

DR. MYLES MUNROE



KEYS *for*  
LEADERSHIP

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Keys to Leadership

Myles Munroe

Whitaker House

## **Keys for Leadership**

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## Introduction

Every human being was created to lead in an area of gifting. This means the Creator designed you to fulfill a specific purpose and assignment in life, and your assignment determines your area of leadership.

The ability to fulfill this assignment, however, begins with developing a leadership mind-set. When you think according to the spirit of leadership, you begin the process of becoming a leader. Some of the unique attitudes or qualities of leaders include passion, initiative, teamwork, innovation, persistence, discipline, time management, confidence, positive disposition, patience, peace, and compassion.

When the spirit of leadership comes alive within someone, it produces an attitude that transforms that person from a follower into a leader. It also takes those who are in leadership positions into a realm of leadership they never before have experienced.

Meditate on the following *Keys for Leadership* and develop a spirit of leadership as you move forward in fulfilling your special, God-given assignment on earth.

—Dr. Myles Munroe

**T**rapped within every follower is  
a hidden leader.

~~~

**T**he most important quality of true leadership is the spirit of leadership. All humans inherently possess the leadership spirit, but only those who capture the *spirit* of leadership ever become truly effective leaders.

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**T** rue leaders are distinguished by a unique mental attitude that emanates from an internalized discovery of self. This creates self-worth and a strong, positive, confident self-concept.

~~~

**E**very human has the instinct and capacity for leadership, but most do not have the courage or will to cultivate it.

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**T** rue leadership is a product of inspiration, not manipulation.

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**T** rue leaders do not seek power, but are driven by a passion to achieve a noble cause.

~~~

**Y**our assignment determines your area of leadership. Deep inside each of us is a big dream struggling to free itself from the limitations of our past experiences,

present circumstances, and self-imposed doubts.

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**M**an's greatest ignorance is of himself. What you believe about yourself creates your world. No human can live beyond the limits of his or her beliefs.

~~~

**Y**our thoughts create your beliefs, your beliefs create your convictions, your convictions create your attitude, your attitude controls your perception, and your perception dictates your behavior.

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**L**eadership is a trusted privilege  
given by followers.

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**A**ll the money in the world can make you rich, and all the power in the world can make you strong, but these things can never make you a leader.

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**T**here is nothing as powerful as attitude. Attitude dictates your response to the present and determines the quality of your future. You are your attitude, and your attitude is you. If you do not control your attitude, it will control you.

~~~

**T**he distinguishing factor between a winner and a loser is attitude. More opportunities have been lost, withheld, and forfeited due to attitude than from any other cause. Attitude is a more powerful distinction in life than beauty, power, wealth, title, or social status.

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**A**ttitude is a natural product of  
the integration of self-worth, self-concept,  
self-esteem, and sense of value or significance.  
In essence, your attitude is the manifestation of who you think you are.

~~~

**N**o amount of training in leadership skills, courses in management methods,  
power titles, promotions, or associations  
can substitute for the right attitude.

~~~

**E**ach of us was created to rule, govern, control, master, manage, and lead  
our environments.

~~~

**Y**ou are in essence a leader, whether you manifest it or not. Whether you are  
rich, poor, young, old, male, female, black, white, a citizen of an industrialized  
nation, a citizen of a Third-World nation, educated, or uneducated—you possess  
the nature  
and capacity for leadership.

~~~

**B**eing in the position of  
a follower doesn't negate your inherent leadership potential.

~~~

**L**eadership is not an elite club for a certain few. It is the true essence of all  
human beings. Leadership is inherent in our nature and is fundamental to our  
origins, our human makeup, and our destiny.



~~~

**T** rue leadership is an attitude that naturally inspires and motivates others, and it comes from an internalized discovery about yourself. You cannot “learn” an attitude. If someone learns an attitude, it’s called conditioning or mere mental assent.  
That’s not leadership.

~~~

**A**n attitude is a perspective, a motivation, or a desire that comes from within and is not based on a temporary external consequence. It is something deeply personal and internal that influences and transforms your thinking.

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**T**he key to the spirit of leadership is attitude rather than aptitude.

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**M**ost of us are not leaders today because, in our hearts, we don’t believe that is who we are.

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**B**ecause true leaders discover and understand who they are and what their purpose is, they influence their environments more than their environments influence them.

~~~

**T** rue leaders strive to overcome crises and become creative in difficulty.

~~~

All of us must discover and cultivate the spirit of leadership—the attitude of shaping and forming our lives according to our purposes. We’ve been so conditioned by discouragement, failure, or the oppression of others that we are afraid to follow our natural leadership instincts.

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Leadership potential within you is waiting to be discovered. You were *born* to lead, but you must *become* a leader.

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True leadership fundamentally requires the responsibility of taking followers into the exciting unknown and creating a new reality for them.

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Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration motivated by a passion, generated by a vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose.

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People whom you inspire call you “leader” when they are stirred to participate in the positive vision that you are presenting them—whether it is the vision for a country, a company, or a cause.

~~~

If inspiration is the key to legitimate influence and thus the source of true leadership, then inspiration should be the pursuit of all true leaders.

~~~

**T** rue leadership passion is the discovery of a belief, a reason, an idea, a conviction, or a cause—not just to live for, but also to die for—that focuses on benefiting mankind as a whole.

~~~

**T** rue leaders are those who effectively express their inner passion, which finds a common response in the hearts of others. It is passion that attracts people to the leader who, in turn, motivates them to take action.

~~~

**T** he greatest leadership seems to surface during times of personal, social, economic, political, and spiritual conflict.

~~~

**W** hile leaders have followers, having followers is not a prerequisite for being a leader. The demands of leadership may require that you stand alone in the face of conflict, public opinion, or crisis.

~~~

**W** hen you have a purpose and a passion, you must act on it, even if you're the only one who believes in it at the time.

~~~

**I** nspiration is the divine deposit of destiny in the heart of a person.

~~~

**T** rue leaders discover keys to the nature of leadership from the examples of others, but they never try to become those other leaders. They must use their own gifts and abilities to do what they are individually called to do.

~~~

True leadership is first concerned with who you are, as opposed to what you do. Leadership action flows naturally from a personal leadership revelation.

~~~

The *leadership spirit* is the inherent leadership capacity and potential that is the essential nature of human beings. The *spirit of leadership* is the mind-set or attitudes that accompany a leadership spirit and allow dormant leadership potential to be fully manifested and maximized.

~~~

The inherent capacity of the human spirit to lead, manage, and dominate was placed there at the point of creation and made necessary by the purpose and assignment for which mankind was created.

~~~

The leadership spirit is the essence of the human spirit. Man doesn't *have* a spirit; man *is* a spirit, and that spirit is an expression of God's Spirit.

~~~

When we become our true selves, we will naturally be leaders.

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If we were created to be leaders, then we must all possess the capacity, inherent desire, natural talents, potential, and abilities that correspond to being a leader. You cannot demand from a product what it does not possess.

~~~

The Creator is a leader-maker. Being designed in the image and likeness of God means that we were ordained by Him to be leaders. God's requirement that we have dominion is evidence that the ability to lead is inherent in every human spirit.

~~~

To exercise leadership, you must believe that you are inherently a leader.

~~~

Do not seek greatness, but seek to serve others with your gift to the maximum extent that you can, and you will become a sought-after person. In essence, Jesus defined true leadership as becoming a person who is valuable to others rather than a person of just position or fame.

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The shortest distance to leadership is service. Genuine leadership is not measured by how many people serve you, but by how many people you serve. The greater your service, the greater your value to others, and the greater your leadership.

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Loving money at the expense of the dignity, value, and welfare of others is an abuse of our "*power to get wealth*" (Deuteronomy 8:18).

~~~

True leaders are honest. There is no manipulation or deception in their dealings with others or their pursuit of their visions. True leaders possess candor and a sense of

self. They are true to themselves first  
and then to others.

~~~

**T**he most important pursuit in life is  
the pursuit of truth.

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**T** rue leaders are born in the presence of their Creator because that is where they discover the truth about themselves. To discover the truth about your ability and destiny, you must rediscover the value of a relationship with your Source.

~~~

**R**ediscovering God as your Source  
will naturally lead you to the revelation  
that all humans are created in His image  
and likeness, and therefore possess  
the same value, worth, and  
esteem that you do.

~~~

**T** rue leaders respect and honor authority but are comfortable in its presence.

~~~

**Y**ou have to choose to fulfill your leadership nature. Having the leadership spirit without developing the attitudes and qualities of leadership is like having a powerful automobile without acquiring the knowledge or ability to drive it.

~~~

**O**ur attitudes cannot stop our  
feelings, but they can prevent our feelings from stopping us.

~~~

A poor self-image or self-concept will always result in a low valuation of humanity and will become the source of abuse, corruption, oppression, and the need to dominate and control others.

~~~

Nothing is more dangerous than power in the hands of one who suffers from a sense of mental inferiority. The formula for oppression is power without mental soundness.

~~~

If you love yourself in the true sense, you'll always use your power to help other people rather than to harm them. How you see yourself is how you will see everyone else you relate to. You cannot love anyone beyond your love for yourself.

~~~

The essence of leadership is that you give other people value. In other words, you give them something valuable to contribute to and become involved in. True leadership provides people a cause, a reason for living, and a sense of significance that gives meaning to their lives so that they feel necessary and purposeful.

~~~

You cannot give significance if you don't already have it. You cannot lead people where you have not gone yourself.

~~~

The value you place on others is a reflection of the value you place on yourself.

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**Y**ou must come to the point  
where you are convinced that you are necessary. True leaders believe that they  
are  
necessary—they know they are needed by their generation and the world.

~~~

**T**he beliefs and convictions of a leader regulate the nature of his leadership.

~~~

**W**hat you believe in your heart is essential, vital, crucial to your life. You live  
out of  
your heart. You see through your heart.  
You interpret through your heart.  
You judge through your heart.  
You lead out of your heart.

~~~

**I**f you do not erase or replace the “corrupt” information about leadership you  
have taken into the “hard drive” of your heart, then your leadership will be  
distorted. True leadership demands a constant monitoring of what goes into your  
heart.

~~~

**T** rue leadership is manifested when one individual uses his or her flame to light  
the lives of many and help them discover the reservoir of hidden oil in their  
lamps.

~~~

**Y**our attitude is more powerful  
than your reputation.



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**Y**our ability to lead depends  
on the attitude produced by your  
self-image and self-esteem.

~~~

**I**t is your thinking that  
determines your life.

~~~

**W**hat we do not know about ourselves  
limits us. Leaders are limited by the  
extent of their knowledge of the truth  
about themselves and the world.

~~~

**T** rue leadership has more to do with mind-set than with methods and  
techniques.

~~~

**B**eing a leader is a natural part  
of our makeup, but thinking like  
a leader is difficult.

~~~

**T** raining in leadership really means training in attitude because attitude has to  
do with how we respond to life. We must think, talk, walk, dress, act, respond,  
decide, plan, work, relate, and live like a leader.

~~~

In my experience, leadership is 20 percent talent, skill, and technical knowledge,  
and 80 percent attitude.

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Cultivating the spirit of leadership is a choice, and only you can make it.

~~~

You will always act in a way that is consistent with your self-image.

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How you define yourself is the single most important statement you can make about yourself, and it is the heart of attitude. The spirit of leadership will emerge from your self-definition.

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Attitudes are nothing more than habits of thought produced by your self-image, self-worth, and self-esteem. These habits can be acquired and changed by the reconditioning of the mind.

~~~

True leadership cannot be born or exist without a sense of purpose.

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Purpose creates a leader because it provides an assignment for life and signals a sense of significance.

~~~

Your leadership is hidden in your purpose, and your purpose is the key  
to your passion.

~~~

The attitude of passion is an indispensable attribute of leadership and serves as  
the driving force of motivation that  
sustains the focus of the leader.

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To become the leader you were created to be, you must find a purpose for your  
life that produces a passion for living.

~~~

Leaders don't just do, they *feel* what they're doing. Their passion continually  
motivates and inspires them.

~~~

True leaders don't have jobs;  
they have lifetime assignments.

~~~

Leadership is born when one discovers  
a divine obligation to his community,  
world, and generation.

~~~

Leaders are willing to put their whole selves into accomplishing their purposes.

~~~

**T** rue leaders are resolved in their decisions to pursue their goals and purposes.

~~~

**P** assion helps us to rise above  
our daily routines.

~~~

**T** rue leaders do not need outside  
stimuli in order to take action.  
They are self-motivated.

~~~

**I** f you capture a sense of destiny that existed before you and will continue to  
exist after you, and if you feel you're involved in something that is larger than  
yourself,  
you're on your way to leadership.  
Passion is born when you connect  
to both the past and the future.

~~~

**A** leader usually moves toward  
things that can't yet be seen but will be manifested in the future.

~~~

**A** true leader builds *on* the past  
and *for* the future.

~~~

**L** eaders know that purpose is much bigger than one incident or several  
incidents. They keep on moving toward the fulfillment of their purposes, no

matter what.

~~~

**Y**ou know your vision is from God when you are still at it once the storm clears.

~~~

**L**eaders don't wait for the future to come; they create it. They don't wait for others to do what they know they should or could do.

~~~

**L**eaders don't just dream; they awaken and act on their dreams.

~~~

**T**he attitude of initiative enables you to be your own coach so that you maintain momentum in pursuit of your life's purpose.

~~~

**N**othing can be accomplished unless a decision has been made concerning it.

~~~

**W**e often hesitate to take initiative because we are afraid of responsibility or the consequences of our actions.

~~~

**B**e a leader—initiate.

~~~

**A**ll true leaders are distinguished by their strong sense of priorities.

~~~

**W**hat we do determines who we are and what we become. True leaders have a clear sense of what they need to do.

~~~

**E**ffective leadership involves the management of one's priorities. True leaders have learned how to distinguish between what is truly important for their lives and the fulfillment of their purposes and what is an urgent but temporary need.

~~~

**W**e can do many things, but not everything is constructive to our lives. One of our major responsibilities as leaders is determining what is best for ourselves according to our life's purpose and vision.

~~~

**T** rue leaders make a distinction between an opportunity and a distraction, between what is good and what is right for them. Leaders know that priorities protect energy, time, resources, and talent.

~~~

**A**ll true leaders possess a goal-driven attitude. Leaders distinguish themselves from followers by their passion for preestablished goals.

~~~

**A** leader understands how to set the right goals. This is a vital attitude to cultivate because your future and your life depend on the goals you set—either consciously or subconsciously. Where you end up in

life is a result of the goals that you  
set or did not set for yourself.

~~~

**G**oals protect us from undue influence from other people. True leaders are always zealous for and jealous of their goals because these goals represent their lives. Our lives change when our goals change, so we must carefully guard our goals.

~~~

**I**f you don't have any goals, other people will run your life.

~~~

**A** goal is an established point for achievement that leads to a greater accomplishment.

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**A** goal is a prerequisite for the achievement of an ultimate plan.

~~~

**G**oal setting is the art of discipline.

~~~

**G**oals create targets for our energy.  
They protect us from procrastination.

~~~

**L**eaders...

- state their goals.

- communicate their goals.
- are committed to their goals.
- are regulated by their goals.
- are disciplined by their goals.
  - stick to their goals.
  - believe in their goals.
  - focus on their goals.

~~~

## Leaders...

- measure their progress and success by their goals.
- revise their goals when necessary.
- protect their goals from interference and distraction.
- transfer their goals to their coworkers and the next generation.

~~~

The secret to leadership success is living a very focused life in line with your purpose.

~~~

True leaders possess the attitude of teamwork because they do not care who gets the credit.

~~~

A leader is always a team player. True leaders are cognizant that no great accomplishment has ever been achieved by one individual.

~~~



**A** leader understands that every person was created to fill a need. Everyone has an ability that no one else has and is indispensable in the world.

~~~

**B**ecause of their unique gifts and perspectives, each human being is a solution to a certain problem that needs to be solved.

~~~

**I**nnovation is the creative  
reserve of true leaders.

~~~

**T**he spirit of leadership is always manifested in an innovative attitude. The very nature of leading demands an innovative spirit as leaders take followers to an as-yet undiscovered world of vision.

~~~

**T**rust leaders learn from their experiences, but they never live in them. They never live their lives by prior experiences or they would become entrenched in the past. Leaders don't allow the past to dictate or entrap the future.

~~~

**T**rust leaders are never  
prisoners of tradition.

~~~

**H**aving a predetermined mind-set hinders the leadership spirit of innovation.

~~~

Whenever you encounter a project, a challenge, or a problem, practice thinking in new ways and with a different mind-set.

~~~

Harness creativity and explore the uncharted worlds of the untested.

~~~

Leaders don't follow paths—they create trails. Leaders venture where others don't dare to tread.

~~~

Venture into the uncomfortable zone—innovate.

~~~

The spirit of true leadership always possesses a sense of accountability and responsibility.

~~~

True leaders are conscious of their stewardship of the trust given to them by those whom they serve. The spirit of leadership seeks to be faithful to the sacred trust of the followers rather than doing what will only please the leader.

~~~

The protection of leadership is in a voluntary submission to a trusted authority. The spirit of accountability is the active manifestation of submission to authority.

~~~

Be cognizant that whatever you do as a leader may be personal, but it is never

private. Be aware of your ultimate accountability to the Creator of all leaders.

~~~

The spirit of leadership never gives up until it achieves its goal; it is a spirit that never quits.

~~~

Leaders persist because they have a firm grasp of their purposes, know where they are going, and are confident that they will arrive there.

~~~

True leaders believe that the attainment of their purposes is not optional, but rather an obligation and a necessity, so they would never think of giving up.

~~~

Genuine leaders understand that self-discipline is the manifestation of the highest form of government—self-government.

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The true spirit of leadership cultivates a self-control that regulates one's focus and orders one's life. The disciplined lifestyle distinguishes leaders from followers.

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Leaders know that the most powerful kind of control is self-control because it is the hardest to master but

reaps the greatest rewards. Therefore, they are more concerned about controlling themselves than controlling other people.

~~~

**V**ision is the source of the leader's discipline.

~~~

**A**ll true leaders are students *of* life and *for* life.

~~~

**T** rue leaders possess the leadership attitude of self-cultivation, a passion for personal development.

~~~

**L**eaders are always looking for opportunities to advance their knowledge. They create their own learning opportunities and facilitate their own educational environments. A leader's personal collection of books is usually his greatest possession.

~~~

**L**eaders study beyond the realm of their own disciplines—but in ways that will advance their purposes and visions.

~~~

**T**he leadership attitude is more concerned with fully expressing itself than with attempting to prove itself to others.

~~~

Leadership is both an art and a science:  
it is innate and yet learned; it is inherent  
and yet must be developed.

~~~

True leadership is the hope of the future  
of our world and will determine the success or failure of our homes,  
communities,  
cities, nations, and planet.

~~~

Leadership is the only thing that will fulfill our innate passion for greatness.

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Genuine leadership is the discovery of one's purpose and assignment for life  
and the inherent gifts and abilities that come with that assignment. It is the  
commitment to serve your gift to the world in order to enhance the lives of  
many.

# About the Author

**D**r. Myles Munroe is an international motivational speaker, best-selling author, educator, leadership mentor, and consultant for government and business. Traveling extensively throughout the world, Dr. Munroe addresses critical issues affecting the full range of human, social, and spiritual development. The central theme of his message is the transformation of followers into leaders and the maximization of individual potential.

Founder and president of Bahamas Faith Ministries International (BFMI), a multidimensional organization headquartered in Nassau, Bahamas, Dr. Munroe is also the founder and executive producer of a number of radio and television programs aired worldwide. He has a B.A. from Oral Roberts University, an M.A. from the University of Tulsa, and has been awarded a number of honorary doctoral degrees.

Dr. Munroe and his wife, Ruth, travel as a team and are involved in teaching seminars together. Both are leaders who minister with sensitive hearts and international vision. They are the proud parents of two college graduates, Charisa and Chairó (Myles, Jr.).

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