

No Instant Heroes

In *The Last Days Newsletter*, Leonard Ravenhill tells about a group of tourists visiting a picturesque village who walked by an old man sitting beside a fence. In a rather patronizing way, one tourist asked, "Were any great men born in this village?"

The old man solemnly replied, "Nope, only babies."

A frothy question brought a profound answer. There are no instant heroes, whether in this world or in the kingdom of God. Growth takes time, and leadership, including spiritual leadership, must be earned.

Think about your own life's experience. As young children we may not have had much of a clue about what we wanted to do with our lives. Sure, there were fanciful ideas of perhaps being a fireman or a nurse or a teacher or -- better yet -- the owner of an ice cream store.

But as we developed and learned, not only in the classroom but through the influences of family, friends and the church, our goals and aspirations began to sharpen, and particularly so as we discovered what our personal strengths and weaknesses, our likes and dislikes were. For example, in the eighth grade, I had decided that I would be a civil engineer. Yet, when I enrolled in that major in college, I came to understand that my life's work should be different, based on what I had learned about the gifts that I had, as well as about those that I did not have.

Most importantly, however, it is clear that the optimum growth we can have -- as human beings and in the spiritual realm -- comes as we are sensitive to the leading of the Spirit of God within us. After all, He Who made us will take us where we need to go if we hear and follow.

--Beecher Hunter