



OVERCOMING THE PAST

"ALL LEADERS HAVE A PAST"



Bobby Bogard

A leader's past can become a roadblock to seizing their future. Past experiences could be littered with failure, unfair criticism, relational woundedness, betrayal, or personal shortcomings. All of which could render a leader ineffective and fearful of what may lay ahead.

LEAVING THE PAST TO GAIN THE FUTURE.

Overcoming the past is easier said than done. There is a tendency to filter much of life through the lenses of bad experiences, through words that really did hurt, or through choices that couldn't be reversed. When clients take their clothing to a tailor for alterations, the tailor never holds them to their past measurements. They take new ones. Likewise, leaders cannot continue to measure themselves by their past. They should realize it's a brand new day. ***A leader anchored to what was, is unable to see what could be.***

WHAT IS THE POWER OF THE PAST?

- A **lie** is believed to be true. The new truth **becomes** the leader's **identity**.
- A **conviction** is established. This new filter **shapes** the way the leader begins to **see** life.
- A **lifestyle** is formed. The new lifestyle creates the leader's **habits** and **practices**.
- A bondage is **accepted**. The new enslavement forms the leader's **insecurities**.

Continue reading for the **FIVE ACTIONS TO RELEASE YOU FROM POWER OF THE PAST**

THE PAST IS PERSONAL...

A personal barrier to overcome may involve unforgiveness.

- The leader refuses to forgive and it leads to bitterness.
- Bitterness spews its poison to everyone near it.
- The leader's future advancement is jeopardized by this attitude.

A private hurdle to manage might include secret sin.

- The leader overcompensates to alleviate shame.
- Shame leads to micro-managing the world around it.
- The leader's future confidence is diminished by fear of discovery.

A professional challenge to handle may entail relational equity.

- The leader fears betrayal again, so rejects others.
- Rejection repudiates the potential close by it.
- The leader's future influence is minimized by refusing to empower.



HOW DOES A LEADER BREAK FREE?

FIVE ACTIONS TO **RELEASE** YOU FROM THE POWER OF THE PAST

1. **REALIZE** freedom from the past starts by understanding that it's not about something, it's about someone.

Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." The past fades in His presence and He helps us to see things differently. True freedom begins by having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

2. **FIND** a true **confidant**, a person who provides a **safe place** to unpack your life. **James 5:16** says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed." Getting the hidden things out in the open with a friend allows one to be comforted.

3. **EMPLOY counselors** who can provide a pathway to overcome what had been. They help expose lies that were believed. They offer strategies to discover self-awareness.

4. **ENLIST** the services of a life coach or a professional coach. Coaches have been there. They understand the game. They furnish tools to reach a new level.

5. **RECRUIT** an **intercessory prayer** team. They provide the spiritual climate for change. These are people who have a calling to pray. They understand spiritual warfare. They penetrate the heavens, to bring breakthrough on earth.

REMEMBER

"All leaders have a past *but* it should not keep them from accomplishing everything that might lie ahead."





LEADERSHIP STUDY GUIDE



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- A _____ is formed. The new lifestyle creates the leader's _____ and _____.
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