



LEADING
SECOND

EPISODE GUIDE

Episode 212

The Significance of the Second Chair ft. Charlotte Gambill

In this episode, Pastor Charlotte Gambill unpacks the privilege and responsibility of holding up your pastor's arms, embracing unseen moments, and carrying vision with humility and maturity. If you serve in the second chair, this conversation will strengthen your perspective and remind you: **second chair is not second class.**

THE VALUE OF LEADING FROM THE SECOND CHAIR.

Charlotte never wanted to be on the platform preaching. She preferred being in the background.

She grew from serving to being in an official second chair role, to now serving the church globally. While still keeping in the second chair role.

Exodus 17:10-13 (NIV) "So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up - one on one side, one on the other - so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword."

The Second Chair role is to be the Aaron and Hur. Which means that there is going to be long hours of holding up someone else's arms.

This is a **privilege** to stand alongside giants in the faith and help them do what God has asked them to do.

SECOND CHAIR IS NOT SECOND CLASS.

If the church were a jigsaw puzzle, God would have the box lid, and we would each be a piece. The senior leader is the anchor piece on the puzzle. Not every piece in the puzzle touches that piece. If the senior leader is letting you use the piece that touches their piece, that is giving you a place of intimacy.

Not everybody gets to sit in the second chair. So not everybody gets to birth an idea, create a ministry, or speak into something in its formative stages. It's a very highly privileged role.

You need to be very careful of what you put in the ear of the leader. You have the spot where what you put in that person's ear is more powerful than what someone else puts in that person's ear because of the seat you've been given.

It is such a crucial role that the wrong person in that seat can actually take a whole church and ministry down.

As a second chair leader, you are shaping the ministry and the church through what you do.

A TEST OF MATURITY.

The second chair will test whether or not you are willing to die to self. It will also test what ultimately matters to you.

If your win matters more to you than the big win, then there will always be a potential point of tension between your personal win and the greater win.

Immaturity often shows up in a place where it can create a lot of damage to the big picture.

On teams, we can complicate things because we ask for a lot of things that are unnecessary:

- I need assurance.
- I need approval.
- I need appreciation.

This just masquerades as our own insecurity. When you are secure, you don't need all of that.

Luke 17:7-10 (NLT) “When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, “Come in and eat with me”? No, he says, “Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.” And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. In the same way, when you obey me you should say, “We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.””

At the end of the day:

- You're not my rewarder.
- You're not my applause giver.
- You're not my affirmation giver.
- You're not my privilege giver.
- **God is.**

Immaturity makes man be something that only God can be. You will always be disappointed because, no matter how great the person you're serving is, there is going to be a moment where they don't satisfy that immaturity.

Immaturity shows itself when we place on the shoulders of a leader something that should only be placed in God's hands.

THE WRESTLE OF UNSEEN MOMENTS.

There are times when we all feel unseen or unnoticed. When you get some hindsight, you can look back and see the value of those moments. But they don't always feel valuable when you're in them.

You need those moments. Relish them. Embrace them. Love them.

Genesis 32:24-28 (NLT) “This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!’ But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’ ‘What is our name?’ The man asked. He replied, ‘Jacob.’ ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob,’ the man told him. ‘From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.’”

The wrestle is all about you getting your limp.

- It changes the way you walk.
- It changes the way you talk.
- It changes the way you see things.

Without a wrestle, you're going to have a lot of public falling, embarrassment, and tussles that didn't need to happen if you had embraced the private wrestle.

If you have the fight privately with God, you will save yourself and the body of Christ publicly.

CARRY THE VISION.

Visionary pastors are a gift of God to our lives and the church. But sometimes it can present challenges to those working to carry out the vision.

It is important to have a conversation that is healthy and from a perspective of, **"I want to help you make this happen."**

The visionary must make the vision clear so the runner can run with it.

Questions that can help the second chair understand the vision:

- Out of this massive vision, what is the priority?
- Out of this massive vision, what is the focus?
- Out of all of the projects that were discussed, which one is number one? Which is number two?

As the Second Chair Leader, it is your job to ask the questions so that you can better do your job.

A vacuum of misunderstanding is created if the conversation is not had. You assume that they expect you to do it all. They assume, because you say nothing, that you can do it all.

SEPARATE THE PERSONAL FROM THE PRINCIPLE.

When you are serving someone and you're doing life closely with them, frustration can quickly become personal.

Jesus never made it personal with Judas.

He sat at the table with him.

He broke bread with him.

There was a principle going on that was demonic.

Jesus didn't make it personal. **He dealt with the principle.**

You need to get into a space where you can separate the personal from the principle.

Wouldn't the enemy love nothing more than to uproot and disconnect what God has connected?

KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.

Everybody's win is the same win.

Teams are winning when things get simplified.

Matthew 10:12-14 (NLT) "'When you enter the home, give it your blessing. If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave.'"

Don't make it overly complicated. The simpler it is, the more effective it will be.

LISTENER QUESTIONS.

How do you balance being a mom and a ministry leader?

- Balance is impossible.
- **Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)** "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."
- There is a way to work with God where you will find grace and rhythm for your life.
- God is your greatest dance partner. He knows the beat for your life in every season. He knows the tempo in every season.
- Your rhythm is not the same as someone else's rhythm, so you can't copy others.

What trends do you see shaping the future of the church? How should Second Chair Leaders prepare for them?

- People are simplifying. Going back to the basics.
- The Holy Spirit having room to do what only the Holy Spirit can do.

What would you say to the leader who feels frustrated because they see what needs to change but feel powerless to change it?

- Have the conversation about what you see that is helpful, principle-led, and beneficial for the house and the Kingdom.
- Sometimes we overplay the narrative in our head that the conversation is going to be hard.
- When you have a God-fearing leader and they trust the God in you, they want to know what you see.
- Sometimes the frustration is that you're seeing what needs changed, but you aren't saying it.
- If, after you've said it, and they don't want to do anything with it, then you have done your job. You leave it in God's hands.
- If it is something you're seeing and you're not saying, you're going to be internally frustrated and that will come out externally in what you handle.

Your pastor makes a call you don't understand or agree with. How do you deal with that tension?

- Our pastors are human.
- It is not our job to fix them.
- Our job is to do what we can to support them.
- If you can see it through the lens of 'how you do to them is how it goes with you,' then you will not only sow what you reap, you will also build integrity into the ministry that you modeled. The people underneath you are going to model that same thing at their level.
- We all make mistakes. But how we handle it should be how we would want someone to handle it with us.

Dig Deeper

1. What are some practical ways we can separate the 'personal' from the 'principle' when dealing with frustrations in ministry, as Charlotte advises?

2. In what ways can we simplify our approach to ministry and church life, focusing on the essentials as Jesus did with his disciples?

3. How can we discern and align ourselves with God's 'rhythm' for our lives, especially when balancing family and ministry responsibilities?

Additional Resources

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Charlotte Gambill:

To learn more about Charlotte and her ministry, visit charlottegambill.com

Leading Second Camp:

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