

Paul's Development Through the Five Levels of Movement Leadership

The goal of this paper is to trace how the apostle Paul was personally developed through the five levels of movement leadership.

Level 1 – Seed Sower

Acts 9:1-22 – Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus

- 9:15-16.... God already knew that Paul would be a Level 5 leader, even before he had properly become a level 1 leader. God chooses the leader's eventual level.
- 9:16... Persecution / suffering is a part of every story of a Level 5 leader
- 9:20 "At once he began to preach that Jesus is the Son of God"... immediately after conversion, Paul began the practices of a Level 1 leader.
- 9:22... Paul grew in the practice of a seed sower. We develop in our abilities as we practice levels of leadership.

Acts 9:26-29... Paul went to Jerusalem and continued his practice as a seed sower.

- What is important for the development of a seed sower? Deepening relationship and knowledge of Jesus. Barnabas brought Paul to the apostles. He heard first-hand from the apostles about Jesus.
- Barnabas was true to his role in developing Paul... first in becoming the best possible seed sower that he could be, then in taking him to the next level of leadership.

Level 2 – Church planter / leader

Acts 11:19-30

- God was already at work through a number of people.
- Barnabas got Paul and drew him into the leadership of the church in Antioch. Responsibility was given
- Paul was so significant in his leadership of the church in Antioch that he was entrusted with taking a gift to the church elders in Jerusalem.

Level 3 – Church multiplier

Acts 12:25-13:3 – growth from church leader to church multiplier

- Others (John Mark) are already being drawn to join what God is doing in different locations.
- Paul was one of five main leaders of the Antioch church.
- Through a time of prayer / fasting, God eventually said enough is enough... it's time for the church in Antioch to start multiplying.
- God chose the particular people and named them... Paul and Barnabas.
- These were significant leaders of the church... they weren't just a couple unimportant people.

Acts 13:4-14:28 – Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey

- It's worth noting that Paul skirted around the place he was living before Barnabas brought him to Antioch. Paul must have already reached the area.
- Paul's first missionary journey went through Galatia minor.
- John Mark was a flake... he left when the missionary journey turned out to be harder than he may have imagined.
- One of the places he visited was Lystra... the city where Timothy was from.
- Paul and Barnabas appointed elders and.... With prayer and fasting... committed them to God and to continue reaching their cities.
- Barnabas' role in all this was to walk with Paul in his development from being a seed sower (level 1) through to becoming a church multiplier (level 3).

Acts 15:36-41

- This was most likely a gift's-based conflict. Paul the apostle was committed to the mission and did not want to take a flake with him. Barnabas was an encourager... he wanted to take broken people and take the chance to restore them, as he had already done with Paul.
- Barnabas' role with Paul was complete. God must take him the rest of the journey, and Barnabas needed to work on developing the next person (John Mark).
- Note: I struggle with the argument that the only reason Barnabas worked with John Mark was because he was his nephew. Barnabas is always encouraging whenever he comes up in Scripture, no matter which person. It seems to be part of the beauty that the Holy Spirit does in and through him. I struggle with calling the beautiful work of the Holy Spirit through Barnabas as being simple nepotism.

Level 4 – Movement Trainer and

Level 5 – Movement Catalyst

- These two roles are easiest to see together in the context of multiple streams of multiplying churches.

Acts 20:1-5

- This meeting happened after Paul's second and third missionary journeys.
- We know from Scripture that Paul had spent time planting churches in Phillipi, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth.
- Paul was on his way to take a gift from the churches he'd planted back to Jerusalem, an answer to the promise he'd made to the Jerusalem council.
- The men at this meeting were from locations scattered across modern Turkey:
 - o Sopater – Berea
 - o Aristarchus and Secundus - Thessalonica
 - o Gaius – Derbe
 - o Timothy – Lystra
 - o Tychicus – Asia (north of Ephesus)
 - o Trophimus – Ephesus
- Right after this meeting, Paul sat down and wrote the book of Romans
- At this point, Paul was expecting to write Romans, deliver the gift to the church in Jerusalem, and follow his letter to Rome on his way to Spain. This did NOT happen... he was imprisoned and taken to Rome in chains.

Romans 15:19, 23

- Paul said that the gospel had been fully proclaimed from Jerusalem to Illyricum (northwest of Corinth, across the sea from Rome).
- How did Paul know? These were his level 4 leaders who were shepherding a movement of church multiplication across this region.

Philippians 4:22

- The leadership levels are cumulative. At the time Paul writes this, he is working solidly as a level 5 leader with movement trainers. Somehow, during his time in prison, he'd taken the opportunity to share Christ (as seen in other parts of Acts... e.g. Acts 26:1-29)

2 Timothy 4:9-12

Titus 1:5

- We get a glimpse of Paul's regular interaction with his level 4 leaders. He's constantly sending them to various churches to strengthen them and cultivate further multiplication!
- Barnabas' work with John Mark was now complete... he had become a level 4 leader himself that Paul trusted. He needed him for his ministry!

