

LEADER NOTES FROM DR. CARSON PUE ON CCN

It was nearing the end of a powerful week of leadership development with leaders in the Arrow Leadership Program. In a few moments, they would all be heading their separate ways back to leadership roles in churches and Christian organizations around North America. The Lord, however, still had some serious business on his agenda. We had asked each leader to consider what one thing God would want them to leave behind and to write it down on a piece of paper. Afterwards, we invited everyone to publicly name what they had written down and to throw the papers into a roaring fire as a symbol of their newfound freedom.

As leader after leader made their way to the fire, the one primary issue that was named and left behind that day was *fear*. There were different varieties of fear identified: fear of man, fear of conflict, fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of success, fear of the future, etc. but it was undeniable that fear was consistently the core hindrance in their lives and leadership.

Though fear can act at times as a helpful warning to pause, reflect and even reconsider a certain action or direction, fear can easily begin to rule, enslave and even paralyze God's people. Listed below are several keys to help Christian leaders address fear:

1. As a Leader You Will Face Challenges That Bring Fears to the Surface

In light of God's call on their lives to lead His people toward His purposes, leaders can expect to face and experience fear. In fact, David wrote about the reality of fear with certainty in Psalm 56:3: "When I am afraid, I will trust in you." Similarly, the bold and great missionary leader, Paul, identified internal fear in 2 Corinthians 7:5: "For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn, conflicts on the outside, fears within."

2. Identify Your "Fear Buttons"

Because leaders will experience fear, we need to know how to address it. Is there a common theme to what surfaces fear for you? Once we identify our "fear buttons," it becomes easier to address the root issues. Fear can be rooted in lack of skills, limited experience, misinformation or lack of perspective. But often, fear has deeper roots.

3. Correct and Clarify Your View of God

One key paradigm shift that is often necessary in facing fears is with our vision of God. If we can clearly see and know God's character, our fears are often replaced with faith and trust in Him. We need to engage our fear with the truth of who God is and sometimes this will mean we need to repent of our false beliefs.

4. Know You Are Not Alone

We also need to recognize that we are not alone; God is near. One of the passages we often work through with our Arrow leaders is Isaiah 43:1-7. In this very powerful passage, the Lord assumes that significant challenges are the rule rather than the exception. Yet, He promises His presence and protection in verses 2-3: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

5. Lean Into Community "We Stand Alone Together"

Lastly, we should not lead apart from community. At times, leadership is a lonely calling. But rather than embracing that reality, we need to seek out and lean into community with mentors, peers, family and friends. The TV mini-series, *Band of Brothers*, powerfully chronicles the training of young soldiers preparing for the D-Day mission. Each day they would run up a hill called "Curahee" as part of their fitness training. The word *Curahee* means, "We stand alone together." It is a powerful image for Christian leaders tackling the most important mission in history. While the evil one seeks to divide and isolate we need to actively lean into community.



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5 Practical Strategies to Combat Fear

1. Pray on the armor of God each morning by reading and praying Ephesians 6:10-18.
2. Enlist a team of 6-8 trusted prayers to regularly pray for you, your family and ministry/organization. Send out a monthly "Knee-mail" to direct, encourage and thank your prayer team.
3. Get some rest. As football legend Vince Lombardi said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." Sometimes a few extra hours of rest can dramatically change our outlook.
4. Return to the "faith markers" in your life. The Israelites repeatedly made physical markers to help them and future generations remember God's faithfulness. Prayerfully look back over the last month, year, and decade and journal moments and memories of God's faithfulness in your life and leadership.
5. Choose to trust the Lord. Confess disbelief and by your will choose to trust the Lord.

Key Fear-Fighting Bible Verses to Pray and Memorize

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."
Psalm 20:7

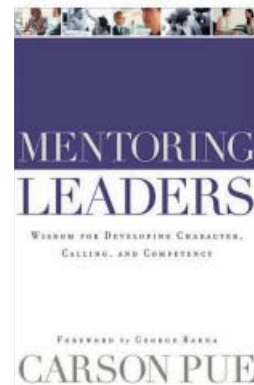
"The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?"
Psalm 27:1

"When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?"
Psalm 56:3-4

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him for God is our refuge."
Psalm 62:5-8

"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you.'"
Isaiah 41:13

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."
1 Corinthians 16:13-14



Dr. Carson Pue's best selling book, *Mentoring Leaders*, offers a unique angle on what it takes to prepare transformational leaders for today's church and world. Carson walks mentors and leaders through core phases of leadership development and provides practical insights and helpful tips for developing effective and dynamic leaders.

For more information or to purchase a copy, please visit www.arrowleadership.org.