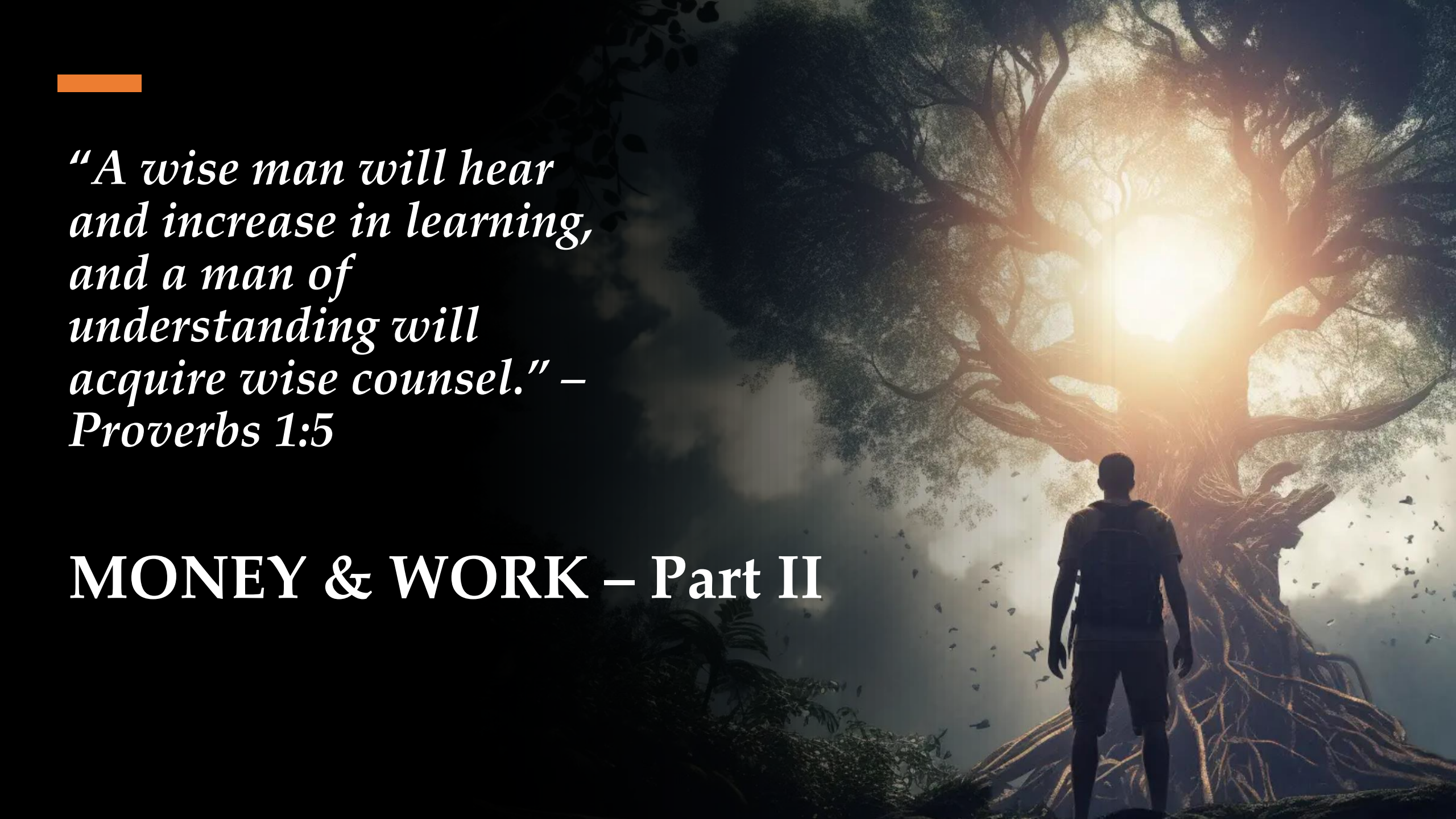


A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. A brilliant, golden light emanates from the center of the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect. The scene is set against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Numerous small, dark leaves or petals are seen drifting through the air around the tree. The overall mood is one of awe, contemplation, and seeking enlightenment.

WISDOM

for the journey

A person stands in silhouette on a rocky outcrop, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. The tree's trunk is thick and gnarled, with roots spreading out. A bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun or moon, is positioned directly behind the tree's canopy, creating a strong backlight effect and illuminating the scene with a warm, golden light. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and many small birds are seen flying in the air around the tree. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

*“A wise man will hear
and increase in learning,
and a man of
understanding will
acquire wise counsel.” –
Proverbs 1:5*

POWER & LEADERSHIP

A person stands with their back to the camera, looking up at a massive, ancient tree. Sunlight streams through the dense canopy of leaves, creating a bright, ethereal glow. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with other foliage visible in the lower left corner. The overall mood is one of awe and contemplation.

WISDOM

for the journey

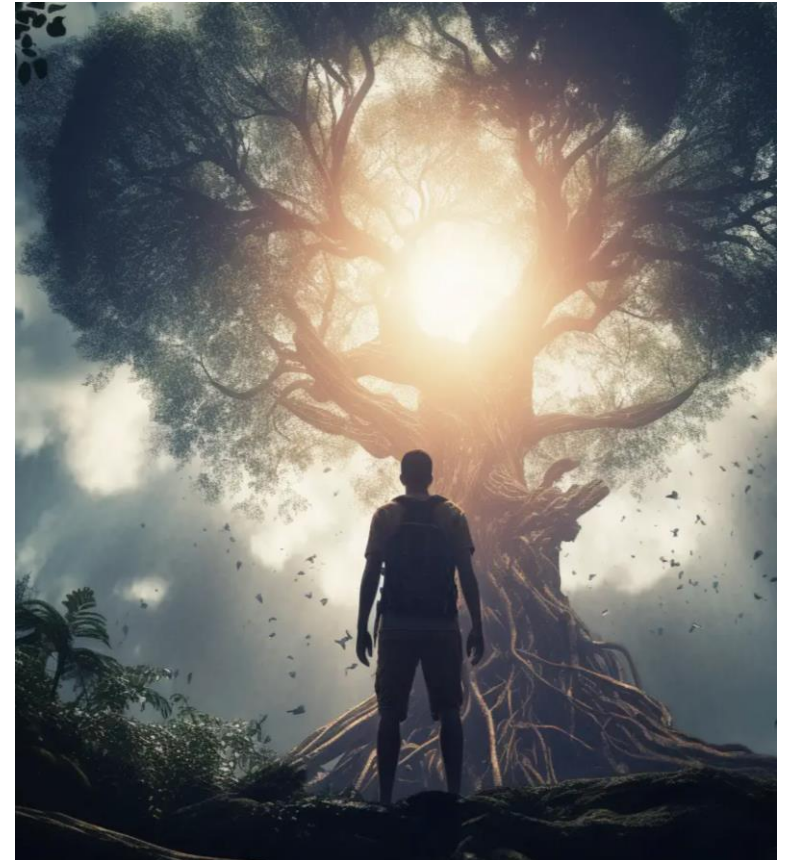
We need help to make decisions about work; all relationships – in speech and conduct; who to trust or avoid; along with being measured by the plumbline of true character. Wisdom from Proverbs offers insight into the concrete experiences of human life that help us take charge of our lives.

Proverbs is about **how to** live out your faith in God. There is no true wisdom apart from Jesus. Fools are those who rely on their own knowledge to navigate life.

In this study, we will look and listen to hear God's voice and see his Son shining through the book of Proverbs. We will be equipped in every way for our journey!

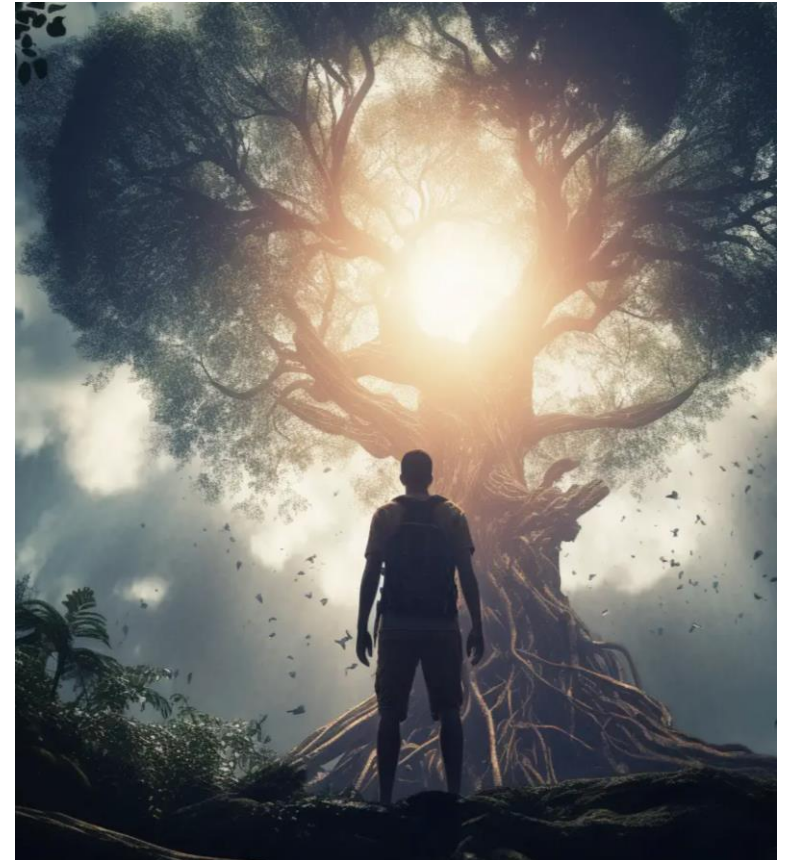
KNOWING THE SPHERES – POWER – Good Leadership!

1. **GOOD LEADERSHIP** - Proverbs 8:15-16 → “*By me kings reign*” – All leaders are effective only to the degree that they acknowledge at some point the givens of God’s wisdom—that they are NOT too wise in their own eyes, that they are relatively free from the power of money, that they know themselves, they recognize times and seasons, and how relationships work. “*Reigning by me*” – All leaders, whether they know it or not, exercise authority by the permission and power of God himself. For all who are in leadership and have positions of authority, may we pray they be given wisdom to live in peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness (I Timothy 2:1,2).



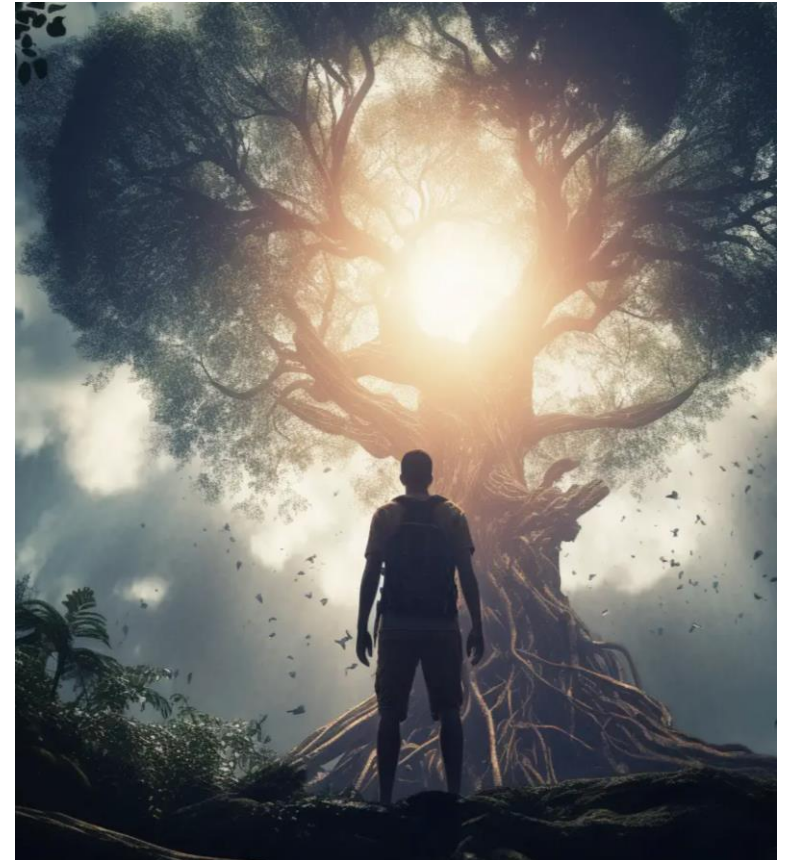
KNOWING THE SPHERES – LEADERSHIP – 3 MARKS

1. **CHARACTER** – Proverbs 17:7, 29:4 → The most powerful leaders are those whom people trust so much that they *want* to follow them (I Peter 5:3). You cannot be a real leader without character that all can see, respect, and therefore trust.
2. **DISCERNMENT** – Proverbs 20:8, 9 → A good leader has the ability to assess the character of others. A leader who cannot read people's hearts will not govern well (John 2:23-25).
3. **DECISIVENESS** – Proverbs 20:26 → Good leaders must not be afraid to “clean house” and make judgments, especially with regard to matters of right and wrong. Good leaders are able to see past appearances and make judgments. They are not afraid to take bold action. They must overcome fearfulness that leads to indecision and pride that leads to stubbornness.



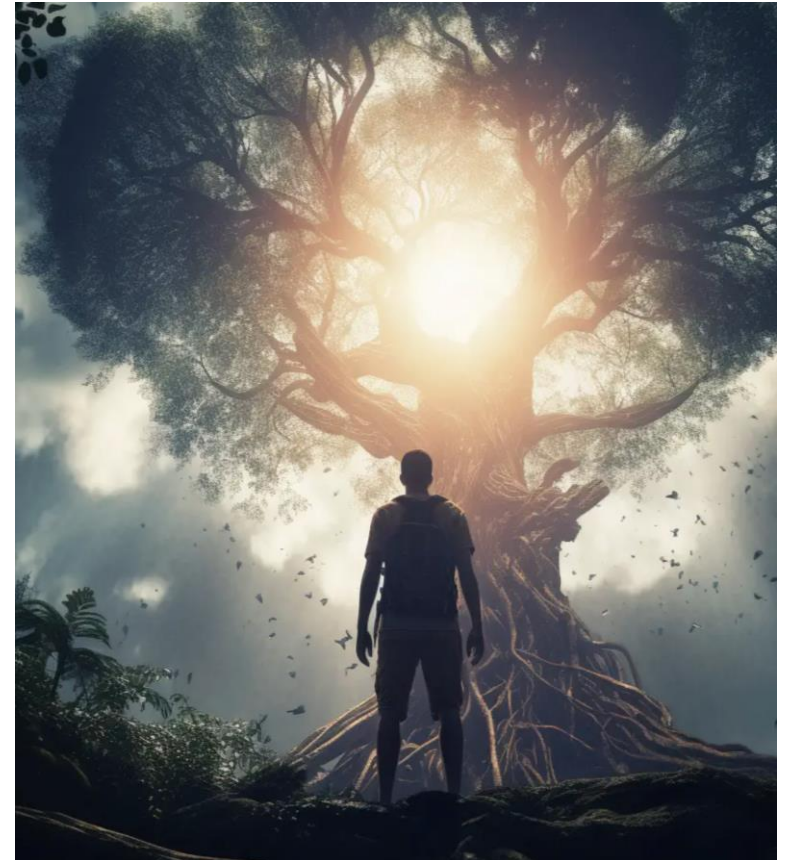
KNOWING THE SPHERES – LEADERSHIP – RESUME

1. **LOVE & FAITHFULNESS** – Proverbs 20:28 → Good leaders must be characterized by a love for their people that is evident to them. They must see that in the end he would sacrifice himself for them, rather than sacrifice them to save himself.
2. **VISION** – Proverbs 29:18 → *“Those who don’t have a goal and/or a plan for the future have nothing to guide them onward, so they go every which way.”* The best leaders are those who can paint a compelling picture of the future.
3. **ORGANIZING** – Proverbs 14:35, 21:5, 26:10 → You must have good support people—finding team members who can actually do the job. Good leaders will find and give time to the most important things



KNOWING THE SPHERES – LEADERSHIP – REALITY

1. **GOD GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY** – Proverbs 16:10-15 → Whatever authority you have been given, it is something God gave to you (Daniel 4:17), and God holds you fully responsible for what you do with it (Deut. 17:18-20). You must, as much as possible, represent him in your leadership. Don't be afraid of your failures and weaknesses. Jesus chose Peter (John 15:15-25). It is not ability but humility and dependence that matter most.
2. **BROKEN & HUMAN** – Proverbs 29:26 → We must never forget that leaders are limited human beings, often to appetites and pressures (Acts 24:25-27), irrationality (I Cor. 2:6-8), and instability (Psalm 146:3,4).





ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

1. What do you look for in a Leader?
2. Where do you see a need for growth and improvement in your leadership?
3. Have you seen that your failures and weaknesses have made you more, not less, qualified to lead?