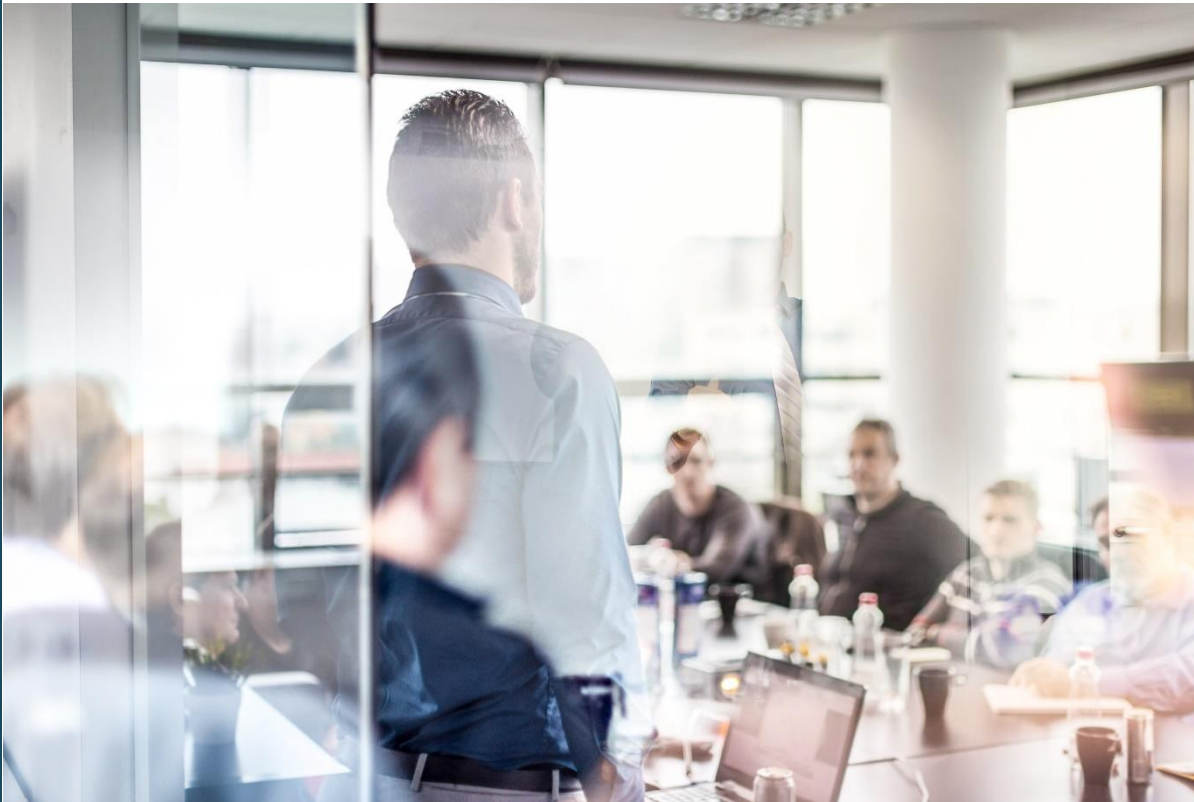


**Delivering Purpose-Driven Leadership
in a Promotion-Driven World**

The Positive Leadership Manifesto



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Leading Higher

PURPOSE-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

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Gaining the World While Losing My Soul

*Without a purpose bigger than yourself,
you risk serving only yourself.*

I'm a **leadership coach**.
So I've seen plenty of it.

I've done it myself.

Chasing fame,
greater rewards,
the next big opportunity.

Questions distract me from peace in the night.

What are my numbers?

Where is the spotlight?

Am I turning heads fast enough?

How do I get to the top?

I coach against the fear of failure.
But I feel it rising up in me.

I don't want to be left out; left behind.

I have believed the lie that *success is scarce*
and there is *no more room* at the table.

This makes someone else's achievement
a threat to my own.

In a desperate search for significance,
my fragile ego measures my worth
by the level of applause.

But as the audience grows,
so does the need to please.

A mounting pressure to live up to the ratings;
to avoid the critics at all costs.

This has been an exhausting struggle.

Am I the only one that's afraid of *losing myself*
as I lead others?

I don't think so.

This manifesto connects me to those who feel
the same, deep inside.

I refuse to gain the world but lose my soul.

Obscurity or not,
I'm going to stop
trying to manipulate
the universe to
my advantage.

I hope you join me.

Search Me, Test Me, Know My Thoughts

*I used to be afraid of failing at something that matters.
Now I'm afraid of succeeding at something that doesn't.*
Bob Goff

I'm falling back in love with **leading**.

As a calling.

To grow people,
not fame.

And I'm learning that the way *up*
is actually *down*.

Laying down selfish ambition.

Laying down haughty pride.

Laying down a sense of entitlement.

Laying down self is no easy task.

It has been both
excruciating
and healing
at the same time.

And along the way, I have found I am

not alone.

Leaders everywhere are finding a renewed passion and purpose in their first love: leading.

Not in more LinkedIn connections,
a bigger desk,
or extra letters after their name.

Just leading.

If this resonates with you, **read on.**

But a word of warning...

Humility is not for the faint of heart.

You will find it challenging to get the focus off
yourself.

What will you do with what you've been given?

I am going to urge you to be **generous** –
it's the only way your influence won't influence you.

I am going to push you to start leading for the **right reasons.**

It may wreck your career, but it will make your **life.**

A Positive Leadership Revolution

*You are not merely here to make a living.
You are here to enrich the world,
and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.*

Woodrow Wilson

Positive leaders don't lead to get promoted.

They lead for another reason –

one and only reason.

They don't do it for recognition,
reward, or personal pride.

They do it because they cannot *not* lead.

They are compelled to **create** something of lasting value.

To **build** relationships that give rather than take.

To **nurture** the hidden strengths of those that cross their path.

To **develop** a legacy of promising prospective leaders.

They sense a sacred responsibility
to speak into the lives of others.

To minister to people with real issues,
real hearts, real passions, and real dreams.

Asking *how long* or *how much* is irrelevant.


Their followers are not a means to
another end.

They are the only agenda.

An audience of *one*.

Positive leaders stop trying to be everything to everyone.

They are content to be
something
to
someone.

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands cupped together, holding a mound of dark, rich soil. A small, vibrant green plant with many tiny leaves is growing out of the soil. The background is dark and out of focus, making the hands and the plant the central focus of the image.

**The growth and
development of
people is the highest
calling of leadership.**

Harvey Firestone

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Again, the purpose of positive leadership is not *self-promotion*.

Positive leaders do not wake up with aspirations to move into the corner office.

Nor do they begin the day with the goal of being congratulated for their strategic vision.

Positive leaders lead for the love of leading.

Clearly, the desire to be heard is understandable.
But ultimately, it poisons the pure desire to lead.

Together, we must put our ideas
of perfection and promotion to death.

They have no place
in positive leadership.

A positive leader simply shows up.
Ready to lead.

Whether the ideas are applauded
or the sacrifice acknowledged
is not important.

Leading is our singular aim.

This is a call to seize your divine moment.
To honor your gift.

To show up.

Whether you get any glory or not.

Now there is a grand irony in all of this.

As we shift the focus
from ourselves to others,
we discover a
peculiar paradox.

The less we strive for rewards,
the more people strive to be around us.

When we stop trying so hard to be loved,
we have more love to give.

And as we separate ourselves from the
need to be noticed,

We become remarkably better at leading.

And people notice great leadership.

They will appreciate it.
They will acknowledge it.
And praise those responsible.

Some day.

Until then, you and I are not excused
from leading well.

So plant yourself as a seed.

And if your roots grow deep enough,
the future will enjoy your shade.

You are enough.

Next Steps

To get involved in a community of leaders committed to positive leadership, visit [The Positive Leadership Manifesto](#) page. Or paste this address into your browser: <http://leadinghigher.com/positive-leadership-manifesto>

If you are interested in learning more about Positive Leadership, CLICK HERE to access a unique coaching intensive opportunity

Acknowledgements

This work was inspired by Jeff Goins' *Writer's Manifesto* (<http://goinswriter.com>). I am grateful for permission to follow his lead.

If you have questions about Positive Leadership, contact me to arrange an appointment.

At *Leading Higher*, I partner with people who want to:

- (1) rise to their full potential,
- (2) elevate to excellence in their personal and professional lives,
- (3) live and lead at the highest level.

I help leaders leverage their influence so they can have an increasingly greater impact on others. I bring clarity, direction, and perspective. You get better at what you do.

Read more at <http://www.leadinghigher.com/about/>

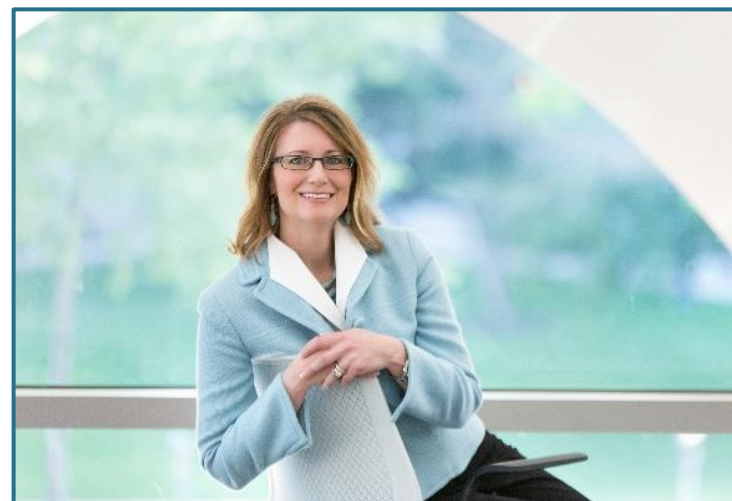
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I am a psychologist and professional leadership coach. My unique background as an educator, consultant, and coach helps you connect personal potential to peak performance. I have expertise in a variety of leadership models and assessment tools.

My formal education is in the behavioral sciences, receiving my Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Purdue University in 1996. I have been teaching in the graduate program at West Chester University in Pennsylvania for more than 20 years.

I am an active leadership consultant who has engaged with over 100 clients from more than 30 companies. I specialize in positive leadership strategies, strengths-based leadership, and transformational leadership models. I am a certified executive coach, accredited by the International Coaching Federation.

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