



Wings of Fire

An Autobiography of A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India

Leadership Lessons

Prayer made possible a communion of the spirit between people. “When you pray” “you transcend your body and become a part of the cosmos, which knows no division of wealth, age, caste or creed”

Why be afraid of difficulties, sufferings and problems ? When troubles come, try to understand the relevance of your sufferings. Adversity always presents opportunities for introspection

Prayer is to act as a stimulus to creative ideas. God, our Creator, has stored within our minds and personalities, great potential strength and ability. Prayer helps us to tap and develop these powers

Leadership Lessons

- When we are ready, the gentlest of contacts with Him fills us with insight and wisdom. This could come from an encounter with another person, from a word, a question, a gesture or even a look.
- To succeed in life and achieve results, master three mighty forces
 - Desire
 - Belief and
 - Expectations
- With faith, change your destiny
- Evoke in people “ enjoy the action of giving”
- Mind stretches to a new level it never goes back to its original dimension

Leadership Lessons

- Problems can be the cutting edge that distinguish between success and failure. They draw out innate courage and wisdom
- Optimism is highly contagious
- When there are alternative courses of action before us, whose outcome was difficult to predict, or to reconcile varying perspectives, resort to experimentation to resolve the issue – Prof Sarabhai
- Collective understanding of the problem main attribute to effective leadership
- Subtle way challenge, each one to stretch capabilities

Leadership Lessons

A good plan violently executed right now is far better than a perfect plan executed next week

Price of perfection prohibitive and allow mistakes as a part of the learning process; Prefer a dash of daring and persistence to perfection

Best way to prevent errors is to anticipate them

Adopt a delicate balance between the hands-on and the hands-off approach

Conversation is full of pleasantries (most often devoid of any useful information); whereas communication is meant only for the exchange of information

Leadership Lessons

- Freedom with responsibility is the only sound basis for personal happiness
- How to strengthen personal freedom
 1. Building own education and skills; engage in continuing education
 2. Be active, take on responsibility. Work for the things you believe in; (if you don't, you are surrendering your fate to others)
- Three levels of human personality
 1. Behavioral level – outermost ring of the tree – observe skills and measure knowledge
 2. Social roles and self image at the intermediate level
 3. Motives and traits at the core level

Leadership Lessons

Difference between an energetic and a confused person is the difference in the way their minds handle their experiences

Flow – there is no hurry; there are no distracting demands on one's attention. The past and the future disappear. So does the distinction between self and the activity

Capability to grow with possibilities with the patience to explore all possible alternatives

Leadership Lessons

Wisdom to apply old principles to new situations

Skill to negotiate their way forward

Accommodating, to be willing to share their power with others and work in teams delegating good jobs, assimilating fresh opinions

Sort out things amicably and take responsibility for slip-ups



Thank you

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Disclaimer: 1. This is just a summary; for better understanding highly recommend reading the full book
2. The summary is based on my learning, what resonates with me after reading the book
3. Please excuse for any errors or mis-representation