

To What Do You Aspire?

1. Bank on it.

"*It is a trustworthy statement*" is used five times in the NT, each time highlighting a basic truth of great importance and familiarity to the Christians.

- A. Aspiring to church leadership is a [good](#) thing, for church leadership is a noble task.
- B. Leadership in the NT church was a [serious](#) and sacred trust. It still is.
1 Thes 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Peter 5:1-4 attest to this truth.
- C. NT terms for leaders of the church are all used [inter](#)changeably to designate the same office.
 - Overseer (episkopos), sometimes translated *bishop*.
 - Elders (presbyteroi) is the most common term.
 - Rulers (proistameno) Rom 12:8, 1 Thes 5:12
 - Leaders (hegoumenois) Heb 13:17
 - Shepherds (poimenas) Eph 4:11, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2
- D. Note that this office is different from the office of Deacon.

2. What is your heart set on?

- A. Aspirations are [directional](#); your aspirations can be toward something good or bad.
- B. Aspirations are [intentional](#); your aspirations are what you consciously reach for or strive toward.
- C. Aspirations are [reflectional](#); your aspirations reflect who you really are and what you really value.

3. What work does an overseer (elder) do?

Though it is an office / title that he holds, it is foremost a [work](#) that he does.

- A. Spiritual leaders are Shepherds who care for, equip/develop, and lead others.
- B. Spiritual leaders are Servants who serve others with humility, consistent commitment and self-sacrifice.
- C. Spiritual leaders are responsible, accountable and faithful Stewards.
- D. Spiritual leaders are [personal](#): they know, love, care for, and nurture/grow those they lead.
- E. Spiritual leaders are [purposeful](#): they lead, guide, teach, feed, protect, correct, encourage, and equip those they lead.
- F. Spiritual leadership is spiritual [influence](#).

Message

Make sure you aspire to what the Lord wants.

So What? Now What? Action Points:

- [Prepare](#) yourself to be a spiritual influence in your church.
- Pray for your Elders, for they will give an account to God concerning you.
- Follow your Elders, for they keep watch over your soul.