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Breaking THE HORSE



A JOURNEY OF LEADERSHIP
& TRANSFORMATION





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A Journey of Leadership
and Transformation

Written by
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Introduction

In the vast plains of our spiritual journey, we find ourselves akin to wild horses—full of potential, strength, and untamed spirit. Just as the West Point Academy transforms young men into disciplined soldiers, so too must we, as Apostolic Pentecostals, cultivate leaders who are strong in faith, resilient in spirit, and unwavering in purpose. This commentary serves as an allegory for our leadership development, drawing parallels between taming a horse and shaping Apostolic Pentecostal leaders.

Outline

I. The Wild Horse: Untamed Potential

A. Understanding the Horse:

- Wild horses symbolize raw potential and unrefined strength.
- Each believer possesses unique gifts and abilities waiting to be harnessed.

B. The Call to Leadership:

- We are called to recognize and nurture the potential within our congregants.
- Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 2:9 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...”

II. The Taming Process: Building Trust and Respect

A. Approaching with Care:

- Just as a horse trainer approaches a horse calmly, we must approach our leaders with love and understanding.
- Metaphor: The gentle hand of a trainer represents the nurturing hand of God through mentorship.

B. Establishing Boundaries:

- Taming requires clear boundaries and expectations, paralleling the need for accountability in leadership.
- Scripture Reference: Proverbs 27:17 - “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

III. The Breaking: Transforming the Wild into the Disciplined



A. The Breaking Process:

- Just as a horse is broken to respond to commands, leaders must learn to submit to the authority of Christ and the church.
- Allegory of West

Point: The rigorous training at West Point mirrors our spiritual discipline and commitment to God's calling.

B. Embracing Trials:

- Trials and challenges shape us into resilient leaders, teaching us perseverance and faith.
- Scripture Reference: James 1:2-4 - "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations..."

IV. The Building Up: Cultivating Strength and Resilience

A. Mentorship and Development:

- Just as soldiers are built up through mentorship and training, we must invest in our leaders through discipleship.
- Fivefold Ministry: Emphasizing the roles of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers in nurturing the body of Christ.

B. Fostering Community:

- Create an Apostolic Pentecostal Leadership Lab where leaders can grow together, sharing experiences and wisdom.
- Scripture Reference: Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works..."

V. The Mission: Sending Out Trained Leaders

A. Commissioning Leaders:

- Once trained, leaders are sent out to fulfill the Great Commission, much like a trained horse is ready for the rider.
- Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”

B. Continuous Growth:

- Leadership is a lifelong journey; even the best horses require ongoing training and care.
- Encouragement: Encourage continuous learning and spiritual growth within the church community.

VI. Lessons from the Kickapoo Tribe: Catching and Taming Wild Horses

The Kickapoo Indians have a rich tradition of horsemanship, and their methods for catching and taming wild horses provide valuable insights into leadership and personal development.

A. Patience and Observation:

- The Kickapoo would spend time observing wild horses to understand their behavior and establish trust.
- Lesson: Leaders must take time to understand their

congregants' needs and behaviors before attempting to guide them.

B. Gentle Approach:

- They would approach horses calmly and quietly, using soft sounds and movements to avoid startling them.
- Lesson: A calm and gentle approach in leadership fosters an environment of trust and safety.

C. Building Trust:

- Through consistent interaction, they would gradually build a relationship with the horse, often using food as an incentive.
- Lesson: Building relationships with church members through fellowship and service is crucial for effective leadership.

D. Training with Respect:

- Once a bond was formed, the Kickapoo would begin the training process, ensuring that the horse felt respected and valued.
- Lesson: Leaders should respect the individuality of each member and guide them with love and understanding.

VII. The Cowboys of Buffalo Bill: Taming Roman Horses in 5 Minutes

Buffalo Bill and his cowboys were known for their remarkable skills in taming horses quickly, including the renowned Roman horses from Italy. Here's how they did it:

1. Calm Environment:

- They ensured the environment was calm and free of distractions, which helped the horse feel secure.

2. Gentle Restraint:

- Using a halter or rope, they gently restrained the horse without applying excessive pressure, allowing it to feel safe while being handled.

3. Body Language:

- Cowboys used confident yet non-threatening body language, showing the horse that they were in control without being aggressive.

4. Positive Reinforcement:

- They rewarded the horse with treats and praise for calm behavior, reinforcing positive actions and building trust.

5. Short, Clear Commands:

- Using simple, clear commands, they guided the horse through basic movements to establish communication and respect.

VIII. Building Trust and Relationships



A. Grooming and Fellowship:

- Just as a horse needs time spent with it to build trust, church members need fellowship and connection. Regular gatherings, prayer meetings, and social events can help

foster relationships among saints, creating a sense of community.

B. Consistency in Leadership:

- Church leaders should be consistent in their teachings and behaviors, much like a horse responds to consistent cues. This consistency builds trust and helps members feel secure in their faith journey.

IX. Understanding Behavior

A. Reading the Congregation:

- Like understanding a horse's body language, church leaders must be attentive to the emotional and spiritual needs of the congregation. This requires active listening and observation to discern when

members are struggling or thriving.

B. Recognizing Resistance:

- Just as horses may resist being caught or controlled, church members may resist change or new teachings. Leaders should approach these situations with empathy, understanding that resistance often stems from fear or uncertainty.

X. Establishing Leadership

A. Confidence in Spiritual Authority:

- Leaders in the church must exhibit confidence not just in themselves, but in their calling and the teachings of the church. This confidence can inspire trust and respect from the congregation.

B. Clear Communication of Vision:

- Just as clear cues are necessary for guiding a horse, church leaders must communicate the church's mission and vision clearly. This helps members understand their roles and encourages participation.

XI. Groundwork in Spiritual Training

A. Teaching and Discipleship:

- Groundwork exercises for horses can be likened to the foundational teachings and discipleship programs

within the church. These programs help members understand their faith and learn how to live it out in their daily lives.

B. Encouraging Participation:

- Just as groundwork builds respect and communication with a horse, engaging church members in various ministries and activities fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility.

XII. Calm and Patient Approach

A. Managing Emotions:

- Church leaders and members alike must manage their emotions, especially in times of conflict or stress. A calm demeanor can help de-escalate situations and foster a spirit of unity.

B. Patience in Growth:

- Spiritual growth, like training a horse, takes time. Leaders should be patient with members as they navigate their faith journeys, understanding that each person grows at their own pace.

XIII. Safe Handling and Accountability

A. Creating a Safe Environment:

- Just as safe handling is crucial with horses, the church should create an environment where

members feel safe to express their doubts, questions, and struggles. This includes fostering a culture of accountability and support.

B. Proper Teaching and Guidance:

- Leaders must ensure that teachings are rooted in Scripture and that members are equipped with the knowledge they need to grow in their faith.

XIV. Training and Spiritual Maturity

A. Ongoing Education:

- Just as horses benefit from continuous training, church members should be encouraged to pursue ongoing education in their faith, whether through Bible studies, seminars, or personal study.

B. Encouraging Spiritual Gifts:

- Leaders should recognize and encourage the unique gifts and callings of each member, much like a trainer would work to harness a horse's strengths.

XV. Purposeful Engagement

A. Clear Goals for Ministry:

- Just as riding a horse requires purpose, church activities and ministries should have clear objectives. This helps members understand their contributions and fosters a sense of purpose within the church.

B. Leading by Example:

- Leaders should model the behaviors and attitudes they wish to see in the congregation, leading with integrity and purpose.

XVI. The Apostolic Pentecostal Leadership Lab

In the local church, the Apostolic Pentecostal Leadership Lab serves as a vital resource for developing leaders.



A. Personality Analysis:

- The Elder/Pastor and leadership team must be skilled in understanding the various personalities within the church. This includes

recognizing how different personality types can work together effectively in ministry.

B. Study of Personalities:

- Types of Personalities:

1. The Leader: Assertive, goal-oriented, thrives on

challenges.

2. The Supporter: Empathetic, nurturing, values harmony.

3. The Analyzer: Detail-oriented, logical, seeks accuracy.

4. The Innovator: Creative, visionary, enjoys exploring new ideas.

C. Working Together:

- By understanding each personality type, leaders can create teams that balance strengths and weaknesses, fostering effective collaboration and ministry.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the journey of taming the wild horse serves as a powerful allegory for our leadership development within the Apostolic Pentecostal movement. By embracing the principles of trust, discipline, and mentorship, we can cultivate strong leaders who are equipped to navigate the challenges of our time. As we build our Apostolic Pentecostal Leadership Lab, let us remember that our ultimate goal is to honor God by raising up a generation of leaders who reflect His grace, strength, and purpose.

Call to Action

Let us commit ourselves to this transformative

process, recognizing that just as the horse becomes a trusted companion, our leaders will become pillars of strength in the body of Christ. Together, we can harness the potential within our community and ride forth into the mission set before us. Amen.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker

Read and Obey Acts 2:38

