

It is said that, 'when you believe in people; you motivate them and release their potential.' This is what great leaders do. They equip and empower people to gather up their wings and soar on the winds of success. When people trust you as a person; they will not hesitate to trust your leadership. While this is not an inclusive list; below are seven insights of a great leader to ponder.

- 1. Great Leaders understand that they may encounter circumstances that may necessitate taking a risk. The key is to understand what that risk will affect and make a wise decision based on available knowledge, even in the face of fear or uncertainty.
- 2. Great leaders think through problems, invest wisely and consider the cost of the problem and the cost of the solution, such things as the effects of time, money, people and resources are considered. In order for the greater return, leaders understand that the effects of the solution must positively outweigh the effects of the problem. Leaders seek winning solutions that will benefit the greater good.
- 3. Great leaders do not allow grudges or insults to keep them from leading and growing. Their reaction to such determines their character as a leader. They can be mediocre or great in the eyes of those following them. Great leaders abandon the thoughts of bitterness to pursue a higher calling of empowering the lives of others.
- 4. Great Leaders do not lead with their emotions because they cloud reason, and if you, as a leader cannot see the situation clearly, you cannot prepare for and respond to it with any degree of control. When you feel that your emotions are out of control, do not respond immediately but pause and think before making a decision or before responding to a situation.
- 5. Great leaders are never willing to settle for second best. They put the pursuit of excellence in all that they do. They lead by pure example knowing that others are looking, observing and learning from them, at any given moment. They believe and operate from the vein that if something is worth doing, then it is worth doing to the best of their ability so when they begin a task, they are diligent to complete it thoughtfully and carefully.

- 6. Great leaders walk the talk. They understand that they must earn the right to hold others to high standards of professionalism and performance by meeting those standards first through positive, repetitive actions. When dealing with standards of professionalism and performance, leaders understand that it is not what they say but what kinds of behavior they accept or tolerate that becomes the standard.
- 7. Great leaders understand that their decisions are crucial as they will lead them down one of two paths. The path to profits or problems so they make decisions objectively, decisively, gathering all of the facts and judging them in truth, not on the basis of popularity or fame. The decisions will either represent the company in the best light or blemish it with problems.