

# *Point of View*



A LEADERSHIP COMMENTARY ON LIFE TODAY BY BOB SHANK

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Dear Marketplace Friend,

It's sounds pretty broad, and very generic: "we are a mentoring program for leaders." You have to dig a bit to get to the bottom of what **The Master's Program (TMP)** really does...

We operate from a core assumption that leaders - really *good* leaders - experience *life* before they exercise *leadership*. If life isn't happening at a Kingdom-class level, then leadership will never rise to the Kingdom-class level (*Kingdom-class? That's World-class, with an Eternal timeline*).

Paul was establishing Kingdom-class enterprises across the Roman Empire (planting local churches) and understood how important it was for leaders to live before they tried to lead: *"If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good! But there are pre-conditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. He must know what he's talking about, not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry. He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a new believer,*

*lest the position go to his head and the Devil trip him up. Outsiders must think well of him, or else the Devil will figure out a way to lure him into his trap."* (1 Timothy 3:1-7, from **The Message**).

In **TMP**, we capture what Paul is describing in this criterion for prospective leaders in what we call **LifeMastery**. This week, I worked through a book that explores this comprehensive condition from a credible, scientific perspective: **Well Being: The Five Essential Elements** (Gallup Press, 2010), by Tom Rath and Jim Harter. We use Rath's work in his books, **StrengthsFinder 2.0** and **Strengths Based Leadership**, as core texts in **TMP**, so his work is not unfamiliar...

In **Well Being**, these Gallup partners are examining what really makes life matter. Most books or programs drill down in just one area of life, but **Well Being** submits that there are at least five elements that, combined, are the "currency of a life that matters." The five subsets: Career, Social, Financial, Physical and Community. *"Wellbeing is about the combination of our love*

*for what we do each day, the quality of our relationships, the security of our finances, the vibrancy of our physical health and the pride we take in what we have contributed to our communities. Most importantly, it's about how these five elements interact."* In typical Gallup fashion, they've thrown the weight of their extensive network and research horsepower into this discussion: they created the framework for wellbeing and then evaluated thousands of people in dozens of countries to get to the bottom of wellbeing.

*"While 66% of people are doing well in at least one of these areas, just 7% are thriving in all five. If we're struggling in any of these domains, as most of us are, it damages our wellbeing and wears on our daily life. When we strengthen our wellbeing in any of these areas, we will have better (lives). But we're not getting the most out of our lives unless we're living effectively in all five..."*

Sounds great, but where does "faith" fit into this consideration? Good question: *"For many people, spirituality drives them in all these areas. Their faith is the most important facet of their lives, and it is the foundation of their daily efforts..."*

How does this fit in with **TMP's** mission to help leaders live better, so that they can lead better? *"To create a life that's worthwhile, not just for ourselves but for those around us, we need to find something we love to do that benefits society..."* We know that as Kingdom Calling, and **LifeMastery** is

the portal through which that discovery is made...

I have a new book to add to the **TMP** reading stack. **Well Being** will be standard issue in Session #1, starting this Fall...

Bob Shank

*Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).*

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