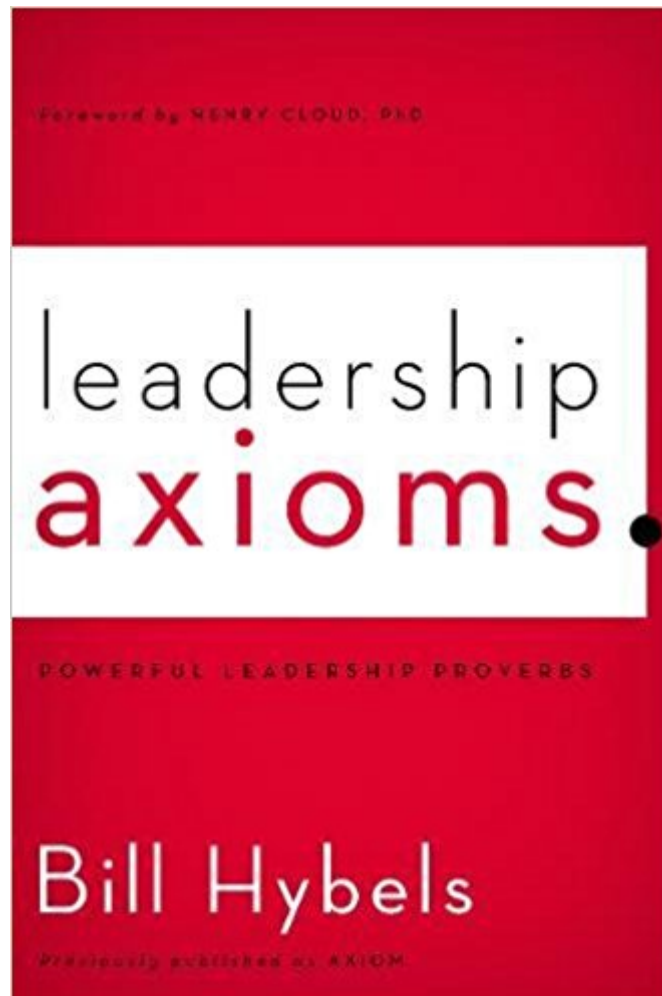




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Leadership Axioms: Powerful Leadership Proverbs



Synopsis

The best leaders not only lead well but also reflect on their leadership long enough and thoughtfully enough to articulate the philosophies that cause them to do so. Whether serving in the marketplace or in ministry, as executives or rank-and-file employees, as salaried staff or volunteer servants, good leaders can pinpoint the rationale for their actions and decisions with the ease of reciting their home address. In *Axiom*, author Bill Hybels divulges the God-given convictions that have dictated his leadership strategy for more than three decades as senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. Oriented toward four key leadership categories

- 1. Vision and strategy
 - “Promote Shameless Profitability,”
 - “Take a Flyer”
- 2. Teamwork and communication
 - “Obi-Wan Kenobi Isn’t for Hire,”
 - “Disagree without Drawing Blood”
- 3. Activity and assessment
 - “Develop a Mole System,”
 - “Sweat the Small Stuff”
- 4. Personal integrity
 - “Admit Mistakes, and Your Stock Goes Up,”
 - “Fight for Your Family”

Axiom brokers accessible wisdom from one leader’s journey, as well as emboldens you to nail down the reasons why you lead like you lead.

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Customer Reviews

‘Toss out all your texts on leadership by theorists and read this masterpiece again and again. Bill serves up solid content, not cliches; axioms, not merely anecdotes. I love this book! The distilled wisdom is pure gold---classic Hybels.’ -- Rick Warren, Founding and senior pastor, Saddleback

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The best leaders not only lead well but also reflect on their leadership long enough and thoughtfully enough to articulate what philosophies cause them to do so. Whether serving in the marketplace or in ministry, as executives or rank-and-file employees, as salaried staff or volunteer servants, they can pinpoint the rationale for their actions and decisions with the ease of reciting their home address. In *Axiom: The Language of Leadership*, author Bill Hybels divulges the God-given convictions that have dictated his leadership strategy for more than three decades as Senior Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. Oriented toward four key leadership categories—vision and strategy (“Promote Shameless Profitability,” “Take a Flyer”), teamwork and communication (“Obi-Wan Kenobi Isn’t for Hire,” “Disagree without Drawing Blood”), activity and assessment (“Develop a Mole System,” “Sweat the Small Stuff”), and personal integrity (“Admit Mistakes, and Your Stock Goes Up,” “Fight for Your Family”)—*Axiom* brokers accessible wisdom from one leader’s journey, as well as emboldens you to nail down the reasons why you lead like you lead. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I like mottos and word pictures to communicate concepts and experiences. This is exactly what is provided here, from the author’s extensive leadership experience. Each chapter is brief enough to read one or two daily over time, or to read through over a long weekend to clarify new vision and key actions. (I left the weekend with a “Six by Six.”). I tried to read it a year or two ago and it could not hold my attention. This weekend, it was exactly what I needed. Four stars for the perfect timing, clarity of communication and giving me a few actionable takeaways.

The officers in my Christian fraternity have been reading through this book together to help us get some ideas about how to better lead our group. It has offered a lot of very practical and specific ideas about how to address numerous types of problems that Christian organizations can face, from communication issues to lack of vision, to getting stuck in a rut. It’s organized somewhat like a leadership “Devotional” with short passages that summarize the point he is making quickly and effectively. In our group, this book has spawned several ideas that have been a huge help in keeping our leadership organized and functioning well. My only critique (and a fairly minor one at that) is that it is oriented primarily to church leadership, and sometimes one “axiom” won’t directly

apply to more general organizations. Overall, highly recommend. If nothing else, it's a great way to get your team to come together and thinking about your organization's strengths and weaknesses.

Hybels himself claims to have been mentored by many great leaders, most of whom he has never met. He was mentored by them through studying their books. Likewise, we can all now be mentored by Hybels, and learn his leadership skills through studying this book. Axiom is divided into 76 short chapters, between 1-5 pages each. Given that many different topics, some are sure to be more useful than others. For me there were 3 or 4 chapters that are life changing, and many others that contain useful advice that I will come back to time and again as I move into new leadership challenges. I appreciate that the bite size chapters are easy to browse through, making it easy to read what is useful at the time, and skip what doesn't apply. As my situation changes, I'm sure different chapters will apply in different ways. As a pastor I appreciate reading a leadership book by another pastor. Although John Maxwell has been a pastor, he writes leadership books applicable to any organization. Same with Andy Stanley. And Jim Collins writes specifically for business leaders. But Hybels writes from one pastor to another. In my mind this point alone made this book especially useful. I highly recommend this book for pastors looking to improve their leadership skills (and isn't that all of us?).

Bill Hybels revs up in chapter one--and the good stuff is still kicking in chapter 68, "Read All You Can." He writes, "I have little patience with leaders who get themselves into leadership binds and then confess that they haven't read a leadership book in years. If you're a serious-minded leader, you will read." In the book's foreword, Henry Cloud writes, "Great leaders do their homework so that weariness and unsteadiness are kept at bay." Amen to that vote for lifelong learning, also affirmed in the "Book Bucket" one of 20 buckets in my book, *Mastering The Management Buckets: 20 Critical Competencies for Leading Your Business or Non-profit*. Consequently, I was eager to read the latest book from Bill Hybels, one of the most gifted leaders I've ever met. Axiom, with 76 pithy leadership proverbs, doesn't disappoint. "Speed of the leader, speed of the team," was and is one of Bill's oft-mentioned axioms. Few leaders make this pronouncement because the camera immediately focuses in on them. As the first president of Willow Creek Association, I watched Hybels up close and he always shared that core value confidently, yet humbly. His walk and his talk backed it up. He writes, "If you cannot say, 'Follow me,' to your followers--and mean it--then you've got a problem, a big one." He elaborates. "Follow my values. Follow my integrity. Follow my work ethic, my commitment, and my communication patterns. Fight as I fight. Focus as I focus. Sacrifice

as I sacrifice. Love as I love. Repent as I repent. Admit wrong as I admit wrong. Endure hardship as I endure hardship." Then he concludes this one-page proverb with the whole point of it. "When requisite actions back them up, these are the words that set followers' hearts soaring." Scan the 76 mini-chapter titles and you'll be pulled into the street-smart, God-smart wisdom. They include: Language Matters, Make the Big Ask, Hire Tens, The Dangers of Incrementalism, Never Say Someone's No for Them, The Tunnel of Chaos (a key idea in my Culture Bucket), Disagree Without Drawing Blood, Admit Mistakes and Your Stock Goes Up, and Arrive Early or Not at All. Warning! Don't carelessly toss these axioms into your repertoire without understanding the biblical and leadership context. In my days at Willow, "Don't Screw Up" was a common benediction at meetings--but it created anxiety, not blessing. The leader knew how to communicate it, but the lieutenants didn't.

Great read. This book was recommended to me. I'm not a reader but this book kept my interest and was a fun easy read. Lots of great content inside.

I don't know of anyone more qualified to write on church leadership than Bill Hybels. Over 30 years of in-the-trenches ministry in one of the most revolutionary churches in history has given Hybels a nearly limitless quantity of leadership experience that has been graciously distilled into bite-size chunks in Axiom. Each chapter offers tested, proven wisdom that is broadly applicable - even beyond the church. But make no mistake - he writes for the Church - and every pastor, church staff member and lay leader should own this book. Incidentally, the audio version makes for quick, easy infusions of practical wisdom on your way into the office!

thanks

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