



## Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry (Transforming Resources)

By Ruth Haley Barton

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*"I'm tired of helping others enjoy God."*

"I just want to enjoy God for myself." With this painful admission, Ruth Haley Barton invites us to an honest exploration of what happens when spiritual leaders lose track of their souls. Weaving together contemporary illustrations with penetrating insight from the life of Moses, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* explores topics such as

- responding to the dynamics of calling
- facing the loneliness of leadership
- leading from your authentic self
- cultivating spiritual community
- reenvisioning the promised land
- discerning God's will together

Each chapter includes a spiritual practice to ensure your soul gets the nourishment it needs. Forging and maintaining a life-giving connection with God is the best choice you can make for yourself *and* for those you lead.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Barton has written a book which could serve as a prescription for people in ministry who have come to the end of themselves. I recommend this book for leaders who have experienced a glance towards the dark night of the soul but have found themselves working harder, trusting less and growing weary in order to avoid the transforming work of the soul." (Susan Reese, *Journal of Spiritual Formation & Soul Care*, 2009)

"Ruth Haley Barton's book *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* is a must-read for all those in ministry." (Larry Magnuson, *YouthWorker Journal*, January/February 2010)

"There are many books that help sharpen our leadership skills, but this one brings challenging insights to strengthen our souls which will *transform* our leadership." (Kerry Clarensau, *Enrichment Journal*, Fall 2009)

"The book is not just for those already in leadership roles, but also for those who are seeking leadership." (Marlyne Seymour, *The Living Church*, January 4, 2009)

"Ms. Barton relies heavily on the life of Moses as a window into the different aspects of leadership in which we might learn to seek God and allow God to strengthen us to provide spiritual leadership to others. The book is not just for those already in leadership roles, but also for those who are seeking leadership." (The Rev. Marlyne Seymour, *The Living Church*, January 4, 2009)

"The most significant book I read in 2008 . . . is a call to inspect one's inner life and motives for leadership with neither guilt nor obsession, allowing God to tweak and morph it at will." (Danette Matty, *YouthWorker Journal*, January/February 2009)

"It may seem hard to believe, being a pastor or other religious leader can be very draining on one's faith. *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* answers a real problem that many may not realize exists for their pastors and priests." (James A. Cox, *Midwest Book Review*, December 2008)

"At times Barton's words were a needed wake-up call and at other times they were a source of refreshment. I'm thankful for both." (Mike Bonem, *Leadership Network* ([books.leadnet.org](http://books.leadnet.org)), August 30, 2008)

"This beautiful cross between *Ordering Your Private World* and *Celebration of Discipline* isn't a book you merely read; rather, [it's] one you process with the Holy Spirit, with passages that call to be re-read and swallowed slowly. Definitely not 'a glorified self-help project.'" (Danette Matty, *YouthWorker Journal*, September/October 2008)

"For those of us who lead, there are many fine books to hone our skills. But too few excavate our souls. Too few tell us stark truths, and serve up strong tonic, and give us hope and courage in the face of our calling's hardships and loneliness and moments of sheer tedium. Too few teach us how to seek and find God in the maze of committee work and the darkness of criticism and the heartbreak of betrayal. This book does all that, and well. Ruth Haley Barton has kept company with Moses, a 'pragmatic' and 'visionary' leader who found that, unless God went with him, there was no place worth going. Ruth's insights will at the very least strengthen the soul of your leadership. For some, it may make the difference in whether you finish the race at all." (Mark Buchanan, author of *The Rest of God* and pastor of New Life Community Church, Duncan,

British Columbia)

"In the same spirit in which Henri Nouwen wrote *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, Ruth Haley Barton has captured the soul of Moses and has revealed him to us as a seeker of truth, wisdom and vulnerability." (Glandion W. Carney, Chaplain of the Christian Legal Society)

"A weary, waiting world cries out for God-shaped leaders who would serve more than be served, who would find power by laying down power, who would lose their lives for others. In her reflections on the life of Moses, God's radically human and holy friend, Ruth Haley Barton has given us not only a portrait of what sacrificial and redemptive leadership looks like, but has provided practice for getting there. This is a book to read alone and together. It will encourage and empower us to seek God more deeply, to listen for and embody our innate callings, to stay faithful to our solitary and even lonely journeys in community, and to love God for the long haul." (N. Gordon Cosby, cofounder, The Church of the Saviour, Washington D.C.)

"In a landscape littered with leadership books that tinker at the margins of what really matters, Ruth Haley Barton offers us practical guidance to the core of life-changing leadership: spiritual authenticity and health. *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* lays bare the ancient truth that great leadership comes from the inside out, and provides a helpful road map for examining and seeking God's transformation of that largely unexamined inner core from which true leadership proceeds. This is a powerful resource for me and my own leadership team." (Gary Haugen, president, International Justice Mission, and author of *Good News About Injustice*)

"[This] book has become for me a companion on the way. . . . The author's style is warm and accessible. I like her insights into the inner life of the leader. . . . I am deeply grateful for the helpful practices she describes and recommends. But what draws me even more is that Ruth writes with realness and integrity out of her own intimate experience of the inner journey of a leader. . . . Reading this book will surely help you to be attentive to the God who is the strength of your soul, and the heart of your leadership." (From the foreword by Leighton Ford, founder of the Arrow Leadership program and author of *The Attentive Life*)

#### About the Author

Ruth Haley Barton (DD, Northern Seminary) is founding president of the Transforming Center, a spiritual formation ministry to pastors and Christian leaders. A trained spiritual director (Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation), teacher and retreat leader, she has served on the pastoral staff of several churches, including Willow Creek Community Church. A sought-after teacher, preacher and consultant to leadership teams, she is currently adjunct professor of spiritual transformation at Northern Seminary. Educated at Wheaton College, Northern Seminary and Loyola University Chicago Institute for Pastoral Studies, Ruth is the author of numerous books and resources on the spiritual life, including *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*, *Sacred Rhythms*, *Longing for More* and *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*. She is also the author of an online resource titled *eReflections*, spiritual guidance via e-mail. She contributes regularly to *Conversations: A Forum for Authentic Transformation*.

Leighton Ford is President of Leighton Ford Ministries, which seeks to help young leaders worldwide to lead more *like* Jesus and more *to* Jesus. For many years, Ford communicated Christ around the globe through speaking, writing and media outreach, addressing millions of people in thirty-seven countries on every continent. He served from 1955 until 1985 as Associate Evangelist and later Vice President of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and was featured as the alternate speaker to Billy Graham on the *Hour of Decision* broadcast. Ford describes his current mission to be "an artist of the soul and a friend on the journey." He served for nearly twenty years as chairman of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, an international body of Christian leaders. He chairs the Sandy Ford Fund and has served as

a board member for World Vision U. S., the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He received the 1990 Two Hungers Award, recognizing his contributions to addressing the physical and spiritual hungers of people around the world. In 1985 he was selected as Clergyman of the Year by Religious Heritage of America and *TIME Magazine* singled him out as being "among the most influential preachers of an active gospel." The author or co-author of numerous books, including *Transforming Leadership* and *The Attentive Life*, Ford lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife Jean.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **John Lopez:**

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They may be reading whatever they consider because their hobby will be reading a book. How about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will require this *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* (Transforming Resources).

#### **Robert Hatch:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you is you don't know what one you should start with. This *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* (Transforming Resources) is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

#### **Shirley Hinkle:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* (Transforming Resources) book is readable through you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* (Transforming Resources) content conveys prospect easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different in the form of it. So , do you even now thinking *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* (Transforming Resources) is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

**Angel Martinez:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got college students? We believe that that query was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. And you know that little person similar to reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update in relation to something by book. Amount types of books that can you take to be your object. One of them is Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry (Transforming Resources).

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