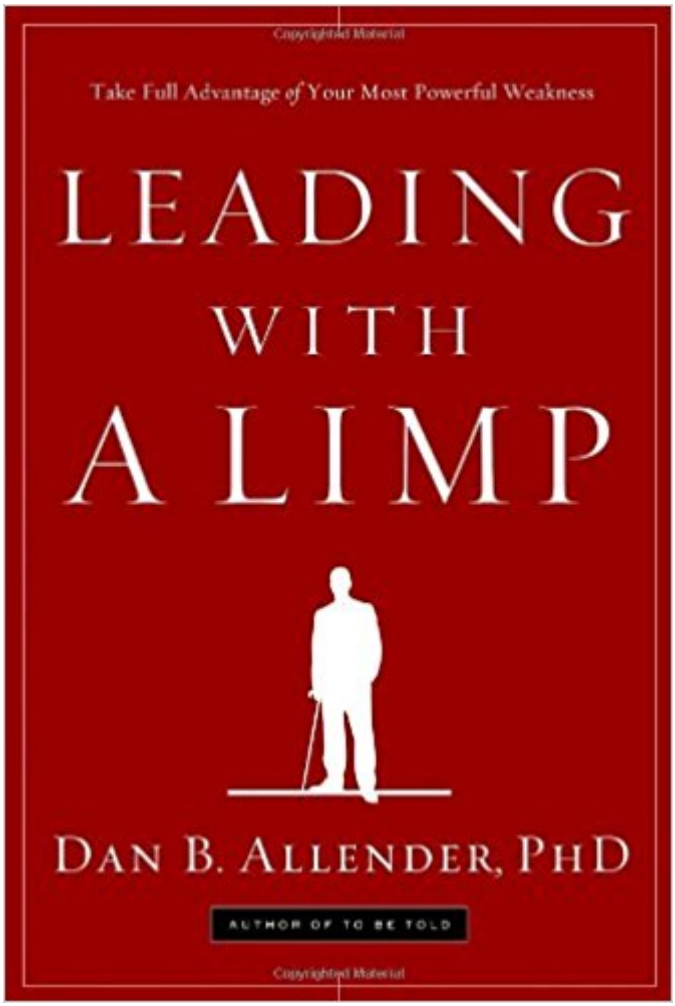
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Leading With A Limp: Take Full Advantage Of Your Most Powerful Weakness



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Synopsis

Put your flawed foot forward.Pick up most leadership books and youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll find strategies for leveraging your power and minimizing your areas of weakness. But rather than work against your weakness, why not draw from a deeper well of strength? God favors leaders who make the most of the power that comes from brokenness. Go ahead and take full advantage of your flaws. The most effective leaders donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t rise to power in spite of their weakness; they lead with power because of their weakness. It is their authenticity in limping leadership that compels others to follow them. Flawed leaders are successful because theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re not preoccupied with protecting their image. They are undaunted by chaos and complexity. And they are ready to risk failure in moving an organization from what is to what should be. If you are a leaderÃ¢â ¬â œor if you have been making excuses to avoid leadingÃ¢â ¬â œfind out how to get the most from your weakness. A limping leader is the kind of person God uses to accomplish amazing things.To go deeper, check out the Leading with a Limp Workbook.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Leading with a LimpÃ¢â ¬Å“There are good books on leadership, but this one is profound. It is better than a Ã¢â ¬Ëœhow to do itÃ¢â ¬â„¢ book; this is a Ã¢â ¬Ëœhow to be itÃ¢â ¬â„¢ book for leaders. Dan Allender offers serious wisdom rather than simple platitudes.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œMark Sanborn, speaker, leadership consultant, and best-selling author of The Fred Factor Ã¢â ¬Å“Not only is Dan Allender a good friend, he is a great leader.Ã Â In

Leading with a Limp, he has shown us how we can effectively lead those allotted to our charge. Read this book...it will bring a lot of things into perspective for you.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œDennis Rainey, president of FamilyLife and coauthor of Moments Together for CouplesÃ¢â ¬Å“After reading this book, the first two words out of my mouth were Ã¢â ¬ËœAt last!Ã¢â ¬â„¢ Amid a deluge of spiritual gifts inventories, at last there is someone who understands how GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s strength is made perfect in our imperfections. At last someone has brought spiritual strengths and spiritual weaknesses into conversation. For Dan Allender, the limp is a limpid way of walking that leads into the very presence of God.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œLeonard Sweet, author of The Three Hardest Words and Out of the QuestionÃ¢â ¬Â¦Into the MysteryÃ¢â ¬Å“Leading with a Limp is not your basic, cafeteria-brand manual on how to Ã¢â ¬ËœdoÃ¢â ¬â„¢ leadership. It is a call to openly face your shortcomings as a leader. Dan Allender reminds us that our greatest asset as leaders is not our competence but the courage to name and deal with our frailties and imperfections.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œDr. Crawford W. Loritts, Jr., author, speaker, and senior pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, GeorgiaÃ¢â ¬Å“Once again Dan Allender has propelled us headlong into the paradoxical wonders of the gospel of GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grace. Leading with a Limp exposes the thin veneer of respectability we leaders try to stretch over our destructive idols of control and pragmatism. In so doing, Allender invites us to the freeing humility of leading as Ã¢â ¬Å“the chief sinnerÃ¢â ¬Â• in whatever context God has placed us.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œScotty Smith, founding pastor of Christ Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee, and coauthor of Restoring Broken ThingsÃ¢â ¬Å“I often wonder if other people feel the way I do when they read books on leadership. Most of the books are heavy on motivation or strategy or positive thinking.Ã Â Dan Allender looks at how anyone can move his teamÃ¢â ¬â œand himselfÃ¢â ¬â œforward when he is pummeled by circumstances and his heart is fainting.Ã Â This is real-world stuff, but youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll have to take off the rose-colored glasses to read it.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œBob Lepine, cohost of FamilyLife TodayÃ¢â ¬Å“Leading with a Limp will have a lasting impact on me; it addressed several issues IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m struggling with at this point in my life and leadership. I thank God for this honest and insightful book!Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œBrian McLaren, pastor, author of The Secret Message of Jesus and A New Kind of ChristianFrom the Hardcover edition.

Dan B. Allender, PhD, is a founder of Mars Hill Graduate School near Seattle, where he serves as president. He also is a professor of counseling, a therapist in private practice, and a popular speaker. He is the author of a number of books, including To Be Told, How Children Raise Parents,

The Healing Path, and The Wounded Heart. Dan and his wife, Rebecca, are the parents of three children.

How refreshing! Dan’s book was an encouraging affirmation to me, as I have strongly felt transparency and self-disclosure one of the strengths of my own "leadership" in church planting, working among folks recovering from chemical dependency, and cross-culturally with Native People (American "Indians"). I always figured I might as well be transparent about my struggles, failures, and self-doubts as a leader, since they were bound to manifest eventually anyway! We’re in good company, when you pay attention to the life stories of the Patriarchs of our faith. Paul reminds us we hold the treasure of the Spirit of Christ and His character in "earthen vessels", which is why the Lord gets the glory when we manage to do anything "right"! That’s a good thing. If you want to lead and inspire people in Christ who will open up to you as a minister, so the Lord can truly minister through you to meet their real, felt needs hiding behind their faults, you have to let them see your limp! True transformational leadership is NOT about stepping up on that pedestal of perfect holiness - mainly because it isn’t true about you anyway! Rather, being forthcoming about our own struggles in following Christ, will inspire and gain honest respect from those we’re called to minister to. A pretense of holy perfection in leaders will actually promote the undesirable outcome of nominalism among followers: everyone is "fine". So debilitating secret struggles will continue to hold believers back from appropriating the "abundant life" they could have in Christ - and the "church game" goes on. We have to break free of the false notions of leadership, especially in the Church and ministry: should it surprise us that the Biblical understanding of effective leadership seems opposite to the world’s version!?

The mantle of leadership must not be viewed lightly. The roles and responsibilities of any stewardship position hold the potential to build up or break down. Whether it be in a corporation or a church, the weight of leadership can be a difficult burden to continuously carry. Society expects strong and definitive decisions while many who share in the work want nothing short of perfection. There is a reason so many leaders abandon their positions or burn out of their chosen profession. Weakness is present and eventually the point is reached where it can no longer be hidden from public view. Fearing negative repercussions and seeing nothing but failure, people will abandon their position and seek to start again somewhere new. This cycle of ever-changing leadership is all too common and can create a myriad of problems. Seeking to put a stop to the chaos is author Dan B. Allender. Within his book, Leading with a Limp, readers are encouraged to take advantage of

their weakness for the good of those being led.The title of this work comes from the Biblical account of Jacob’s wrestling with God found in Genesis 32:24-32. After spending a lifetime seeking to build a kingdom, this ancient patriarch recognized his inability to craft a perfect life. It took a night of wrestling with the Lord to turn the corner. He surrendered to God’s control, but was left with a limp. This physical reminder of weakness would help Jacob remember that the blessings of life came not from his own hand but from the Lord. It is a lesson that all leaders must learn. No one has the capability to carry out responsibility with perfect wisdom, strength, or sustainability. Sinfully weak but sanctified believers must look to the Lord and His guidance. Honesty and authenticity are the place to begin. From this powerful admission, the author seeks to build a lifestyle of leadership that is directed and upheld by the hand of God.As president of Mars Hill Graduate School, Dan B. Allender practices leadership while at the same time preparing future leaders for service. His qualifications are apparent and his logic is sound as the book unfolds chapter by chapter. The only drawback to this particular work is found in its intended audience. Although seemingly written for Christian readership, the content seems to lose its consistency as it generalizes truths so as not to isolate a secular audience. Therefore some passages are quite focused on Christ-centered leadership while other portions of the book barely reference a scripture passage. This oscillation makes the book somewhat uneven. In addition, the author makes use of politically-correct gender pronouns rather than the classical term "he" which used to convey a neutral connotation. The constant switch of "he" to "she" from one paragraph to the next becomes rather confusing and often slows down the text as one is left to figure out if the term is meant in the general sense or in reference to a particular person. Aside from these few quibbles, the book’s benefit is quite useful for leaders struggling under the weight of great responsibility.

I’m about halfway through this book, and I’m really enjoying it. The author talks about different challenges and struggles each leader faces. The pitfalls of leadership are outlined and talked about, as well as appropriate and inappropriate responses to each obstacle. The main idea of this book is that God is our strength in the midst of our weakness. Dan Allender makes the comment that our weaknesses are our biggest asset when leading others. For anyone looking for some guidance in the area of leadership, this is a very enlightening book.

If I had to sum up in one phrase all the leadership literature I have read over the few years, I would say, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Leading is difficult, very difficult.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Every moment of every day is affected by leadership. Whether it be at work, at school, or at home, our lives are affected by the

decisions of our personal leadership or by the leaders above us.Leadership is certainly not for the weak. Or is it?This is the theme of Dan AllenderÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Leading with a Limp. When we think of leaders, we tend to think of men and women who live in their own personal solar system. These leaders are different. They only work. They never stop. They donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t look, sound, or act like us. They seem to be of another species. However, this view of leadership is skewed and only found in our heads.Allender points us to the leaders God chose throughout the Bible. The most revealing fact is that almost every single leader we find in the Scriptures are chosen by God and only accepted reluctantly by the person. God delights finding men or women who do not seek out glory or position, but GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s glory and merely results.Leading with a Limp is a great reminder that societyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s definition of leadership does not equal GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s definition.

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