

**Study Questions for “Leadership and Spirituality: The Pastor’s Balancing Act”
By Sheila Shumaker**

1. Sheila Shumaker describes the goals of Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership as strengthening pastoral leadership skills and strengthening personal spirituality and self care. Where else can a pastor go, outside his or her own congregation, to find spiritual nurture?

2. An “accountability partner” is someone with whom you check every once in a while to talk about your spirituality. You report on your activity and listen to your partner’s report, encouraging each other along the way. Who in the congregation holds you accountable for and challenges you in your faith commitments? Accountability to the church used to have much greater importance than it does today. Should we revive that practice in the church? Why or why not?

3. “Doing plus being plus thinking equals wholeness.” Which of these—doing, being, or thinking—do you do the most? Which do you do the least? What’s missing in your life?

4. Talk about the distinctions between a manager and a leader found in the article. What managerial skills do we expect from our pastors? What leadership skills do we require? Should we ask pastors to do both jobs? If we asked the pastor to be a leader only, who in the congregation can take care of the management tasks?

5. Look at the list of changes that Eddie Gibbs describes in his book called *ChurchNext: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry*. He says “New Paradigm” churches move from:

- Living in the past to engaging with the present
- Bureaucratic hierarchies to apostolic networks
- Schooling professionals to mentoring leaders
- Following celebrities to encountering saints
- Dead orthodoxy to living faith
- Attracting crowds to seeking the lost

Where does your congregation fall in each case?