

January 6, 2019 – Elmont Baptist Church
Message Series: Stand Alone Message
Leading from the Future
Text: Proverbs 16:9; 29:18

We've said that 2019 is a big year. It's our 150th Anniversary as a church and we will be doing several things throughout the year to celebrate that. We want to celebrate the faithfulness of so many before us that helped make today possible. We want to celebrate what God has been doing for the last decade to lead over 130 families to connect to Elmont in membership even if just for a season. I am thankful for the faithfulness of so many to pray for many years for the nursery to be full and kids to fill this place. I am thankful that God has seen fit to allow us to enjoy the answer to those prayers. Faithful saints invested time in prayer and held on to hope that God would answer their prayer. He has been answering that prayer for the past 10 years and continues to do so. Now it's our job to build on that and think ahead to what Elmont needs to be in the next 10, 20, and 30 years. We have to lead now with the future in mind. Tomorrow's harvest depends on the crop we plant today. We've talked about 2019 being a year of investment. One thing we are doing is to intentionally invest resources into our staff in order to prepare for the growth that is continuing in our area, but our investment goes beyond that. We have to think years down the road and hear from the Lord what that Elmont should look like and begin leading in that direction now. We'll never have an exact picture or all the steps detailed, but general direction filled with faithful steps before the Lord that He establishes. The elders of this congregation take this responsibility very serious and I want to call on you to pray in some specific way for us, by pulling back the curtain a little and helping you see some of the challenges that we face in charting a long-term course before the Lord and being faithful in the right now.

The Ongoing Challenges of Leadership

✓ **Discerning Good vs Best**

- **Will mean saying "No" to good things**
- **In order to say "Yes" to the best things**

Most everything put before us or that we discuss is good. We've never had a conversation where we have entertained leading this church into something sinful or even shady. Choosing between good and bad is relatively easy, but discerning between good and best is quite another task.

✓ **Balancing Conviction & Compromise**

- **Standing firm on Truth**
- **Staying flexible on Details**

If we're not careful conviction can turn into control and compromise can turn into chaos. We have to know what decisions we can hold with an open hand and which ones are non-negotiable.

✓ **Growing Love & Leading Out**

- **Loving & serving each other**
- **While reaching out & welcoming in**

Another challenge is constantly evaluating and understanding that if we are growing as followers of Jesus, then we will both grow deeper in loving and caring for one another AND grow in our burden to reach out to those outside of our faith family and welcome them in well. It's easy to gravitate in one direction or the other. We have to do both. We know Jesus said we are to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20) and we also know that Jesus said all men will know we His disciples if we have love for one another (John 13:35).

We Need You to Pray for...

- ✓ **Wisdom – to lead in what is BEST**
- ✓ **Courage – to commit & submit**
- ✓ **Compassion – to love well inside & out**