

What do you do when you're
in control or not in control?

This morning I wake up thinking about a bake off with
festivities. This celebration had a total of 150 people
attending. Whatever prize you win, you have to purchase
a certain amount of raffle tickets to receive your prize.
There was so much at the bake off; cakes, cupcakes,
cheese cakes, donuts and pies. But they wasn't your
average bakery ~~foods~~ foods; because people went
all out the way to draw tickets in. The ticket
collector had to draw a certain amount of tickets in
if they wanted to win the following; microwave, TV
or a shopping card from Sams. So in my mind, I begin
to picture myself walking into the room where all
this good baked good. I seen all these cakes, cupcakes,
cheese cakes, donut and pies but only one thing
caught my attention. Those big apple pies, oh my God
they look so tasteful till I could just imagine
biting into a slice. I thought to myself the apple pie
^{is} so delicious. I wanted to pull out some Buyer
vanilla icecream. ooh it was mouth watering good
in my mind. So I was driven to make sure I had
~~en~~ enough tickets to purchase one. I thought to myself
if I didn't have enough I would have to go back
in purchase some more tickets. How many people would
have done it the right way; like I did? Do you think
everybody out of 150 people attending had the same
mindset as I did? Absolutely no. Some of their
mindset was on another level. So where would their
mindset be? This is my theory. Some people will
fight over the pie and take it. Some will earn it by
buying the pie with the correct tickets. Some will think
they deserve it. Some people will go through any
channel to manipulate or deceive to get what they
want. It's like everybody wants a piece of the pie.
But can you handle it? Apple pie is delicious all
day long when cooked by the right person. Why I

say that because not everybody can bake or bake certain things. Because the pie was looking mmm-good. That doesn't mean it was for everyone. A lot of ticket buyers thought it was. When the truth of the matter. Some of the purchasers knew they don't need it. Some had health issue, allergic reaction to cooked fruits and ~~list~~ the list goes on. But everyone in the bake off felt like they just had to have those apple pies. This reminded me of people who just have to be in control of something or someone. But anyways these people who was trying to get these apple pies was about to break their necks; pushing each other out of the way. In life sometimes people will ~~push~~ try to push you out of the way to get what they want. Let's get back to the focal points. In my opinion things feel really gotten out of control with this apple situation. Today I have ~~two~~ two questions for you. Do you have a control issue? Where you always have to control everybody and everything around you. Are you battling with somebody who is controlling in your life? In they are affecting you in a bad way. You feel like you're lost because you have no direction of how to change the situation. Before we go any ~~far~~ further. Let's define: what is control? To exercise authoritative or dominating influence over. How many know sometimes authoritative can be used for the wrong reason. Today we are talking about ~~leadership~~ leadership. God has given us all some type of control over something. We can bring it down to simple levels. In the home if you are married. The husband is the head of the household but him and his wife is equal - one. Parents you are in charge of your children, Supervisors you are in charge of your employees. President Obama is in charge of United States, Nathan Deal is in charge of Georgia, teachers are in charge of students, Pastors in charge of congregation. Some people are natural born leaders. When I was a child my mom use to ask me for sound advice. She would even let me write business letters for her. Even though I am natural born leader. I always look for ways to improve my

~~Skills~~ Leadership skills. In the book by John C. Maxwell
The 21 irrefutable laws of leadership workbook say there
are three levels of leadership intuition - If you're saying
to yourself, I'd like to be able to read these dynamics in
my organization but I don't despair. The good news is that
you can improve your leadership intuition, even if you are
not a natural born leader. cont next page.

As I've already mentioned leadership intuition, ~~even if~~ is an formed intuition. The less natural leadership talents you have, the more you will need to make up for it by developing skills and gaining experience. They can help you to develop thinking patterns and thinking patterns can be learned. I've found that all people fit into three major intuition levels: 1. Those who naturally understand leadership. Some people are born with exceptional leadership gifts. They instinctively understand people and know how to move them from point A to point B. Even when they're kids, they act as leaders. Watch them on the playground and you can see other kids following them. People with natural leadership intuition can build upon it and become world-class leaders of the highest caliber. 2. Those who can be nurtured to understand leadership. Most people fall into this category. They have adequate people skills, and if they are teachable, they can develop intuition. Leadership can be learned. However, people who don't try to improve their leadership and never work to develop their intuition are condemned to being blindsided in their leadership for the rest of their lives. 3. Those who will never understand leadership. I believe nearly everyone is capable of developing leadership skills and intuition. But occasionally, I run across someone who doesn't seem to have a leadership bone in his body and who has no interests in developing the skills necessary to lead. I guess you say what does ~~this~~ all this have to do with control. It has a lot to do with control because if you don't know how to apply and take action in the position you've been placed in, I don't care if it's raising your children. Sometimes when you don't understand your position - you tend to go overboard with things, such as overstepping your boundaries. Apply. How are you when it comes to trusting your intuition? Are you a facts or feeling person? To become better at the laws of intuition, you must first be willing to trust your intuition. Begin by working within your areas of greatest strength. First, determine which is your strongest natural talent. Second participate in that talent, paying attention to your feelings, instincts and intuition. When do you know something is right before you have evidence? How can you tell when you're "on"? Do your instincts in this area ever betray you? If so, when and why? Get to know your aptitude for intuition where you are strong before trying to develop in leadership. One of the most important

Abilities in leadership is reading people. ~~How~~ How would you rate yourself in this area? Can you tell what others are feeling? Can you sense when people are upset? Happy? Confused? Angry? Do you anticipate what others are thinking? If this is not an area of strength for you, then work on improving by doing these things: Read books on relationships, Engage more people in conversations and become a people watcher. Train yourself to think in terms of mobilizing people and harnessing resources. Think about current projects or goals. Now imagine how you can accomplish them without doing any of the work yourself except for recruiting, empowering and motivating others. You may even want to write the following on a note card and keep it in your pocket or organizer: Who is the best person to take this on? What resources do we ~~not~~ possess that will help us? What will this take financially? How can I encourage my team to achieve success? Take action: ~~How~~ How you see your world around you is determined by who you are. And while most people will just be accepting of situations, the intuitive leader looks at every situation and asks questions: Why is it this way? Why is it the popular choice? Why does it or why doesn't it work? What other ways could the situation be approached or the problem be solved? The intuitive leader observes and assesses. Explore a leadership situation that either you or someone else is in where the decisions being made just don't seem right to you. ~~It~~ It could be a situation in which you are the leader and everyone around you is telling you things are fine, but you ~~still~~ still have some hesitations. Or it could be a situation in which you think another leader handled a situation incorrectly. Look at different ways the situation could be approached by answering the following questions: What is the situation? What is the popular choice? Why? Why does it or doesn't it work? What is your leadership intuition telling you?

Is the job being done as well as it could be? Is what's being done damaging relationships. What other way could the situation be approached or the problem be solved? Let's look at the law of the picture - modeling insights for leaders - from the same book. If you desire to be the best leader you can become, you must not neglect the law of the picture. As you strive to improve as an example to your followers - remember these things. Followers are always watching what you do. If you are a parent, you have probably ~~already~~ already realized that your children are always watching what you ~~say~~ do. Say anything you want, but your children learn more from what they see than from anywhere ~~else~~ else. As parents, Margaret and I realized this early. No matter what we taught our children, they insisted on behaving like us. How frustrating. ~~being~~ Legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden quoted a poem that explains it perfectly:

No written word
nor spoken plea
can teach our youth
what they should be

No all the books
on all the shelves
It's what the teachers
are themselves.

Just as children watch their parents and emulate their behavior, so do employees watching their bosses. If the bosses come in late, then employees feel that they can too. If the bosses cut corners, employees cut corners. People do what people see. Followers may doubt what their leaders say, but they usually believe what they do. And they imitate it. Former U.S. Army general and Secretary of State Colin Powell observed, you can write all the memos and give

all the motivational speeches you want, but if the rest of the people in your organization don't see you putting forth your very best effort every single day, they won't either. Whitley David asserted a good supervisor is a catalyst, not a drill sergeant. He creates an atmosphere where intelligent people are willing to follow him. He doesn't command. Nothing is more convincing than living out what you say you believe. It's easier to teach what's right than to do what's right. Writer Mark Twain quipped, ~~to do~~ to do what is right is wonderful. To teach what is right is even more wonderful and much easier. Don't that the truth? It's always easier to teach what's right than it is to do it. That's one of the reasons why many parents and ~~bosses~~ bosses say, "Do as I say, not as I do." One of my earliest challenges as leader was to raise my living to level of my teaching. I can still remember the day that I decided that I would not teach anything. I did not try to live out. That was a tough decision, but as a young leader, I was learning to embrace the law of the picture, author Norman Vincent Peale stated, Nothing is more confusing than people who give good advice but set a bad example. I would say a related thought is also true: Nothing is more convincing than people who give good advice and set a good example. Recently I received calls on the same day from two reporters - one from the Chicago Tribune and the other from USA Today - about teaching ethics in the business arena. Both asked similar questions. They wanted to know if ethics could be taught. My answer was yes but many of the companies that teach ethics classes had ethics problems, one reporter pushed back. That's because ethics can be instilled in others only if it is taught and modeled for them, I replied

100 many leaders are like bad travel agents. They send people places they have never been. Instead, they should be more like tour guides, taking people places they have gone and sharing the wisdom of their own experiences. John Wooden used to say to his players, show me what you can do; don't tell me what you can do. I believe followers have the same attitude towards their leaders. They want to see their leader in action, doing their best, showing the way and setting the example. Featherstone remarked, leaders tell but never teach until they ~~first~~ practice what they preach. That is the law of the ~~first~~ picture. If everyone follows the next one. There would no longer be no ISIS, husbands abusing their wives and children, no mayor sexually assault children and pastor taking advantage of their congregation. We should work on changing ourselves before trying to ~~improve~~ improve others. Leaders are responsible for the performances of their people. The buck stops with them. They accordingly monitor their progress, give them direction and hold them accountable and to improve the performance of the team, leaders must act as change agents. However, a great danger to good leadership is the temptation to try to change others without first making changes to yourself. As a leader, the first person I need to lead is me. The first person that I should try to change is me. My standards of excellence should be higher for myself than those I set for others. To remain a credible leader, I must always work first, hardest and longest on changing myself. This is neither easy nor natural, but it is essential. In all honesty, I am a bit like Lucy in the Peanuts comic strip who tells Charlie Brown that she wants to change the ~~world~~ world. When an overwhelmed Charlie ~~Brown~~ Brown asks where she would start, her response is, I would start with you, Charlie Brown. I would start with you. Not long ago, I was teaching on the idea of the 360-degree leader. That is, a leader

Exerts his influence not just down with those he leads but also up with his boss and across with his colleagues. During a Q and A session, an attendee asked, which is the most difficult - leading up across or down? None of the ~~above~~ above, I answered quickly. Leading myself is the toughest. To lead any way other than by example, ~~we~~ we send a fuzzy picture of leadership to others. If we work on improving ourselves first and make that ~~our~~ our primary mission then others are more likely to follow. My question to you once again. What do you do when you're in control or not in control? - I recommend that you read this book by John C. Maxwell The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership ~~and~~ Workbook

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