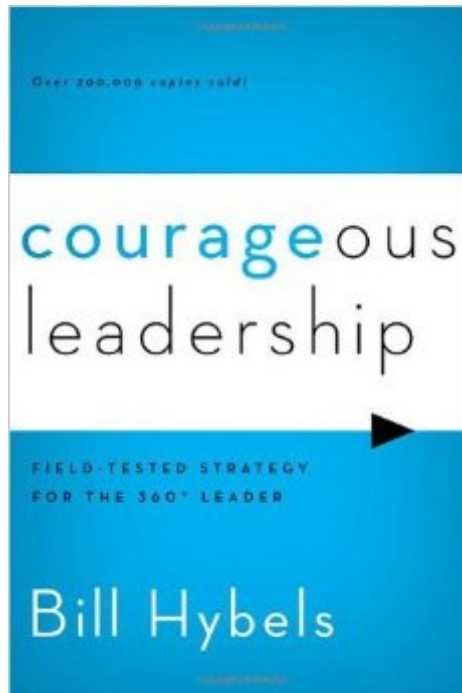


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Courageous Leadership: Field-Tested Strategy For The 360° Leader



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' 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

I have lived an hour south of Willow Creek most of my life. My father, a pastor, goes there almost weekly to get refreshed and then drives the hour home with new ideas from the Holy Spirit. We are both saddened by the vast numbers of people who criticize Hybels and Willow Creek without knowing their heartbeat or, suprisingly, even stepping foot on the churches main campus. Courageous Leadership is a book that will act as a portrait of the heartbeat of Pastor Hybels and what makes him tick. It is also a book that acts as a tremendous source for church leaders of all shades and descriptions, even if you are not a pastor. Covered in this 252 page book are the following... * Finding leaders who have chemistry and who fit with your current team.* Establishing clear goals for everyone, and making them tangible.* Excellence in church is a must. He discusses how people will use excellence in their worldly jobs, but have a hard time using those same critical methods for the kingdom of God.* The vitality of vision and recasting that vision.* The importance of celebration and giving honor to church workers, especially volunteers. Hybels tells of a story on page 175 in which all the volunteers were honored in a quasi-parade in which they all marched onto the stage as the church cheered them on. One of Willow's pastors, John Ortberg and drama leader Nancy Beach, acted the parts of Regis and Kathy Lee as they described each ministry group as they marched by.* Praying to become like Biblical warriors and adopting the best attributes of people like Esther, Joshua, and David.* Emulating the tenacity of Christ and the Apostle Paul.

After reading two other book for a class on leadership, the last thing I wanted to do was read another book on leadership. It is not that I believe I have learned all that I can. I am tired of reading and rereading the same thing. It does not help that during this semester I was also enrolled in Airman Leadership School (ALS) for the Air Force, and reviewed for the final examination while reading Hybels' book. I expected to be reminded more than taught in his book. Unfortunately, Courageous Leadership met my expectations, at least the first four chapters. It took me as long to

read the first 93 pages as it did to read the last 128. The first four chapters are similar to what Stanley wrote in *The Next Generation Leader*. A majority of the course material for ALS dealt with building, maintaining, and leading teams. The last eight chapters, however, were a refreshing surprise. Although the book provided ample information for a young leader to chew on, the chapter on self-leadership was incredibly challenging and edifying. Hybels pigeon-holed me exactly in his generalization about leaders; when I think about leadership I think about the people I supervise or for whom I am responsible. As I continued to read the chapter I felt pretty good about making the value changes necessary to be a 360° leader. Then, out of nowhere, the author hits me with the necessity of leading myself. That was a great set up. The whole concept slapped me in the face. I am not effectively leading myself. I am so busy leading the ministry in which I serve and wearing all the pretty hats that I have, I have not spent a lot of time thinking about the needs I am required to provide for myself. The chapter offers ten diagnostic questions to determine how effectively the reader is self-leading.

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