# Spiritual Values as a Foundation for Leadership

#### A Higher Reality

- The highest qualities of the human being are spiritual and moral.
- Recognition of God as our heavenly parent means that we are all members of one global human family.
- All religions emphasize spiritual principles.

#### Three Stages of Life



Mother's womb realm of water (preparing to breathe air) Physical life realm of air (preparing to breathe love)

Spiritual world realm of love (our eternal home)

#### **Buddhism**



Even ornamented chariots wear out. So too the body reaches old age. But the Dhamma of the Good grows not old. Thus do the Good reveal it among the Good.

Dhammapada 151

#### Hinduism



Now my breath and spirit goes to the Immortal, and this body ends in ashes; OM.

**Upanishad 17** 

# Oriental Philosophy



The superior man understands the transitory in the light of the eternity.

| Ching 54

#### Islam



...the abiding things, the deeds of righteousness, are better with God in reward, and better in hope.

Qur'an 18.46

#### **Implications**

- We are both physical and spiritual beings.
- We have responsibility for our own spiritual development.
- Our physical life gives us the opportunity to develop our spiritual potential.

#### Two Aspects of Reality

### Spiritual World

Dwelling of God, angels and our ancestors

Governed by eternal values

Beyond time and space

### Physical World

Dwelling of human beings and all creation

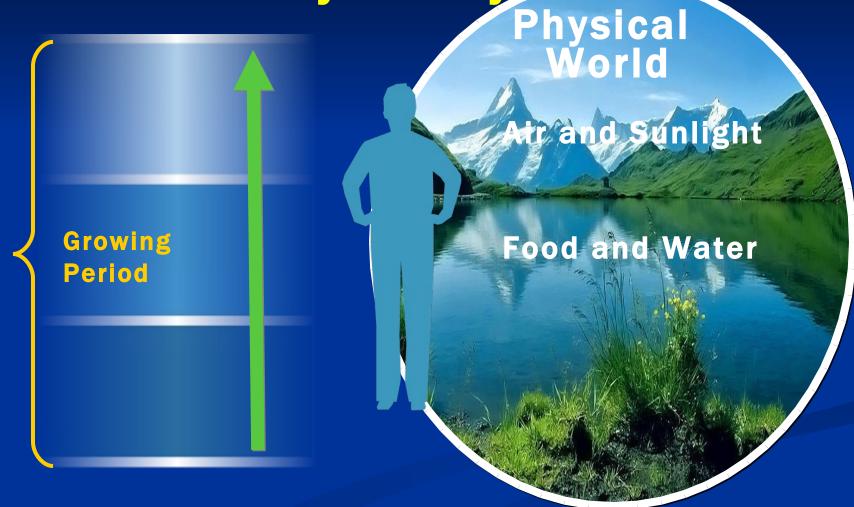
Governed by physical laws

Defined by time and space

#### **Our Unique Position**



### How Do We Grow Physically?



### How Do We Grow Spiritually?

Spiritual World

Life elements from God

Good or bad vitality elements from our physical actions

Growing Period

#### **Principles of Growth**

- Human development is both physical and spiritual.
- Principles govern both types of development.
- Wise leaders seek spiritual growth and encourage the same of others.

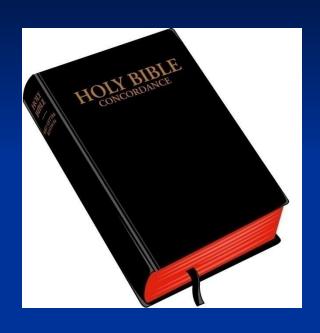
#### **Judaism**



This world is like a vestibule before the World to Come; prepare yourself in the vestibule that you may enter the hall.

Mishnah, Abot 4.21

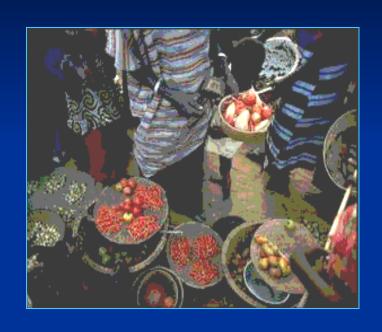
#### Christianity



Truly, truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Matthew 18.18** 

# African Traditional Religions



We are on a market trip to earth:
Whether we fill our baskets or not, once the time is up,
We go home.

Igbo Song

#### The Fruit of Our Life

You will enter the spirit world in the form of your spirit self, which has recorded your life on earth with 100 percent accuracy. Your spirit will show plainly whether you have led a ripe life of goodness, or a life of sinfulness.

Sun Myung Moon

#### Fruit of an Unselfish Life

- We gain the best spiritual nutrients by living for the sake of others.
- "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (the Golden Rule) is an ethical principle found in major world religions.
- This can be the basis for people from different religions to work together for the common good.

# Fruit of a Self-centered Life

- When we sacrifice others for the sake of ourselves, it stunts our spiritual growth.
- Selfishness leads to conflicts within the family, community, nation, and world.
- Selfish people fuel ongoing conflicts on earth and continue to do so even after they die.

#### Implications for Leadership

#### <u>Unselfish</u> <u>Leadership</u>

- Parental
- Compassionate
- Honest
- Self-sacrificing

#### Selfish Leadership

- Dictatorial
- Lacks compassion
- Dishonest
- Exploitative

### The Relevance of Spiritual Discipline for Leaders

- Humility
- Self Control
- Service
- Generosity
- Fair-mindedness
- Forgiveness

#### Two Dimensions of Leadership

- Moral
- Unselfish
- Loving

- **Abilities**
- Experience
- Diplomacy

