

"The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born -- that there is a genetic factor to leadership. This myth asserts that people simply either have certain charismatic qualities or not. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born."- Warren G. Bennis

I think along with society, environmental factors, and the heavy influence of family, a leader is made. A leader must possess many traits but the five most powerful tools for a leader are honesty, forward-Looking mindset, competency, inspiration, and intelligence. It is imperative to show evidence of these traits. Simply possessing each trait is not enough; you have to display it in a way that people notice. People want to see you characterize these traits. It isn't sufficient to just be impartial. Avoiding displays of ineptitude won't arouse the same buoyancy as truly displaying competence.

One of the most inspirational people that came to mind is Pastor Joel Osteen. He is a man in a true leadership position. Joel Osteen is the senior pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, North America's largest and fastest growing church averaging more than 42,000 attendees at weekly services. Joel Osteen is also the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller, *Your Best Life Now*, and his television ministry is the most watched inspirational program in America. Although I became a viewer by chance, I have become a better person because of him. I recently attended one of his sermons in person and I can honestly say I am not the same person that walked in that day. Joel Osteen possesses all five of the most powerful traits a leader can have, honesty, forward-Looking mindset, competency, inspiration, and intelligence. "Certainly, none of us enjoy going through struggles, but you have to understand that your struggle may be an opportunity for advancement and promotion. The very thing you are fighting against so tenaciously may be the springboard that catapults you to a new level of excellence. Your challenges may become your greatest assets." — Joel Osteen. With his charismatic and contagious qualities, Joel can transpire each of his qualities into each and every one of us. I believe his words are so powerful because I believe he feels and lives by what he preaches. He is intensely passionate and holds such honesty in every word he delivers.

The word leader is defined as a person who rules, guides, or inspires others. Although that may be true, I think there is still so much more to it. One article states, "Good leaders develop through a never ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience." I think a great leader must work hard to grow to keep being a good leader. A superior leader has the qualities and attributes to help mold new leaders. Pastor Joel Osteen is superior example whom continues to grow and strengthen his qualities through giving and reaching to people all over the world. Leaders are role models, mentors, and certainly never forgotten because they imprint their qualities in us.

"Leaders aren't born they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal." -Vince Lombardi