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# Courageous Leadership: Field-Tested Strategy For The 360° Leader



## Synopsis

The book you hold resonates with this conviction: that leaders such as you have the potential to be the most influential forces on planet Earth. Yours is the staggering responsibility and the matchless privilege of rallying believers and mobilizing their spiritual gifts in order to help people who are far from God become fully devoted followers of Christ. Life transformation and the eternal destinies of real people depend on the redemptive message entrusted to the local church. Are you willing to do whatever it takes to lead your church effectively so God's message of hope can change the world? Then this book is for you. *Courageous Leadership* is Bill Hybels's magnum opus, a book far too important to be written before its time. Only now, after nearly thirty years leading his own church from a handful of people with a burning vision into a globe-spanning kingdom force—only after almost three decades of victories and setbacks, of praying hard and risking big—is Hybels ready at last to share the lessons he has learned, and continues to learn, about Christian leadership. Too much is at stake for you not to maximize your spiritual gift of leadership, insists Hybels. In this passionate, powerful book, he unpacks the tools, tasks, and challenges of your calling. You'll discover the power of vision and how to turn it into action. You'll gain frontline insights for developing a kingdom dream team, discovering your leadership style, developing other leaders, making decisions, walking with God, embracing change, staying your God-given course, and much, much more. Drawing on his own richly varied life experiences, Hybels fleshes out vital principles with riveting firsthand stories. This is far more than another book on leadership strategies and techniques. You'll find those topics in here, to be sure. But beyond them, you'll find the very essence of one of today's foremost Christian leaders—his fervent commitment to evangelism and discipleship and his zeal to inspire fellow church leaders even as he seeks to keep growing as a leader himself. If unchurched people matter to you . . . if you love seeing believers serve passionately with their spiritual gifts . . . if God's heartbeat for the church is your heartbeat as well . . . then this book is a must. *Courageous Leadership* will convince you to lead with all your might, all your skill, and all your faith. And it will give you the tools to do just that.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

By any standard contemporary measure, Hybels ranks among the North American Protestantism's most significant leaders. As senior pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill., he leads an all-star team of lay and ordained people ministering to tens of thousands each week. Through his other books (among them *Rediscovering Church* and *Descending into Greatness*), and through the Willow Creek Association, he influences thousands of congregations. So his voice on the subject of leadership commands immediate attention. Fortunately, after 30 years, he's got something worthwhile to say and better yet, he says it well. Written in an easy, colorful, anecdote-sprinkled style, this is an inspiring and informative pep talk for pastors who share Hybels's conviction that when it's working right, the "local church is the hope of the world." That hope hinges, he says, on churches being led by those who "possess and deploy the spiritual gift of leadership." While not theologically deep or biblically rigorous, it is full of wise principles, useful lists and practical leadership tips. Hybels covers some of the same territory as other leadership books styles of leadership, team-building, decision-making, developing emerging leaders, etc. but he does so remarkably free of the double-talk and jargon that so often plague them. For example, he graciously disagrees with those leadership gurus who distinguish between a "vision" statement, a "mission" statement, and a "purpose" statement. What folks really need to know and remember, says Hybels, is "the main thing." This is a welcome addition to any pastor's library. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hybels writes with a confidence born of successful leadership...but is at his best when admitting his struggles and mistakes. -- Christianity Today, October 7, 2002 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is great. I appreciate how Bill Hybels shares honestly, with humility and strength. The book is full of practical advice. Parts of the book are helping me to more clearly know how to explain the biblical foundation of what I believe about leadership. One of my favorite parts of the book is Bill's story about asking a couple to donate their piano. This story struck a chord with me -- that his huge step in leadership created space for this couple to be blessed by an unusual donation to help others worship.

This is not just a book for church leaders. Being in the marketplace but focused on growing the kingdom, I found this book to be incredibly applicable in developing leadership in the business world.

Good book, it is more catered to church leadership more and growing a large church than individual leadership.

I have the cassette audiobook tapes. I have totally enjoyed listening to the series. Hybels is a very unique Pastor, who through God, has built a very unique (but highly Biblical) Church. All of his comments are worth looking at. Every Church needs to consider converting their Sunday morning service to a Seeker-friendly service. It highly concerns me that the average Church in America caters mainly to believers. As a result of that, we rarely see Church growth by profession of faith. We see "transfer growth" (Christians coming from another Church) more than anything. Unless someone has grown up in the Church, they would probably feel lost in our typical Sunday Services. To the unsaved, who has no Church background, the average Church would have to win this person to 2 things before they could get saved: 1. To the Culture of Church and, 2. to Christ. So, the Church culture itself, sometimes, becomes the greatest hindrance to new salvations. Hybels realized this when he created his Sunday morning services to minister to the unsaved, unchurched. Also, his comments about hiring ministry staff and what he looks for in a staff person (The 3 C's- Character, Competence, and Chemistry) are very good. He shares mistakes he has made in hiring staff, and totally explains the 3 C's in detail. If you are a Pastor, buy the book. If you are a real busy Pastor, buy the audiobook and listen to it in your car. If you are open at all to new, effective ideas, this is the book (or tapes) to get.

Hybels earned the right to write this book by persevering for 30 years, and turning a revolutionary concept--the seeker-sensitive church--into standard practice within evangelicalism. He offers a

breadth of material that will prove most useful to those pastors who have not fed on a steady diet of leadership books. Much of the information Hybels offers can be found elsewhere, yet he packages it together in concise and cogent chapters that cover the breadth of religious leadership principles in down to earth prose. Perhaps the most useful chapter offered more than a dozen "pathways" to intimacy with God. Ironically, he suggested that relating with other Christians and being aggressive for Christian causes are two pathways that most would overlook. Not all Christians are wired to spend hours in solitary contemplation--and God can speak just as intimately to those who excel in activity or in group fellowship. Equally important--and perhaps particularly disappointing for many readers--is that Hybels offers no magic formulas. Yes he succeeded in building a unique mega church out of a dream and a handful of people. Yet, he says money problems develop character and faith, and patience and endurance are the stuff fulfilled dreams are made of. Bottom-line: Hybels may not knock your socks off, but he offers practical, hard-earned advice on Christian leadership that is broad, insightful, and yet very accessible. This is a book the author did not have to write--except that he clearly has a heart for pastors and for the church.

His book is phenomenal. This will be my first time in a leadership role and THIS helped me have the courage to do so

Five stars!!! Full of insights, wisdom, practical helps, heart-felt stories and perspective. Courageous Leadership helps me connect to my calling, sharpen my passion, and remember again how God made me and is continuing to mold me and my leadership.

good book

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