



## BLP 31. Overcoming Insecurity as a Female Leader in Ministry: Part 2

Mark Carter & Erin Nicole Thompson

Welcome to BLP. This is part two of Pastor Carter's interview with Erin Nicole Thompson, wife, mother, author, speaker, and leader alongside her husband and pastor, David, at The Chapel, a local multi-site church. Erin wrote the Bible study *Daughters: Your Identity Rescued, Your Value Restored*.

In this episode, they discuss tools for becoming coachable, putting aside insecurities of personality and the hindrance of pride, and how to take the next, right step to grow into who God has called you to be in your leadership walk.

1. How to stay coachable and not take personal criticism too personally.
- **Don't find your value in your performance.** // Finding value in performance leads to self-focus: saying and doing the right things, making the right decisions, taking the right course. With this mindset, there's no room or freedom to fail. If you can't fail, you can't learn. This can lead to an insatiable need for affirmation in your leadership. You'll need to learn and grow in order to handle the next challenge, it's important to be coachable. If you put too much of yourself into something when you get feedback it can feel like a personal hit. When no one is patting you on the back, it can feel like you did something wrong, that what you did was not good enough, you can internalize that into, therefore, I'm not good enough. Don't let your pride take center stage, 'I can do this Lord, I don't really need you'. This is working from own strength, rather than His. You don't have to turn water into wine, Jesus will! If you feel the ultimate responsibility for the results, this will suck the joy out of your ministry. Are you a 'wreck' when you lead because you're owning the outcome? You are responsible only for your response to the Lord, He is responsible for the results. This allows freedom for you to take risks. You do not have to make it all happen, put this on the Lord. Respond to the Lord's invitation and don't hold yourself accountable to the expectation.
  - **Be secure in how God made you.** // Your emotional journey can become an insecurity. You might question how you come across, 'Am I feeling too much, too little?' Or, you may feel insecure about your personality, 'Am I too much/too little?' God made you this way, and he made you for this moment, rest in that. Resist the voices that will tell you you're not <fill in the blank> enough. Embrace the way God has made you, you are intricately designed. You might feel unheard or misunderstood. The enemy creates doubt that you're not welcomed or



wanted, or you're not a good enough leader. Even if you say the wrong thing, for example, poop shoot, you are still qualified.

- **Encourage and celebrate.** // Male leaders, female leaders will welcome and need to hear encouragement. Foster a spirit of celebration, celebrate the wins, say, 'Well done' and acknowledge the finish line. Women usually have neverending to-do lists, taking a moment to celebrate will foster appreciation. You have something to offer, you are chosen. Whoever says yes to the Lord is qualified, by the Lord, not by themselves. In any new venture, know that you have something to offer, the world needs to hear your voice. If you share your heart in whatever you're doing and however you're doing it, it will go well. People connect with real people, doing real things, in real ways.

2. Keep taking the next, right step.

- **God's got this, take steps.** // Book by Emily Freeman: [The Next Right Thing](#). While there is benefit in long-term vision and planning, if not being able to see the whole of God's plan makes you feel stuck and keeps you from starting, just take the next right step. Because the Lord is responsible for the results, you are free to take the next right step. There are more good ideas than can be accomplished, don't struggle with hearing 'No' or 'Not now', don't let this make you question if you heard from the Lord. You don't have to figure out the whole plan. You are free to fail. Learn from failure, leaders have to be good at this!
- **God has purpose in His timing.** // We live in an instant access world, with the mere click of a button, we can instantly put ourselves and our ideas out on a platform. We think this should happen with all of our ideas. Trust that if it takes a while, it's the Father's hand of love and protection. He is working out the situation so when the light comes through the darkness of waiting, you'll be positioned to succeed in Him, secure. Dream with the Lord and don't worry about the end product, but be excited about anything you can do in the presence of the Lord. If there's no spare 2time in your current season of life, it will come. Whatever the Lord has laid on your heart, he knows your situation and circumstances, he will equip you. It won't be perfect, but "good enough".

Let the Lord do the heavy lifting, say yes and you will be blessed.



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