

Leadership Qualifications

I tell the folks who attend the Life Care Journey that leadership is a quality that may be hard to define, but you know it when you see it or experience it in a person. By the same token, you can conclude when it isn't present in someone who may have the title of a leader.

The question arises, then: What qualifies a person to be a leader?

"Most natural leaders don't aspire to be great leaders; they aspire to be great persons," writes John C. Maxwell in his book, *Leadership Promises for Every Day*. "Personal qualifications lead to leadership qualifications. When leaders lead their own lives well, others naturally want to follow."



He cited Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, as an example. "It's doubtful she ever said, 'I am going to set out to be a great leader!' Yet that is what she became by determining to be the person God created her to be."

Maxwell said if we want our leadership to last, we must pay attention to four crucial elements:

- Character – enables us to do what is right, even when it seems difficult.
- Perspective – enables us to understand what must happen to reach a goal.
- Courage – enables us to initiate and take risks to step out toward a worthy goal.
- Favor – enables us to attract and empower others to join us in the cause.

As we consider our roles in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, these elements certainly have application to the noble mission in which we are engaged.

– Beecher Hunter