



THE NEXT CHAPTER

3.5 Each member is aware of and planning their post-business chapter of leadership.

Come on retirement! Golf, beaches travel and fishing. You've spent your life building and managing a business and even successfully passed that business on to the next set of owners. Now it is time to rest. You've earned it, right? Well...

Asking the question “now what?” or “what's next?” is a valid question. You've spent a majority of your life running a business and you've worked hard to use that business for the glory of God. But what does God expect of you now? You're not as young as you used to be, nor as energetic. Resting sounds pretty good, but is that what God plans for you?

Q. Let's start off with this question: What exactly are you retiring from? Be thorough.

STILL CALLED

John 17:20-23 [Jesus speaking] “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, (21) that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (22) The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, (23) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

Let's face it. There are things that we retire from, but there are things we don't retire from. What we retire from is an occupation, or to put it in broader terms, you could even call it a vocation. However, what we don't retire from is our identity in Christ, His spirit in us, our purpose, or our calling. (If you'd like to dig into those things a bit KMI# 1.2 and 1.5 might be helpful.)

Another thing we do not retire from is the spiritual gifting that we have received. You have this spiritual gift of leadership, and that is a permanent gift from the Holy Spirit that you will have as long as you are on this earth. Maybe longer. Like all the other spiritual gifts God gives, the gift of leadership is intended to be given away for the good of others, pointing people to Christ.

As Christian leaders, we never retire from Christ's spirit, identity, purpose, calling, and gifting. We always take them with us, wherever we go.

So your current occupation has ended. Congratulations! But the rest of who you are and why you're here hasn't; your godly leadership is still needed. But now there comes something NEW.

Q. Apart from resting for a while, what are some things that excite you about life coming up? List them here.

WISDOM

Psalm 51:5-13 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (6) **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.** (7) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (*) Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. (9) Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (11) Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. (12) **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.** (13) **Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Proverbs 1:2-7 To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, (3) to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; (4) to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— (5) Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, (6) to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. (7) **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Something else you've been given over time is the gift of wisdom. Wisdom regarding God, life, and work. This might be difficult for you to acknowledge and that's okay. However, like any other gift from the Lord, wisdom is meant for the good of others and to the glory of God.

Q. Pray for insight into the specific wisdom you have received. How might you use this gift in this new season of life?

So let's assemble this picture of you. Your current occupation is completed. Your identity before God has not changed. Your purpose in this life has not changed. Your gifting from God in this life has not changed. Over the course of your life God has added wisdom to your life. All of this adds up to an individual who is rich in the spirit and gifting from God.

But now, you've been given one more thing that you have not had before--TIME.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Q. What ideas spark excitement about who you are and the time you've been given?

SUMMARY

You have a sacred identity and purpose in this life. You've been given the gift of leadership and over time you have collected wisdom. And now God has given you TIME!

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Leadership is a gift you still have for the sake of others. You have more wisdom now than you've ever had. The context of your leadership is changing, but not the calling to use it for God's glory. He still has things for you to do.

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- **RightNow Media@Work**
Retirement Roots
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/472175>
- **Read**
An Uncommon Guide to Retirement by Jeff Haanen
https://www.amazon.com/Uncommon-Guide-Retirement-Finding-Purpose/dp/0802418929/ref=sr_1_5?crid=2VCWTXHWTSV6H&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.cLGlR4gq5dxxq2i_QdpV8SIEiTppL8xVWWMGpNWrOK5_zkrQA7MEJPDd6LDrr8YLIG9KLcgf9mk72_bZ9amucvw.QpvXcUI2bv2s12GnLaWIV1IWE6oH-8x45dS5VqnuBuU&dib_tag=se&keywords=christian+retirement&qid=1704903079&srefix=christian+retirement%2Caps%2C172&sr=8-5