



Leadership

Session 4

A Man After God's Own Heart

Last time, we saw the four leadership roles that have been entrusted to men and the five leadership characteristics necessary to fulfill these roles.



Most of us struggle to live authentic leadership.

The story of King David gives us hope.

The Repentance of King David

“

Have mercy on me, O God according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions... Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence... O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou hast no delight in sacrifice... The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 51:1-17

”

A Man After God's Own Heart

“

[God] raised up David to be their king; of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Acts 13:22-23

”



King David became a “man after God’s own heart” not because he was innocent of sin, but because having sinned, he encountered the Father, rich in mercy, and allowed him to expand his heart to all that it was created to be.



The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

“ A sower went out to sow ... the seed is the Word of God. ”

Matthew 13:3; Luke 8:11

The First Seed: The Devil Steals

The Parable: “Some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them” (Matthew 13:4).

Christ’s Explanation: “When one hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart” (Matthew 13:19).

The Reality: A heart that is not united to God.

The Second Seed: Lack of Depth in Self

The Parable: “Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away” (Matthew 13:5-6).

Christ’s Explanation: “He who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away” (Matthew 13:20-21).

The Reality: A heart that is a slave to the comforts of this world.

The Third Seed: Deceived by Riches

The Parable: “Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them” (Matthew 13:7).

Christ’s Explanation: “This is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful” (Matthew 13:22).

The Reality: A heart that is bound by this world.

The Fourth Seed: The Good Soil

The Parable: “Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” (Matthew 13:8).

Christ’s Explanation: “This is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty” (Matthew 13:23).

The Reality: A heart that experiences superabundance in God.

The parable of the Sower and the Seed reveals to us the three orientations of the human person ...

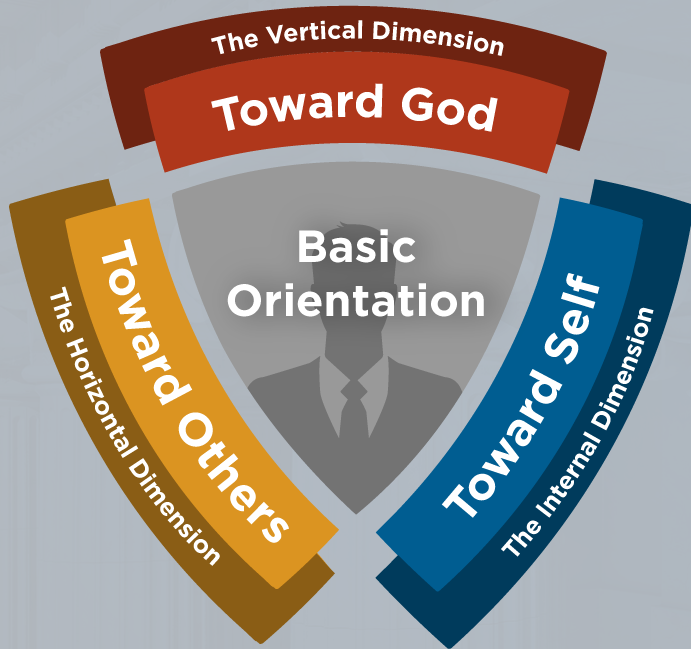


... and the means Satan uses to tempt us according to each of these three orientations.



Fortunately, God is also trying to encounter us according to each of these three orientations.

The Three Fundamental Orientations



The Vertical Dimension

The soul's relationship with God.

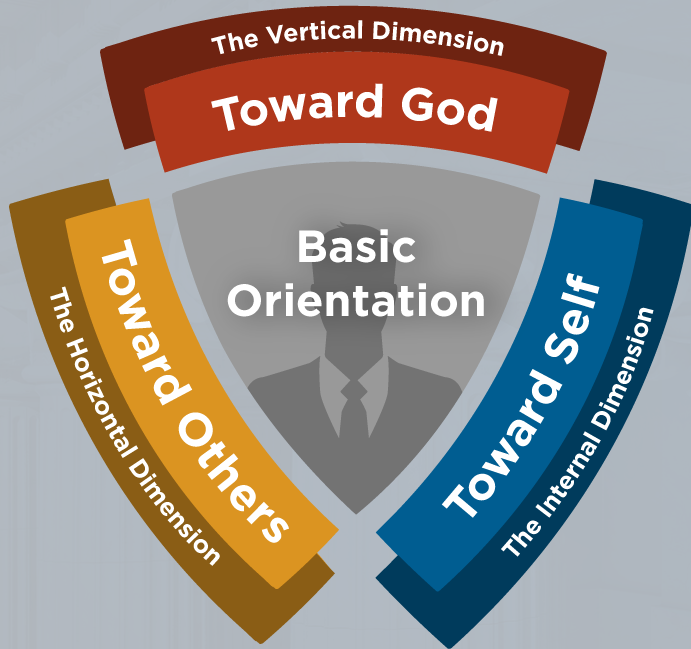
The Horizontal Dimension

The soul's relationship with other people.

The Internal Dimension

The awareness and expression of self.

The Three Obstacles in the Spiritual Life



The Devil

“The pride of life.”

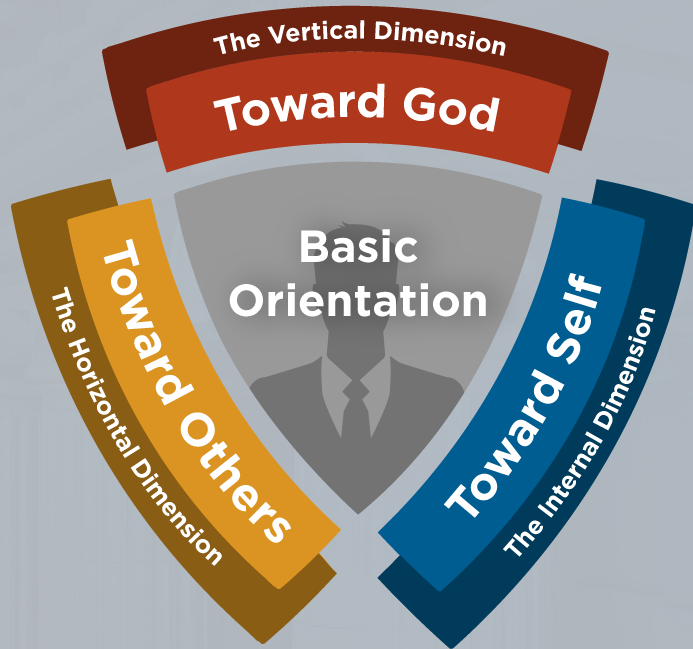
The World

“The concupiscence of the eyes.”

The Flesh

“The concupiscence of the flesh.”

Encountering God



Practice of the Presence of God

“I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a humble spirit.”

The Hidden Face of God

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Ascent of the Mind to God

“Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

The 7 Steps of That Man Is You!



1

Honor your wedding vows

2

Use money for others

3

Give God some of your time

4

Set your mind on things above

5

Find God in yourself

6

Find God in other people

7

Practice Superabundant Mercy

Like the leadership roles and characteristics, there is incredible depth and beauty behind these 7 Steps.



There are heroic stories of men of have fulfilled them and tragic stories of those who haven't.



They have the power to make you “a man after God’s own heart.”

There is someone who does NOT rejoice in this reality.

The Attack on Fatherhood

“

... in human history the 'rays of fatherhood' meet a first resistance in the obscure but real fact of original sin. This is truly the key for interpreting reality... Original sin attempts, then, to abolish fatherhood.

Pope St. John Paul II
Crossing the Threshold of Hope

”

The Need for a Band of Brothers

“

Perhaps the most significant contribution of World War II military psychiatry was the recognition of the sustaining influence of the small combat group ... Repeated observations indicated that the absence or inadequacy of such sustaining influences or their disruption during combat was mainly responsible for [mental] breakdown in battle. These group[s] ... Explained marked differences in the [mental] casualty rates of various units who were exposed to a similar intensity of battle stress.

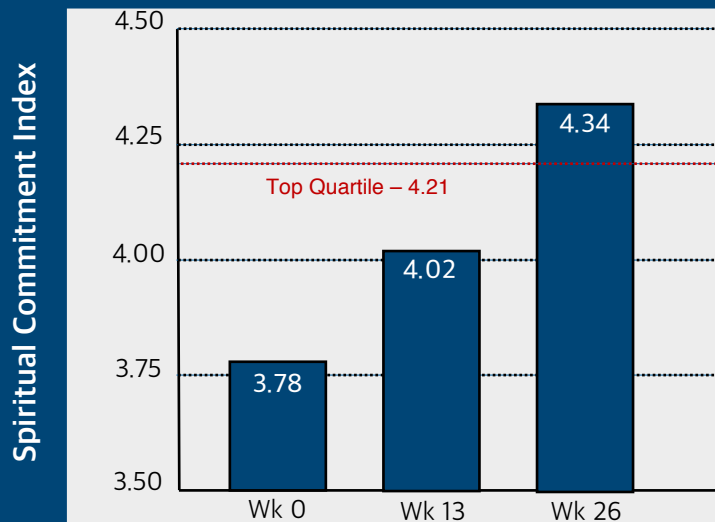
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Source: Medical Department, United States Army, "Neuropsychiatry in World War II, Volume 2: Overseas Theaters," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1973, p. 995.

TMIY

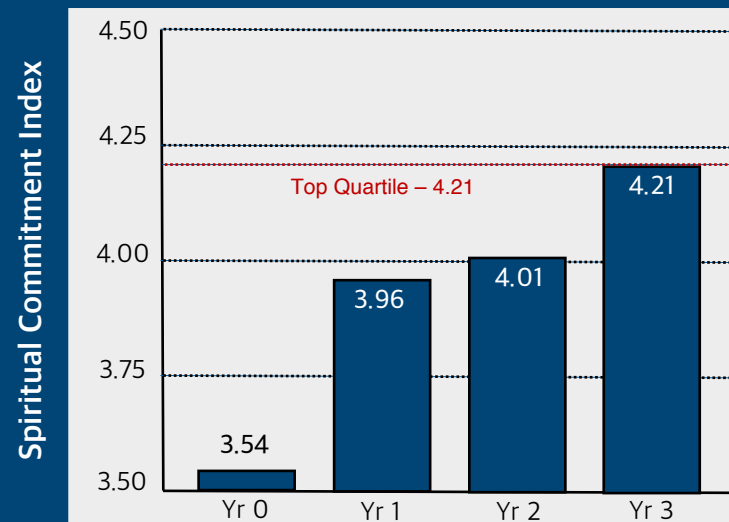
The Transformation of Men

Faith Advisor, The Gallup Poll



Source: Deacon David Krueger, St. Columbkille, Omaha, NE.

TMIY App



Source: Paradisus Dei Internal Data,



QUESTIONS

- Which of the three fundamental temptations is most difficult for you and why?
- How do you most frequently encounter God?
- How can you bring TMIY to your parish to discover the full vision of authentic male leadership and bond together with other men to fulfill it?

Next Session

Manhood or Fatherhood