



## Qualifications of a Strong, Christian Faithful Leader

### **GENERAL BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF A STRONG CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL LEADER**

*(Qualifications listed are intended to be representative,  
not exhaustive.)*

- A. *Have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. “You must be born again.”*** (John 3:7)
  
- B. *Prioritize His Lordship, Kingship and Kingdom and live as Kingdom citizens. “Seek first . . .”*** (Matthew 6:33)
  
- C. *Love for God and “neighbor”*** (Matthew 22:37-39, John 13:34, 1 John 4:7)
  
- D. *Prioritize personal prayer, private devotions and corporate worship with the church, the body of Christ.*** (Matthew 6:6, Hebrews 10:25)
  
- E. *Respects and accepts the Bible, rightly interpreted, as the authoritative word of God and as our basis for doctrine and guide for everyday living.*** (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16)
  
- F. *Temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, not violent, not greedy for money – have a right attitude***

***toward material possessions, never exploiting others for one's own personal gain, gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; not a novice or recent convert, have a good reputation among those who are outside. Manage household and personal finances well.***

(Based on 1 Timothy 3)

**G. *A model of faithful devotion to family/spouse if married. If single, conduct oneself according to the teachings of God word in a way not to bring shame or disgrace upon the Lord or His church.***

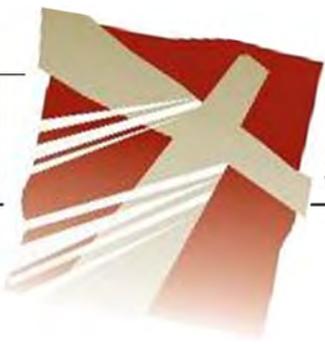
(Hebrews 13:4)

**H. *Committed primarily to lifelong study of the Bible, and lifelong study generally.***

“Learn of Me . . .” (Matthew 11:29, 2 Timothy 2:15)

**I. *Ability to delegate.*** (Exodus 18:17-18, Acts 6:1-7)

**J. *Care for our physical temple, our body:*** diet, exercise, rest, recreation, sunlight, friends and family. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)



## Outline: Qualifications of a Strong Christian Faithful Leader

### Designated Thematic Scripture

- A. *Revelation 3:8-11: "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. <sup>9</sup> Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie-- indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have KEPT MY COMMAND to PERSEVERE, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> Behold, I am coming quickly! HOLD FAST what you have, that no one may take your crown."* These are the words of our Risen Savior, the One Who is holy and true, "Who has the key of David, . . . who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens."
- B. The words of our Savior are addressed at the time of the text "to the angel of the church in Philadelphia" but generally to every church constituting the body of baptized believers in Christ.
- C. In **verse 10** our Lord COMMENDS this church for persevering and in verse 11 COMMANDS them to hold fast. A pivotal qualification of a strong Christian faithful leader is the ability and determination to continue, to stay with it, to stick to it, to endure, to not faint or give up, to refuse to quit or throw in the towel, to hold out until the end.
- D. They are to persevere in and hold fast to "WHAT YOU HAVE." "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 1:3)
- E. Also echoed or stated outright in other places in Scripture such as 2 Tim. 3:14-15, 1 John 5:13, Jude 1:20-21.



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#### **Additional Observations**

#### **1. Strong faithful Christian leadership is vital to the health, growth and success of the church.**

God's plan for the ages is based on human leadership under divine commission and guidance. This means that God chooses human beings as leaders, anoints and empowers them, and then sends and guides them. It is a glorious truth, a Biblical truth, and it is God's will to use human leaders to accomplish His purpose in the world.

Here is the way George Barna sees it: "Vision is entrusted to an individual. Did you notice in the Bible that God never gave vision to a committee? In every case, God selected a person for whom He tailored a vision for a better future." "Go down Moses ..." "Whom shall I send ..."

#### **2. A crucial step to strong Christian faithful leadership is servanthood.**

"Only the one who has learned to serve is qualified to lead." "The great leader is seen as a servant first, and that simple fact is the key to his greatness." Moses was perhaps the greatest leader of the OT. God referred to him, not as "my leader," but as "my servant Moses" (Numbers 12:8; II Kings 21:8, Mark 10:42-45)

### **3. There is a cost to be a strong Christian faithful servant-leader.**

Servant-leadership always exacts a heavy toll. There is a PRIZE to gain, but a PRICE to pay. It costs. The more effective the leadership, the higher the price to be paid. “This is what Jesus expressed to James and John when they requested to sit on his left and right hand. (Mark 10:38) To the casual observer, leadership seems easy. However, what’s often not recognized is every worthwhile accomplishment has a price tag in terms of hard work, criticism, persecution, misunderstandings and endurance.