

FORWARD

What is nurse power? The nurse can be in command while having a positive influence over others. Nurses have expanded their many roles of power as a part of the nursing profession. Our strength has grown more now as we have learned to practice overt and subtle leadership and management ways.

No nurse desires to be powerless. Every nurse wants positive power! Even beyond the significant influence of assisting with life and death issues, we seek to demonstrate our abilities through positive authoritative overt behaviors to accomplish health care management and leadership goals. We are now the academically and experientially prepared nurses of today and the future. Now, the velvet glove of nurturing and supporting others is the basis of our powerful practice. We lead nursing students and other healthcare providers to more caregiving ways.

We have seen and held the hands of dying Coronavirus patients. We have seen the thankfulness demonstrated by our communities. In many ways, our friends and family help ensure our safety. We keep going on and on through the fight. Nurses are exemplary of the leadership fight that causes disease and the many untold fears to wane. It represents the power of the human soul. Thank you, nurses, for your caring and commitment as leaders through these difficult times!

Know that there is no halting-place at this point! Advances in health care practice move us forward in a journey where there can be no pause. If we had remained in a mediocre station of subservient behaviors, our intellectual qualities would lie dormant. We cannot rise to be a leading and caring profession without being involved in the world's many problems. Nurses respond to the world's agonies, and our cause inspires us. As nurses, we move forward boldly with kindness, care, and concern that has always, through our history, been the hallmark of a real profession.

However, let us not be naive about others' possible hidden motives who could threaten our leadership and management success. Some people watch for signs of weakness and are ready to pounce at the first sign of weakness like animals looking for prey. It is not unusual for others to question new-found strong knowledge and the application of researched findings.

Power is maintained when the leader does not become "too big for his/her boots." It means that there should be an ability to relate, empathize, and always be concerned for the people who attempt to meet the needs of the facility/organization and patients served. Lord Acton expressed his opinion in a letter to Bishop Mandell in 1887—"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Hence, the sharing with other responsible nurses of this powerful responsibility is a real sign of powerful trust in others.

Empathy is a significant hallmark of nursing leadership. However, be careful and astute about the fact that research has shown that as power increases, there is a tendency to decrease empathy—a negative outcome of leadership and management. We become the beacon of light for humanity when we treat others with understanding, caring, and compassion--no matter the situation. Continue to be that beacon of light through service to others.

Good intentions expressed by others is not enough to show evidence of a decisive leadership or management outcome. Learn to support others as you *see and feel* the results of your effective leadership and management. Know WHY you do what you do and know when NOT to be intellectually and emotionally drawn into a potentially harmful situation!

Most documents culminate with suggested teaching questions. The contemplation of critical thinking questions helps student nurses gain the intellectual power they will need to practice as professional nursing leaders.

Learn the knowledge and techniques found in the following documents and use the power of discernment to lead you toward leadership and management success.

LIVE TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE & LIVE A LIFE OF MEANING