

## Touchstones Theme: Authority & Leadership

The act of choice—which the term heresy originally meant—leads us back to the problem that orthodoxy was invented to solve: How can we tell truth from lies? What is genuine, and thus connects us with one another and with reality, and what is shallow, self-serving, or evil? ... The fact that we have no simple answer does not mean that we can evade the question. We have also seen the hazards—even terrible harm—that sometimes result from unquestioning acceptance of religious authority. Most of us, sooner or later, find that, at critical points in our lives, we must strike out on our own to make a path where none exists... to “seek and you shall find.” *Elaine Pagels*



The film *Invictus* ...tells ...how Nelson Mandela ...enlists the country's famed rugby team, the Springboks, ...to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup and ...start the healing of that apartheid-torn land. The ...Springboks had been a symbol of white domination, and blacks ...rooted against them. When the post-apartheid, black-led South African sports committee moved to change the team's name and colors, President Mandela stopped them. He explained that ...making whites feel at home in a black-led South Africa was not uprooting all their cherished symbols. “That is selfish thinking,” Mandela ... says in the movie. “It does not serve the nation.” Then, speaking of ... whites, Mandela adds, “We have to surprise them with compassion, with restraint and generosity.” *Thomas Friedman*

## Join us in exploring Authority & Leadership

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