June 3—Week #2, Children’s Camp at Falls Creek

June

5-9—Falls Creek Week #1, Highland Park Baptist Church

6—Forge, 10:30 @ WOBA, Leadership Team

12-16—Falls Creek Week #2, FBC Hominy

18—Father’s Day

19-23—Falls Creek Week #3, FBC Woodward

26-30—Falls Creek Week #4, FBC Dewey

July

3-7—Falls Creek Week #5, FB Pawhuska

4—WOBA Closed, Independence Day

10-14—Falls Creek Week #6, FB Fitzhugh

17-21—Falls Creek Week #7, Cross Trails Cowboy Church

24-28—Falls Creek Week #8, Pottsville

30—Aug 3—Indian Falls Creek

August

6-10—Collegiate Week

8—Forge, 10:30 @ WOBA, Leadership Team

26—The Call Conference

September

3-10—Edna McMillan State Missions Offering Week of Prayer

4—WOBA Closed, Labor Day

12—Forge, 10:30 @ WOBA, Leadership Team

27—See You At The Pole

October

10—Executive Board, 11:30 @ WOBA

22—Washington/Osage Baptist Association Annual Meeting, 6:30 @ Highland Park Baptist Church





BGCO Spring Retreat at BSBC! Come and join us at Bartlesville Southern on April 21-22. We will use the digital pass to host the retreat on our campus. No need to travel to Falls Creek! Register with us and come enjoy the retreat. Friday, 6:30 - 9:30 PM. and Saturday, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM with lunch included. Bring your women's group and invite your friends! Registration opens on Feb. 1st and closes on April 18th. Please note on your registration if you will need childcare. No cost for registration. An offering will be taken up for The Cottage Ministry. Please register: <https://bsbc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/87/responses/new>

There will be a team going to Malawi this year, leaving May 22, returning June 4, with an emphasis on training church leaders/pastors in the Four Fields Ministry model and encouraging the pastors we are developing to lead these churches. Lonnie Hoelscher, Pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church will be leading the trip and would love to visit with you if you feel the Lord might be calling you to go on mission to Malawi or be more involved in the pastor development ministry in Malawi. Please contact Lonnie by cell 918-331-6369 or email hoelhog@outlook.com



Join us this June 11 - 14 in New Orleans for four days of equipping, inspiration, and fellowship at the 2023 Annual Meeting and Pastor’s Conference.

With Nearly 200 ancillary meetings, events, and gatherings throughout the week, you will have the opportunity to connect with other pastors and leaders from around the country who share your passion for Great Commission work. From inspiring speakers to hands-on workshops, you will leave this year’s gathering felling encouraged, equipped, and mobilized to lead your church on mission.

Messengers preregistration and childcare registration open Feb. 1 at SBCAnnualMeeting.net

2023 Oklahoma Baptists’ Missionary Prayer Guide is available online!

This is an excellent tool to help you pray for others. In praying for the individuals and ministries found in this guide, you will be joining many others who, through intercessory prayer, will unite in partnering and laboring together for the cause of Christ throughout the world.

Falls Creek Youth Camp

Falls Creek Youth Camp exists to support local church efforts to reach lost students in their communities and to raise up a generation of teenagers with an authentic walk with God and who actively share their faith.

WOBA VBS Clinic!

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! The Twists and Turns theme is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They’ll find, even when they mess up it’s never “game over.”

You’ll need to bring your A-game for this VBS Clinic at **Skiatook First Baptist Church!**

Doors open at 6:00pm on April 23!

Breakouts at 6:30 Worship Rally at 7:30
Breakout sessions offered for Directors, Missions, Recreation, Music and SNACKS!

Falls Creek Cabin Update

Goal: \$250,000

Given to Date: \$110,703.55

Please pray about your sacrificial gift which will be used to advance the gospel.

Contribution Report	Jan 23	Jan 23
Avant Baptist Church	381.01	381.01
Bartlesville Southern	0.00	0.00
BGCO	208.33	208.33
Bluestem Baptist Church	419.76	419.76
Calvary Baptist Church	1,008.76	1,008.76
Eastern Heights Baptist Church	1,039.64	1,039.64
FBC, Barnsdall	765.74	765.74
FBC, Bartlesville	1,000.00	1,000.00
FBC< Copan	0.00	0.00
FBC, Dewey	1,637.39	1,637.39
FBC, Hominy	238.39	238.39
FBC, Nowata	1,173.00	1,173.00
FBC, Ochelata	965.82	965.82
FBC, Pawhuska	661.90	661.90
FBC, Prue	561.53	561.53
FBC, Ramona	1,129.02	1,129.02
FBC, Skiatook	3,381.87	3,381.87
FBC, Wynona	315.00	315.00
First Southern Baptist, Vera	382.35	382.35
Greater First	0.00	0.00
Highland Park	733.13	733.13
Iglesia Bautista	0.00	0.00
Labadie Heights Baptist Church	180.00	180.00
Lenapah Baptist Church	439.00	439.00
Lynn Baptist Church	37.92	37.92
Matoaka Baptist Church	538.48	538.48
Nelagoney	0.00	0.00
New Harmony Baptist Church	694.00	694.00
New Life Baptist Church	51.44	51.44
Osage Indian Baptist	0.00	0.00
Rose Hill Community Baptist	434.00	434.00
Silver Lake Baptist Church	10.00	10.00
Tri-County Baptist Church	219.00	219.00
Trinity Baptist Church	188.93	188.93
Victory	0.00	0.00
Virginia Avenue Baptist Church	93.75	93.75
Wann Baptist Church	106.84	106.84
Whippoorwill Baptist Church	80.07	80.07
TOTAL	19,076.07	19,076.07