

Chapter 6



Evangelism, Discipleship & Leadership

(Scriptures used are from the New King James Version (NKJV))



Mark 1:17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Job 28:28

And to man He said, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom. and to depart from evil is understanding."



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Evangelism, Discipleship & Leadership

Evangelism

- Why We Need to Share the Message of Jesus Christ
- The Basic Points of the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus Christ
- A Formula for Effective Witnessing & The Gospel in a Verse, John 3:16
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Evangelism

WHY WE NEED TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST

- **Because of what Jesus did for us:**

Colossians 1:13,14 NASB

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(II Cor. 5:14–15, II Cor. 5:21, John 8:36)

- **Because of the Love of God for All Mankind: God's Example**

Romans 5:8, 10

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

(II Peter 3:9; John 15:13)

- **Because of the Purpose of God for Making Us His children: God's Command**

Matthew 28:18–20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go ^{19a}therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." ^{19b}Amen.

(Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:13–16; II Cor. 5:18–20)

- **Because of the Reality of Judgment and Hell**

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Revelation 20:11–15; Matthew 10:28)

- **We must see that sharing Jesus is not an option but a necessity.**

1 Thessalonians 2:4

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

(Romans 10:13–15; Ezekiel 3:18)

- **Be convinced of God's method of reaching the world with the message of Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 6:19,20

Pray for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

John 16:8–11

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 10:17

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Acts 8:25

So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

Acts 26:4–6

"My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. 5 They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.

Acts 22:

The power of a changed life / of one's personal testimony.

THE BASIC POINTS TO THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) OF JESUS CHRIST

1. God's Position

A. God loves man and wants to have fellowship with him.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

B. God's perfection means that He cannot lower His standard without violating His character.

Matthew 5:48

Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever..

2. Man's Condition

A. All people have sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

B. God, in His justice, requires the penalty of spiritual death (eternal separation from God).

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death.

Ezekiel 18:4

The soul who sins shall die.

3. God's Provision

Jesus Christ, being God, paid the penalty for man's sins by dying on the cross as the substitute for man. Jesus made it possible for man to have a personal relationship with God by offering His perfection in exchange for man's sin.

II Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

4. God's Invitation

God has made it possible for any person to be forgiven and become His child. He wants you to be with Him forever.

Romans 10:13

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

5. Man's Decision

All anyone must do is place their trust in Christ and His death alone as sufficient payment for sin. This satisfies God's requirement of perfection and establishes His desired eternal relationship with man.

II Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

A person must change their mind (repent) in regard to their sins and about their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38a

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

A person must decide to take God at His word and take His offer of eternal life.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

A Model Prayer of Salvation:

Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for loving me and for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to pay my sin debt to You. Please forgive me for my sins and come into my life and give me eternal life. I give you my life. Please make me Your child forever. In Jesus' name, amen.

ROMANS ROAD

➤ **Romans 3:10**

As it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one."

➤ **Romans 3:23**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

➤ **Romans 5:12**

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

➤ **Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

➤ **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the [a]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

➤ **Romans 10:13**

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

➤ (Detour) **Revelations 3:20**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

➤ **Romans 10:9,10**

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

A Formula for
effective witnessing

F

Family – ask questions about a person’s family, where they grew up, what life was like back then, siblings, children.

O

Occupation – what do they do for work, where, how long, what does the future look like??

R

Religious Background – what is their spiritual history and experience? What do they believe about God and Jesus Christ??

M

Message – ask them if they ever heard of the gospel and would they allow you to explain it to them.

U

USE

L

LOVE

A

ALWAYS!!!

THE GOSPEL IN A VERSE:
JOHN 3:16

“For God —
THE GREATEST PERSON

so loved—
THE GREATEST MOTIVATION

the world, —
THE GREATEST UNDERTAKING

that He gave —
THE GREATEST ACT

His only begotten Son, —
THE GREATEST GIFT

that whoever —
THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY

Believes —
THE GREATEST SIMPLICITY

in Him —
THE GREATEST ATTRACTION

shall not perish, —
THE GREATEST PROMISE

but —
THE GREATEST DIFFERENCE

Have —
THE GREATEST CERTAINTY

Everlasting Life.” —
THE GREATEST POSSESSION

PERSONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

This is your ***spiritual autobiography***. Many Christians are unable to point to a crisis experience, or do not always know the date when God brought them into His kingdom (perhaps He did so when you were young). This does not mean you have nothing to testify about. Be winsome, honest, and wholesome. Never go into detail about sins. After a person has heard your story, will they know basic truths about Christ, or only know you better? Use some of the phrases under each heading to help you focus on important things.

1. What I Was Like:

My family, friends, interest were... My security (most important value) was.... My religious background and attitude about Christ was....

2. What God Used to Begin to Open My Eyes:

I was awakened to my need by (people, books, meeting, circumstances).... What I thought and/or noticed (about myself, God, others) at this point was....

3. What It Was I Saw/Understood:

Those aspects of the gospel that touched me were.... I came to understand that Christ.... I saw that my need was....

4. How Christ Has/Is Affecting My Life:

My relationship with.... My attitude toward.... My desires now are.... I'm now doing.... A difficult area of obedience is....

Try to include a favorite passage of Scripture.

Try to make the gospel clear when sharing your testimony.

Understand that a carefully and intelligently worded **three-to-five-minute testimony** will communicate far more effectively than a prolonged one.

EXPANDING YOUR TESTIMONY

Learn to expand your basic "How I became a Christian" testimony.

There are a lot of ways to share a testimony—not just how you became a Christian. Although this is a very important tool, **try to consider how to expand your conversion testimony by reflecting on these questions** (don't try to answer all these questions in one testimony).

Is the Lord real to you?

In what ways is He real?

What things has He taught you recently?

What is the Lord teaching you right now?

How is your life different because of Jesus Christ?

How does knowing Jesus Christ make a difference in how you make decisions?

Are you different from some of your friends? Why or why not?

What has been one of the most difficult or hardest times in your life? How did knowing Christ make a difference during that time?

What is the hardest part about being a Christian?

What was the hardest thing for you in becoming a Christian? How did you resolve or overcome it?

Relate your story to someone in the Bible.

Pick one of your favorite songs. Why do you like it? What are some of the truths it states? Is there anything that is not true? How does it help you? Encourage you? Warn you?

Pick a favorite passage from the Bible. Why do you like it? What are some of the truths that are important to you? How does it help you? Is there something it warns you about? How does it encourage you?

- **Be sure to practice giving your testimony often.**
- **When you do give your testimony pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to say the right things.**

The “Hourglass” Ministry Perspective

What percentage of the leader’s time, do you think, each of these four ministry areas should require?



- INVITING MINISTRIES
That which brings people into the ministry
- INVOLVEMENT MINISTRIES
That which keeps people in the ministry
- TRAINING MINISTRIES
That which develops leadership for the ministry
- MULTIPLICATION MINISTRIES
That which empowers others to do the ministry

SERVING VOLUNTEER LEADERS

One of the most helpful leadership principles comes from the words of Christ where He says, "the greatest must be the servant of all." What leaders need to do with volunteer leaders is to discover ways to help them be successful. Your role as the primary ministry leader is to find ways to help those who help you serve be successful in what they do as a volunteer. Pray for them, encourage them, provide resources for their ministry roles, and assist them in their ministries. As you determine what your leaders need to accomplish their ministry goals, try to help them attain those goals. Serving your volunteer leaders will do more for your ministry than almost anything else you can do. Leaders follow the ministry pattern of those who lead them. When you serve your leaders, you will produce a ministry team of servers, individuals who don't care who gets the credit. Sounds like something God would get excited about, don't you think?

Here is another way of saying Matt. 22:37, 39

**God First
Others Second
I'm Third**

Structure missions within the context of Acts 1:8

- Home – same language, same culture, same location
- Samaria – same language, different culture, different location
- Judea – same language, same culture, different location
- Outer most parts of the world – different language, different culture, distant location

YOU



ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH....
SO GET OUT AND GET SALTING!
Matt. 5:13

DEVELOP A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR:

Laugh, smile and enjoy life but don't be silly. Let the spiritual song in your heart express itself. (Far too often leaders can take themselves too seriously.) I think young people are drawn to adults who can laugh at themselves. You can make fun of yourself, maybe some other adults (be careful here), but never make fun or run down a young person. There are enough other things to laugh at than something that will embarrass a teenager.

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION PURPOSES:

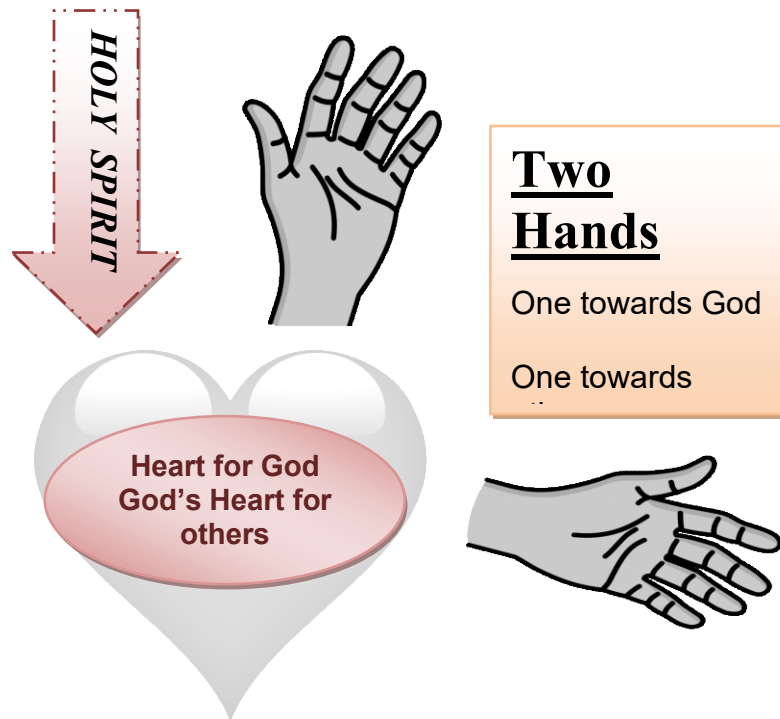
Use the Basic Fundamental Questions as a practice with young people rather than asking the pointed (only one right answer) question. You want them to express their thoughts or feelings about a certain scripture or issue rather than give you what you want for an answer.

THE QUESTIONS ARE:

- **What do you think?**
- **How do you feel about this?**

Discipleship

Lifestyle Discipleship is a Heart Issue:



Rom. 5:5 & John 7:38,39

Scripture List:

Jer. 17:9–10
Psalm 51:10
Pro. 4:23
2 Chron. 16:9
1 Sam. 16:7b
Matt. 22:37–40
Dt. 32:47a
Psalm 1:1–3
19:7–11
37:4
Ezra 7:10
Rom. 5:5 & John 7:37–39
Mark 10: 43–44
Phil 1:3–8; 2:13
Eph. 2:1–10
4:17–24
2 Cor. 5:14–15
12:15a
1 Pet. 2:9–10
1 Cor. 2:9
2 Pet. 1:3–4, 10
1 John 1:5–10
2:15–17
4:19

Pro. 8:13 & Ps. 97:10a
Titus 2:11–14
Isa. 30:18
John 15:5,16
1 Thess. 1:3
Matt. 5:2–12
7:24–27
9:37–38
Rom. 12:1–2
13:11–14
15:4
John 13:12–17
4:6–8
Heb. 10:23–25
12:1–2, 28
Eph. 3:14–21
Psalm. 16:11
John 8:31–32 & 17:3
Psalm 119:9, 11, 24, 105
Psalm 73
Rom. 8
1 Cor. 15

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Things to consider:

- **Jesus prayed often** when He was on the earth. The Lord's Prayer, His prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, He prayed all night before He chose His 12 Disciples, He often rose early to pray and went alone to pray.
- **Jesus intercedes** – **Hebrews 7:25** "Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, **since He always lives to make intercession for them.**"
- **The Holy Spirit intercedes** – **Romans 8:26,27** Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [a]for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
- **The Role of Priest** – **1 Peter 2:5, 9**
 1. To speak to God on behalf of men
 2. To speak to men on behalf of God. **Believers need to understand their role in this world as Priests before God.**

Important Scriptures and thoughts:

Matthew 9:37,38

Pray the Lord of the harvest prayer.

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;.

Colossians. 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

II Peter 3:9

Pray the Will of God

Pray the Great Commandment for yourself & for others. Love God >> love others

MAKE YOUR MINISTRY AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

How? By:

- **Enlisting Prayer Warriors / Senior Citizens for specific requests**
- **Setting a consistent time for prayer**
- **Praying with others**
- **Keeping a prayer journal with dates**

HOW TO PRAY EVANGELISTICLY

Important Considerations about Witnessing:

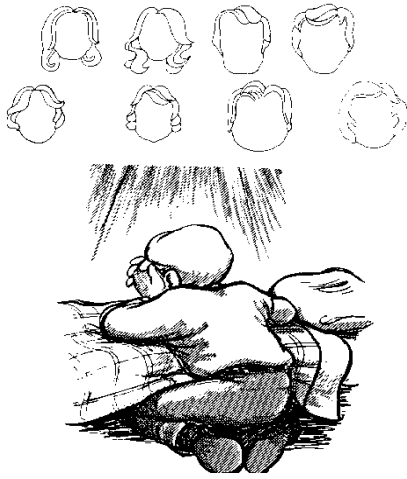
I. Conversion itself is the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life.

- a. The Holy Spirit brings the consciousness of sin, judgment, and righteousness (*John 16:7–11*).
 - b. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ a living option (*John 16:13–15; Luke 10:21–24; John 6:37, 17:2, 24*).
 - c. Faith itself is God's gift (*Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:5*).
2. The Holy Spirit is released through prayer to do this spiritual work.
 - a. Hindrance can be bound as we pray in the Name of Jesus (*Matthew 16:19, 18:18*).
 - b. Through prayer, doors of hearts and even cities can be opened to the gospel (*Ephesians 6:19, 20; Colossians 4:3; Acts 14:27*).
 - c. Through prayer, boldness of witness and power in testimony can be released (*Acts 4:31, 6:4*).

2. People can be motivated to go and share their faith through prayer (*Luke 10:1-22*).

Practical applications for "evangelistic praying":

1. Pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit both to pray and to witness for Christ (*Zechariah 4:1–6; Ephesians 5:18*).
2. Get together with at least one other person on a regular basis to "agree in prayer" regarding opportunities to present the gospel, and the preparation of the person to receive it (*Matthew 18:19–20*).
3. When praying for a person's salvation, pray:
 - a. That God would open a door of opportunity and use you (*John 15:16*).
 - b. That the Spirit would put words in your mouth and give boldness to share (*Ephesians 6:19–20*).
 - c. That the Spirit would convict your friend of his / her sin and need, and of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father (*John 14:6; Acts 4:12*).



Pray often, by name, for the Salvation of those you know who need Jesus. Ask the Lord to open a door for you to share the good news of Jesus with them.

The Believer's New Identity

When a person becomes a Christian they are immediately changed. Here is a list of a few of the New Things God has done in our lives.

New Creation

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Ephesians 4:24

And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Citizen of Heaven

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Saint

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are [a]sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.

Ephesians 1:18 NASB

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

Child of God

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 John 3:1

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know [b]us, because it did not know Him.

Adopted

Romans 8:15,16

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba,[a] Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Ephesians 1:5

Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

Bride

Revelation 21:9

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Revelation 19:7 NASB

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.

Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:27a

Now you are the body of Christ.

Romans 12:5

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Temple

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ambassadors

II Corinthians 5:20

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Joint Heirs with Christ

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Holy Priesthood

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Revelation 1:5c,6

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever..

Stewards

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Corinthians 4:1,2

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Chosen race

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Aliens & Strangers

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.

Branches

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Bond Servants

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must [a]shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.

II Corinthians 4:5

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

Redeemed

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

The Believer's New Reality

Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Romans 5:5

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Indwelled by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Jesus as Lord and Savior

II Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jude v.24–25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Fellowship with God

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

No condemnation

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 4:8 NASB

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.

Sanctified

Hebrews 10:10

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Transferred

Colossians 1:13 NASB

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

Better Promises

Hebrews 8:6

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

II Peter 1:4

By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Sealed by the Spirit

Ephesians 1:13

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

II Corinthians 1:22

Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

The Great Exchange

II Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

II Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Purpose

Acts 1:8 NASB

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

John 13:34,35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Seated with Christ

Ephesians 2:6

And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

New life

Romans 6:4

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

New Self

Ephesians 4:22–24

That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Workmanship

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Heavenly-minded

Matthew 6:20,21

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Colossians 3:1–4

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

The Christian's Salvation is a 3-Fold Salvation

SALVATION – Definition: deliverance from the penalty, power, and dominion of sin.

It is a Salvation from the:

➤ Penalty of Sin Judgment

- ❖ **PAST**
JESUS CHRIST paid our penalty for sin before a Holy God.
- ❖ Romans 8:1
Peace replaces guilt.

Here Jesus is our **SAVIOR**.
Now a Relationship with God begins

➤ Power of sin Daily victory

- ❖ **PRESENT**
GOD'S SPIRIT provides for us the ability to overcome sin patterns and temptations
- ❖ Galatians 5:16
We experience freedom from sin resulting in Joy.

Here Jesus is our **LORD**.
Here a Relationship with God is Cultivated

➤ Presence of sin Eternal state

- ❖ **FUTURE**
We will be united WITH GOD FOREVER in a totally sinless state.
- ❖ II Peter 3:13
Develops hope which is guaranteed instead of an elusive dream.

Here Jesus is **GLORIFIED**
and we are with Him forever.
Finally, ones Relationship with God is Completed

Cultivating a Life of Lasting Fruit

What do you want to be known or remembered for?
(from bottom to top)

5. Sow a Lifestyle >> Reap a Legacy

Your Legacy – Hebrews 13:7



4. Sow a Character >> Reap a Lifestyle

Your Lifestyle – Galatians 6:8



3. Sow Habits >> Reap Character

Your Character – Luke 8:15



2. Sow Acts >> Reap a Habit

Your Habits – II Peter 1:8



1. Sow thoughts >> Reap an Act

Your thought Life – Romans 8:6



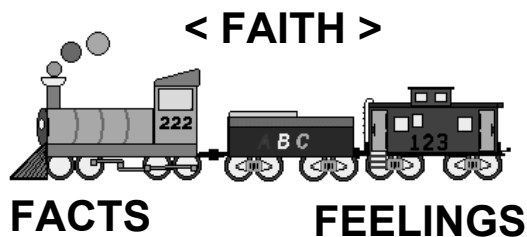
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A Practical Principle of Daily Christian Living

OUR DAILY ISSUE WITH FAITH:

Consider this, where is your **FAITH'S FOCUS?**

Take the illustration of a train. If your **FAITH** is in the **FACTS** of God's Word, then your **FEELINGS** will follow along and you will make progress in your walk with the Lord.



But if your **FAITH** is in your **FEELINGS**, then you will be going in the wrong direction while **FACTS** will have minimal influence and life will be confusing at best.

Prayer thoughts:

Matthew 7:7,8

➤ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

➤ **ASK** – AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU / FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES

This may refer to personal needs / consider the promises from God's word.

➤ **SEEK** – AND YOU SHALL FIND / HE WHO SEEKS FINDS

This may refer to spiritual desires / note promises that refer to a deeper relationship with the Lord.

➤ **KNOCK** – AND IT SHALL BE OPENED / TO HIM WHO KNOCKS IT SHALL BE OPENED.

This may refer to ministry vision & desires / consider promises related to your ministry.

TWO CRITICAL QUESTIONS when it comes to Bible reading:

1. In a few words or phrases, what does this Scripture passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about your relationship with Him?

8 FACTORS IN MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION

Factor #1 Is there any clear teaching about it in the Bible?

The word of God commands some things and forbids others. For example, men are commanded to love their wives. What they are commanded to do, they ought to do. Just as there are positive commands concerning things they ought to do, so there are negative commands concerning things they are not to do. They are not to gossip, commit adultery, lie, cheat, or steal. Wherever there is a clear teaching of what a person should or should not do, believers are to obey it.

Factor #2 What would Jesus do?

Most Christians have a clear idea of the kind of person Jesus was and how He would have acted. If they apply this test when making decisions, it will clarify things greatly. Jesus put others first; He came to serve, not to be served; He was humble and not self-seeking, etc. The very character of Jesus, the kind of person He was, and the life He lived are examples of how believers are to think and act. This needs to be one's guide-line for decision making.

Proverbs 3:5–7

Factor #3 To what is your heart attached?

The admonition of Scripture makes it clear (**Romans 12:1–2, 1 John 2:13–15, Proverbs 4:23, II Corinthians 6:12, Jeremiah 17:9**) that God must have first place in a believer's life, otherwise mistakes will be made in decision making. The phrase “I have peace about this,” often leads a person to make a bad decision because emotionally they were attached to a sinful desire.

Factor #4 What is the spirit or the atmosphere of the thing?

The context surrounding every decision is important. There are places where a believer should not go and things he should not do because the spirit of the setting is not conducive to Christian witness and personal growth. He ought not to go around with gangs or robbers, nor have “fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (**Ephesians 5:11**). We are commanded to “cast off the works of darkness” (**Romans 13:12**). To avoid all contact with evil is impossible, but to conform to it or to be its accomplice is to partake of its spirit. **Romans 14:22** declares, “Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.”

Factor #5 Will it help or harm your Christian life and walk?

Many times the good is the enemy of the best. The issue should not be what is wrong with an act / decision but rather what is right about it. Certain TV shows may not be forbidden for a Christian, but do they promote good Christian behavior or thought? Choices should be made with an eye to their usefulness to the Christian's life and witness.

Factor #6 How will it influence and affect others?

No one lives or dies to themselves. All of life is interrelated and a man's choices affect his wife, his children, his friends, his church, and possibly even his country. Consequently, we must consider what our choices will mean to a variety of people. A believer can do things that could ruin their testimony before others. Every Christian is called to be an example to others, understanding that they cannot enjoy the luxury of doing only what pleases themselves. **II Corinthians 5:9** makes it clear that pleasing the Lord is our primary goal.

Factor #7 Seek godly counsel / advice Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, 19:20, 27:9 –

These Scriptures make it clear that God instructs His followers to seek out the counsel of those who can give good advice. **Hebrews 13:7** gives us the measurement whereby we can determine who it is that qualifies to give good counsel. If a believer is uncertain of the will of God in a matter they face, help can come by way of those who have gone on before them in life's experience with the Lord.

Factor #8 If there is doubt, don't!

Giving God the benefit of any doubt is a good principle to follow, "Whatever is not from faith is sin" (**Romans 14:23**). If the Christian proposes to do something that leaves them with constraint in their conscience and a sense of uneasiness in their heart, then they had better stop then and there. If after the Bible has been read, prayer offered, friends consulted, and the soul searched, the Christian is still unclear in his mind as to what he ought to do, he should give up his plan and forget it, or at least wait quietly for some clear direction.

A Monthly Devotional Guide through the Psalms & Proverbs

With 31 Proverbs, one can be read each day. There are 150 psalms. If we read five psalms a day, we can read through the book once each month.

(Arranged by Allan & Annie Pierce)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROVERB</u>	<u>5 PSALMS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROVERB</u>	<u>5 PSALMS</u>
1	1	1–5	16	1	76–80
2	2	6–10	17	2	81–85
3	3	11–15	18	3	86–90
4	4	16–20	19	4	91–95
5	5	21–25	20	5	96–100
6	6	26–30	21	6	101–105
7	7	31–35	22	7	106–110
8	8	36–40	23	8	111–115
9	9	41–45	24	9	116–118, 120
10	10	46–50	25	10	121–125
11	11	51–55	26	11	126–130
12	12	56–60	27	12	131–135
13	13	61–65	28	13	136–140
14	14	66–70	29	14	141–145
15	15	71–75	30	15	146–150

When you have 31 days in a month, read through Psalm 119

Think about this: Plan on reading through this monthly devotional guide once or twice a year.

Then consider reading 2 to 3 chapters a day through the other books of the Old and New Testaments

WHAT SATAN DOES IN GETTING AT THE BELIEVER

He wants to ruin our lives by:

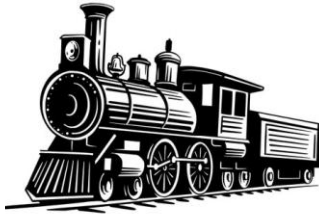
1. 1 Tim 3:16 Developing spiritual pride
This causes non-believers to question believers' integrity or causes believers to bring ill-repute on themselves from non-believers through bad conduct.
2. 1 Tim 6:9 Bringing desires for riches to captivate believers' minds
3. II Tim 2:26 Controlling us by sin to do his will
4. II Cor 2:11 Cause bitterness to consume us
5. Eph 4:26–27 Bringing opportunities for his work through unresolved anger
6. II Cor 11:3 Side-track by deceiving us from the simplicity and purity of following Christ.
7. II Cor 11:14–15 Disguising himself as an angel of light
8. 1 Thess 2:18 Getting us to resist Christian fellowship and ministry
9. 1 Tim 5:14–15 Develop uncontrollable passions
10. Acts 5:3 Influencing our thinking
11. Matt 13:19 Nullifying the Word in the life
12. Luke 13:16; Job 2:7 Control through illness
13. Luke 22:31–32 Work us over so we would abandon our faith
14. Zech 3:1; Rev 12:10 Accuse us before God
15. Rev 20:10; 2 Cor 11:3 Deceiving us
16. Dan 10:12–13 Hindering our prayer life
17. 1 Thess 3:5 Tempting us away from God
18. Luke 4:3–12 Abandon our dependency on God
19. Luke 4:6 Focus on gifts rather than the giver (seeking authority & things no matter what the cost)
20. 1 Peter 5:8 Cause us to be relaxed spiritually.
21. 1 Cor 13:1–3 Be motivated by anything other than the love of God.
22. Rom 8:6 Getting us to set our minds on the things of the flesh.
23. 1 John 2:15–17 Getting us to love the world and the things in it.
24. Rom 8:38–39 Doubt God's love for us or that we have gone too far for Him to still love us
25. Gen. 3:4–5 To doubt God's integrity
26. Matt. 4:1–11 Manipulates the Scriptures to trick us to think and act outside the will of God

WHAT BELIEVERS CAN DO TO DEFEAT SATAN

1. Luke 4:4, 8, 12 Know and quote God's Word.
2. 1 Peter 5:9 Stand firm in your Faith.
3. 1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on alert, don't let down your guard.
4. II Thess 3:3 Trust God's strength and protection—claim it.
5. Col 1:13 Realize your position in Christ.
6. Eph 6:11–18 Put on the armor of God.
 - a. Belt of truth—be not deceived
 - b. Breastplate of righteousness—no guilt trip; seek to be blameless.
 - c. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace—Goals and ministry
 - d. Shield of faith—Heb 11:6
 - e. Helmet of Salvation—assurance
 - f. Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God—Heb 4:12; Luke 4:4
 - g. Prayer—expresses faith and dependency
7. II Cor 2:11 Be aware of Satan's methods and plans.
8. Eph 4:27 Do not give Satan an opportunity.
9. Rev 2:4 Continue to fall in love with Jesus and be motivated by His love. 1 Cor 13:1–8a
10. 1 Tim 4:7–8 Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.
11. John 15:16; 2 Peter 1:10 Realize your calling.
12. 1 John 4:4 Be conscious that the God in you is greater than him.
13. Phil 2:10–11 That in the Name of Jesus, Satan cannot prevail.
14. Col 2:13–15; Heb 2:14 Remember Satan was defeated at the Cross.
15. John 8:44 Know that he is a liar. Often the devil will have some truth in his lies, so watch out.
16. Heb 9:13–14, 22; John 1:7; 2 Tim 1:10; Col 1:13; Heb 2:14–15 Remember that the Blood of Jesus removes from Satan any grounds for accusation and any claims to our lives.

Leadership

Effective Ministries run on the tracks of Relationships & Strategies



JESUS—His style and form of ministry:
“Follow Me and I will make you...”
= Relationships with a Plan / a Strategy

Fundamentals of a Relational Ministry:

- 1. Prayer Foundation**—make your ministry an answer to prayer by recruiting people to pray.
- 2. Vision**—Jesus saw the disciples’ potential and was God-oriented, plus He understood their worth. From “Follow Me” through 2-1/2 to 3 years to “Feed My sheep.”
- 3. Attitude**—Philippians 2:3–8
- 4. Time / Timing**—Jesus purposed to be with people, especially His disciples. This develops loyalty. People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. Longevity = Ministry Stability
- 5. Faith memories / Teachable moments**
- 6. Love that Transforms Life & Ministry**—Motivated by Love. Jesus lived before people in a way that caused them to know that He loved them. He loved them by serving them as well as by teaching them.
- 7. Modeling—follow me—imitate me**—This teaches lordship, dependence on Holy Spirit, and all the practical principles of the Christian faith to those you share life with (like young people or men on a retreat). Modeling the Christian life doesn’t happen in a vacuum, it needs a relationship. Creates awareness of need. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray and why they couldn’t cast out demons and the like. As they spent time with Him, they knew He was different. The personal walk of the Christian leader needs to be on display.
- 8. Affirmation / Value**—People have felt needs: Am I liked? Am I needed? Am I accepted? Am I challenged? Am I growing?
- 9. Instructional / Teaching**—content, message
A messenger has to have a message.
- 10. Team spirit & atmosphere**—ownership of disciples in ministry. Jesus had His disciples help feed the 5000, the 4000, and even go out in pairs to

minister to others. Retreats give you an opportunity to play, work, eat, sleep, and learn together. Small Groups / Discipleship

11. Ministry of multiplication—Establish patterns for future ministry, “Do as I did with you.”
Frequency
& repetition (once is not enough)

12. Common Ground / Reference Points—Where leaders and those they serve meet. Sports – music – food – school & community events – hobbies – home

Basic Strategy Principles:

1. Believe in the Spiritual Chemistry between the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the child of God.

2. Determine how to develop meaningful relationships. Provide a context for the Spiritual Chemistry principle to work while cultivating significant relationships.

3. Emphasize the role of the local church. The support that the community of believers gives to a person’s life and to anyone’s ministry cannot be overestimated.

4. Develop a mindset of Christian service. Giving others a way to serve in order for them to participate in the ministry will cause an expansion of the ministry. Communicate and practice the need for Delegation and a Team Spirit in serving.

5. What’s that in your hand? This question is for any person seeking to strategize for a ministry. They need to ponder what skills, talents, abilities, experiences, or gifts they have which could be a platform for developing a ministry. For example—I knew how to water ski as a teenager, so I ran a water ski camp during the summer for middle school, high schoolers and college age.

6. Recruit others to help in areas that you are not good at, like administration or music or sound equipment, etc.

Think about this:

The Greatest Commandment is all about Relationships – *Matthew 22:37,39*

The Great Commission is about Strategies – *Acts 1:10*

LEADERSHIP Mandate

- **EXAMPLE** is our Motto
- **LOVE** is our Motivation
- **GOD'S KINGDOM** is our Mission
- **DEPENDENCY** is our Mode
- **JESUS** is our Message
- **PRAYER** is our Muscle
- **GOD'S WORD** is our Manual
- **FAITH** is our Method
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT** is our Means
- **HUMILITY** is our Mindset
- **INTERGITY** is Mandatory
- **SACRIFICE** is our Manner
- **PLANNING & PREPARATION** is a Must
- **TO SERVE** is our Marching Orders
- **CHRIST'S LIKENESS** is our Mark / Measure

Example is our Motto:

1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one [a]despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, [b]in spirit, in faith, in purity."

1 Corinthians 11:1 "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.."

Ask yourself:

- Do I see myself as an example to others?
- In what ways am I a godly example?
- Where do I need to make some major improvements in my character and conduct?

Love is our Motivation:

II Corinthians 5:14,15 "For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

Romans 5:5 "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Ask yourself:

- Does the love of God move me to minister?
- When do I have to choose to love even though I don't feel like loving?
- How sacrificial is my love for God?

God's Kingdom is our Mission:

1 Thessalonians. 2:10-12 "You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and [a]charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Ask yourself:

- Whose kingdom am I building?
- What concerns me most, my reputation or Christ's?
- How does building God's Kingdom express itself in my ministry?

Dependency is our Mode:

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Psalms 127:1 "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."

Ask yourself:

- How dependent on the Lord am I?
- What is often substituted for dependency on the Lord in your ministry?
- How often do you become jealous while serving the Lord?

JESUS is our Message:

II Corinthians 4:5 "For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake."

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Ask yourself:

- How do I lift up the name of Jesus in my ministry?
- How often is the gospel made clear when you speak?
- How do I attempt to have others follow Jesus instead of me?

Prayer is our Muscle:

Ephesians 6:18–20 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Matthew 7:7,8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

Ask yourself:

- How am I depending on God for answered prayer?
- Is my prayer life a model for other Christians?
- Why don't I pray more?

God's Word is our Manual:

Psalms 19:7–11 “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.”

II Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Ask yourself:

- What are my ministry promise verses?
- In what ways does my ministry model that of Jesus Christ?
- How do I incorporate the Scriptures into the ministry?

Faith is our Method:

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Habakkuk 2:4 “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.”

Ask yourself:

- What do I do that is an exercise of faith?
- How is my faith expressed in the leadership team?
- In what areas of the ministry does faith need to increase?

The Holy Spirit is our Means:

Zechariah 4:6 “Then he answered and said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts.”

John 7:38,39 “ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the

Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the [b]Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

Ask yourself:

- In what ways is the Holy Spirit evident in the ministry?
- How do the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, faith, and dependency relate?

Humility is our Mindset:

Philippians 2:3,4 “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

1 Peter 5:6 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.”

Ask yourself:

- How has humility become increasingly evident in my life?
- In what areas is pride evident in my life?
- How do you deal with anger in your personal life?

Integrity is Mandatory:

1 Timothy 3:2 NASB “An overseer, then, must be above reproach.”

1 John 1:6–9 “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Proverbs 8:13a “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.”

Psalms 97:10a “You who love the Lord, hate evil!”

Ask yourself:

- Can you see progress over sin in your life?
- How often do you confess sin? Does your confession or lack of it say something about your attitude about sin in your life?
- How strong is your hatred of sin?

Sacrifice is our Manner:

II Corinthians 12:15 NASB “And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?”

Galatians 6:14 “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by [a]whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Ask yourself:

- What am I sacrificing while serving the Lord?
- In what ways does sacrifice and humility relate to each other?
- How conscious am I of sacrificing for the Lord and what does that reveal about me?

Planning and Preparation is a must:

1 Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

James 4:15 “Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

Ask yourself:

- How much time do I spend in planning and in preparation for the ministry?
- Is my planning and preparing time used well?
- What can I do better here?

To Serve is our Marching Orders

Matthew 20:26–28 “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Joshua 24:14,15 “Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Ask yourself:

- What does serving your staff and volunteer leaders look like? How can you do better?
- How are you serving the members of your church? Can we do better? How?
- How are you serving the community around your church? Can we do better? How?

Christ’s Likeness is our Mark / Measure

Romans 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Ask yourself:

- Do you measure yourself in comparison with others or with Christ?
- Do you hope others will be impressed with you or are you hoping they see Jesus in you?

Servant Leadership is a Biblical Principle

THE SCRIPTURAL MANDATE:

Matthew 20:25–28 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles domineer over them, and those in high position exercise authority over them. 26 It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your **servant**, 27 and whoever desires to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

John 13:12–17 Then, when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you? 13 You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’; and you are correct, for so I am. 14 So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you. 16 Truly, truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Matthew 23:11 NKJV But he who is greatest among you shall be your **servant**.

Mark 9:35 And sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and **servant** of all.”

Mark 10:43 But it is not this way among you; rather, whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your **servant**.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Luke 22:27 I am among you as the one who serves.

Philippians 2:7 But emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.

II Corinthians 12:15a I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls.

Luke 16:13 No **servant** can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My **servant** will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

John 3:27, 30 John replied, “A person can receive not even one thing unless it has been given to him from heaven. ... 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

II Corinthians 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as **your bond-servants** on account of Jesus.

Romans 16:1 I recommend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea.

Hebrews 3:5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as **a servant**, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later.

Psalms 78:70 He also chose **His servant** David and took him from the sheepfolds.

Matthew 25:40 NKJV Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.

Definition of a Christian Servant Leader

A Servant Leader is a person who is committed to another person's (spiritual) success. The question a Christian leader needs to ask themselves is "How am I helping others to succeed in their walk with the Lord?"

MARKS OF A SERVANT LEADER'S INFLUENCE

I'd rather see a lesson
 Than to hear one any day,
I'd rather you'd walk with me
 Than to merely show the way.
The eye's a better teacher
 And more willing than the ear,
And counsel is confusing
 But examples are always clear.
The best of all the teachers
 Are the ones who live the creed.
To see good put into action
 This is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it
 If you let me see it done.
I can see your hand in action
 But your tongue too fast may run.
And the counsel you are giving
 May be very fine and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson
 By observing what you do!

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

1. HEART FOR GOD

1 Samuel 16:7b For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

II Chronicles 16:9a For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

2. GODLY LIVING

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
(Eph 5:8)

3. THE ATTITUDE FACTOR

A. HUMILITY

Philippians 2:3,4 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (1 Pet 5:6)

B. GRATITUDE

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
(Heb 12:28)

C. SERVANT/ONE ANOTHER SPIRIT

John 13:14,15 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.
(John 13:34-35)

4. CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES

1 Timothy 4:7b,8 Exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.
(Heb 12:1-2)

5. THE BIG "3"

A. FAITH

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B. HOPE

Romans 15:4 NASB For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Heb 6:19)

C. LOVE

II Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should

live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. (1 Cor 13:1–3)

6. VISION

A. PERSONAL

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Gal 6:9–10)

B. CHURCH

Ephesians 4:11–13 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [a]edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (Acts 13:1–3)

7. SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are [a]of full age, that is, those who by reason of [b]use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Col 3:15–17)

8. LOVE FOR OTHERS

1 Thessalonians 2:7–8 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. (1 Cor 13:1–3)

9. CONVICTION OF FUNDAMENTALS

(to name a few)

A. THE WORD OF GOD

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.. (Isaiah 55:11)

B. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

John 16:8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (Acts 1:8)

C. THE MESSENGER OF GOD

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (Rom 10:14–15)

D. THE ESSENCE OF PRAYER

Matthew 9:37,38 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

E. SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST ALONE

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

F. THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

LEADERSHIP ATTITUDES

Philippians 2:5 NASB Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

Nehemiah 8:10 For the joy of the Lord is your strength.

We are to be ministers, not pushers. We are shepherds, not sheep dogs. So we must have the attitudes which make us good examples. By our lives, we are to lead others to live lives pleasing to the Lord. Heb 13:7; 1 Cor 11:1

We do this by following these principles:

1. **We must see people as individuals of great worth and value them highly.** We must recognize that we all are equal in the Lord. Therefore, we are not to look down on those we serve as if they are a lower-class Christian. We may teach and encourage them, and they will also teach and encourage us. Rom. 1:11–12; Matt. 23:10; 2 Cor 12:15; Phil 2:17; 1 Thess. 2:8

2. **We must also recognize that it is the Lord, by the Holy Spirit,** who brings the salvation, growth, and maturity in the lives of others. Never think that personality, persuasion, or manipulation has greater impact than the Spirit of God. (We must pray for them) John 6:44; 1 Corinthians 3:5–6; Zechariah 4:6b; and John 15:5–6. God often uses us, but it is not our intellect, abilities, and talents that cause others to grow. It's the spiritual surgery of the Holy Spirit transplanting the Word of God into their lives! We are simply a vessel (common clay pot) which God uses for His Glory. II Cor. 4:7; II Tim. 2:20–21

3. **We must have the eternal viewpoint** always at the forefront of our minds. Matt. 6:19–21; Col. 3:1–2. It is for eternity's sake that we labor for the Lord in the ministry. We must have a passion for the lost. We need to be aware of and involved in the great spiritual warfare for the souls of men and women while they are teenagers. This is where the lines have been drawn in the world today.

1 Cor. 9:16–23; Rom 9:1–3

4. **We must be motivated by the Love of God** to effectively minister.

1 Cor. 13:1–3; 2 Cor. 5:14–15

The Seven Laws of the Harvest

5. It is necessary to have the servant attitude and heart of Jesus. John 13:12–17; Matt 20:25–28. To be a servant, we must be willing to be spent for others; this is a continuing sacrifice of giving up our lives (ambitions, pleasures, entertainment, time, etc.) for the eternal benefit of others. What could be of greater value than the life of another person? “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past. What is only done for Christ will last.”

6. We must be discipleship oriented, investing our lives in individuals so that they in turn will be able to invest their life in others in a spiritual way. 1 Thess. 1:2–8; II Tim. 2:2. We must see ministry as individuals, not as programs. Discipleship is an attitude.

7. We must be patient. So remember:
a. How long it took God to get you on the right track!
b. Teens are really adults who haven’t grown up yet.
c. Jesus stuck it out with His awkward band of disciples.
d. Patience is an evidence of Christ’s control in your life. Gal. 5:22–23; Phil. 4:6–7

8. We must not compare our ministry with others!!! 2 Cor. 10:7, 12. Remember, we are members of the Body of Christ and not everyone has the same gift nor do we even exercise the same gifts in the same way. We are responsible to God, so just keep on working with the Lord. 1 Cor. 4:5

9. We must still be “Learners” ourselves. Life is a school and as long as we are on earth, class is in session. Eph. 3:14–19; Phil. 2:13

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of one's attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past ... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our **Attitudes.**"

Chuck Swindoll

Galatians 6:7–9 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”

LAW #1

WE REAP ONLY WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN

What we reap, was planted either naturally or purposely, either by God or man, for either positive or negative results. We are benefactors of much for which we have extended no labor, but we enter into the labor of others. We are recipients also of the sowing of tares in the field; for what others do does affect us, and there is no way for us to avoid it.

LAW #2

WE REAP THE SAME IN KIND AS WE SOW

Whatever we sow, we reap; if we sow good, we will reap good. If we sow the evil, we will reap the evil.

LAW #3

WE REAP IN A DIFFERENT SEASON THAN WHEN WE SOW

We sow in one season; we reap in another. No harvest comes the moment the seed is planted, but it must await God's appointed time.

LAW #4

WE REAP MORE THAN WE SOW

No fact is more significant and sobering. When we sow the wind, we reap the whirlwind. When we sow good, we bountifully receive good from the hand of God. We receive from the hand of God who is debtor to no man, for the harvest is always greater than the seed planted. If this were not the case, no farmer would plant anything.

LAW #5

WE REAP IN PROPORTION AS WE SOW

If we sow sparingly, we reap sparingly; but if we sow bountifully, we reap accordingly. The more ground we sow, the greater harvest we will have.

LAW #6

WE REAP THE FULL HARVEST OF THE GOOD ONLY IF WE PERSEVERE; THE EVIL COMES TO THE HARVEST ON ITS OWN.

Weeds grow by themselves, but this is not true with the vegetables in the garden. These require much care.

LAW #7

WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT LAST YEAR'S HARVEST, BUT WE CAN ABOUT THIS YEAR'S

Last year is a fact of history that cannot be relived and about which we can do nothing. Our concern needs to be for what we are producing right now.

Some Great Quotes:

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he will never lose!

Jim Elliot

Live today as you shall wish you had lived at the Judgment Seat of Christ. unknown

There are really only two kinds of people in the world: Those who say to God during their lifetime "Thy will be done" and those who God says after one's life on earth is over "thy will be done."

C.S. Lewis

MY FRIEND

My Friend, I stand in Judgment now
And feel that you're to blame somehow.
On earth I walked with you day by day,
And never did you point The Way.
You knew the Lord in Truth and Glory,
But never did you tell the Story.
My knowledge then was very dim,
You could have led me straight to
Him.
You taught me many things, that's true,
I called you Friend and trusted you.
But I learned now that it's too late,
You could have kept me from this
fate.
We walked by day and talked by night,
And yet you showed me not a Light.
You let me live, and love and die,
You knew I'd never live on High.
Yes, I called you "Friend" in life,
And trusted you through joy and strife.
And yet, on coming to the End,
I cannot call you now, My Friend.

Written by Alison Nogle

BIBLICAL WARNINGS

A mandate for those seeking to follow the Lord.

Psalms 19:11 Moreover, by them (the Scriptures) Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Ephesians 5:15,16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Proverbs 4:23 NASB Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

James 4:1-4 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

1 Timothy 6:9,10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

II Corinthians. 2:11 NASB That no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Acts 20:29-31 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking [a]perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Romans 14:3,4, 10 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. 4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

II Corinthians 6:3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Psalms 81:11,12 NASB But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices.

Psalms 106:13–15 NASB They quickly forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, 14 but craved intensely in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 So He gave them their request, but sent a wasting disease among them. (Leanness to their souls)

1 John 2:15–17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

1 Corinthians 3:11–15 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

II Chronicles 16:9a For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Matthew 7:24–27 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken

him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

1 Timothy 4:7b,8 NASB On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Mark 10:43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Jeremiah 17:9,10 NASB The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds."

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

Proverbs 25:28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Corinthians 15:33 NASB Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Matthew 7:1–5 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

1 John 1:6, 8,10 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Hebrews 3:12,13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

James 1:6–8 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 2:1, 9 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

James 1:19–25 19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart..

Matthew 6:19–21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

James 3:1,2 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

II Peter 1:9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

I Timothy 6:3–5 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

II Timothy 4:3,4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Luke 12:48b For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

II Chronicles 16:9a For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Psalms 4:2 How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness And seek falsehood?

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Additional Ministry Principles

Understand your role in the "Priesthood of the Believer."

1 Peter 2:5

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Revelation 1:5c,6

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 15:16 NASB

To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God.

How does God want the believer to see him or herself? It's clear that we have a role to play with others like an Old Testament priest. This has a lot to do with character and with message. Never think you have to apologize for having a Bible lesson or spiritual talk or a time of prayer. As a matter of fact, as priests, you need to fulfill your role and be active in that position, even as one who stands in the gap for those you share life with

In **Hebrews 13:7**, God declares that elders (spiritual leaders) are to "keep watch over your souls." In other words spiritual leaders have a responsibility before God for the spiritual wellbeing of those under their leadership. This is also true of you as you work with young people. Your role with young people is not insignificant but rather is over flowing with significance. There is a crying need for more people to be in this place with young people. Unfortunately so many of those who work with young people don't even see themselves as "advocates with the Lord" for youth.

Use the easy four question evaluation process.

(It should be noted that evaluation does not have to be complicated or painful. The purpose for evaluation is to determine how God sees your ministry and what you can do to use your gifts and abilities more effectively.)

Four steps in evaluating an activity :

- 1) What was supposed to take place?
- 2) What actually did take place?
- 3) What was positive & What was negative about the experience?
- 4) What are the areas for improvement?
(For both planning and evaluation the WHY, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHO AND HOW questions are also a great way to plan and evaluate.)

Quotes: Inspirational / Motivational

"It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his neighbor. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid daily on my back , a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit -- immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."

~ C. S. Lewis "The Weight of Glory"

"What a person believes about Jesus Christ is the most important thing about them."

~ A.W. Tozer

"The better the man, the better the preacher.

When he kneels by the bed of the dying, or when he mounts the pulpit stairs, then every self-denial he has made, every Christian forbearance he has shown, every resistance to sin and temptation, will come back to him to strengthen his arms and give conviction to his voice. Likewise, every evasion of duty, every indulgence of self, every compromise with evil, every unworthy thought, word, or deed, will be there at the head of the pulpit stairs to meet the minister on Sunday morning, to take the light from his eye, the power from his brow, the ring from his voice, and the joy from his heart."

~ C. Swindoll – "Hand Me Another Brick"

Success is when preparation meets with opportunity.

“Expect great things from God, and attempt great things for God.” ~William Carey

“When we want to be something other than the thing God wants us to be, we must be wanting what, in fact, will not make us happy.”

~ C. S. Lewis

Ministering to those with serious medical issues

II Corinthians 12:9 My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Psalms. 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you.

12 Helpful Guidelines

1. **Be Honest** – Here are some things you could say to the terminally ill: I need your help on this, what does a person say to someone in your condition? (Allow them to talk)

2. **Be Compassionate** – Touch is important; touch feet and hands – Be upbeat but not flippant – **Read II Corinthians. 1:2–11.** Allow them to express their feelings. Listening could be your greatest gift to them. Don't condemn their emotions and never say that they're not healed because of their lack of faith. Avoid saying “I know how you feel.”

3. **Be Respectful** – Announce your entrance and identify yourself. If there is a “No Visitor” sign, check at the nurse's desk.

4. **Be Brief** – In time & words. Don't preach to them.

5. **Be Prepared** – Share Scripture that is/was meaningful to you when you were ill, such as:

6. **Bring Scriptures / Bring a Bible**
1 Peter 4:19 NASB Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

1 Peter 5:10 NASB After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Psalms 27:13 NASB I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalms 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalms 138:8 NASB The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting; do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Bring and read Christian articles on suffering and pain. For instance, check out the Daily Bread for something appropriate. Also go to www.rbc.net, click on “Discovery Series,” then scroll down the topics listing to booklets dealing with pain & suffering (*a great resource*). Download a section that you think would be good to read with them. (You might want to print out some additional materials to give to family members.)

7. **Be Useful** – Ask if there is anything they currently need or that you can do for them.

8. **Be Thoughtful** – Go the extra mile and find out what they need done at home but are unable to do now, like mow the lawn, feed the animals, etc. Then after they return home, have the church family provide meals, do dishes, vacuum, and other routine chores.

9. **Be Informative** – Share some good news from the church's ministry and church family.

10. **Be Encouraging** – Share some personal good news. Don't communicate shock or surprise. Don't get confidential with others in the hospital room. Recall God's faithfulness to you and to them in times past.

11. **Be Personal** – Pray for them even if the person is in a coma. Pray for the family.

12. **Ask Permission** to bring some Elders from the church to follow the instruction of the Scriptures (James 5:13–18) to anoint with oil for healing. Don't force this.

13. **Be Bold** – Ask them if they have any fears for the future and if they are ready to meet the Lord. Bedside conversions happen often with those facing death unprepared. Billy Graham's “Peace with God” is a great tract to use in a hospital setting.

Scriptures for Believers with serious health issues:

Deuteronomy 33:27

“The eternal God is a dwelling place, And underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, And said, ‘Destroy!’”

Hebrews 13:5b

He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,”

Job 13:15

“Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him.

II Corinthians 1:3,4a “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction”

Psalms 27:13 "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living."

I Peter 4:19 "Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."

II Corinthians 12:9

"And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Romans 15:13 "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

I Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Matthew 19:26 And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Psalms 33:18,19, Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness,

Psalms 42:5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.

Psalms 119:49,50 Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope. 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.

1 Peter 5:7 "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."

Psalms 34:17-19 "The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all."

Psalms 40:1-3 "I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the mire clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the Lord.

13 & 17, Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; Make haste, O Lord, to help me. 17 Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God."

Psalms 57:1,2 "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by. I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me."

Psalms 73:26 "My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Mark 9:24 "Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

Psalms 57:2

I will cry to God Most High, to God who accomplishes all things for me.

Psalms 138:8 "The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting;" Do not forsake the works of Your hands".

Hebrew 4:16 "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Lamentations 3:21-25 "This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. 22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." 25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him."

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Isaiah 43:1,2 "But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you."

Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:38,39 "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Additional Scriptures for ministering to the sick.

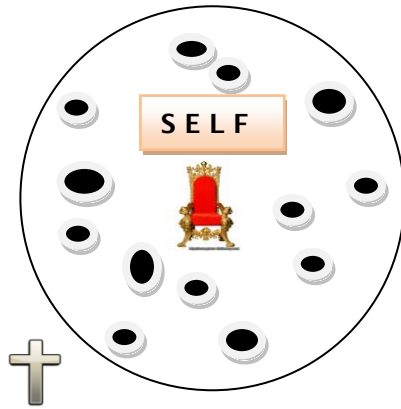
Psalms 23 1 Peter. 1:3-9 Matthew 19:26
John 16:33 Philippians 4:6-7 James 1:2-4
Hebrews 4:15-16; 12:6-7 Mark 2:1-12
Romans 5:3-4; 8:18, 28

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." C.S. Lewis

The Lordship of Christ factor

Three circles represent 3 types of people in the world.

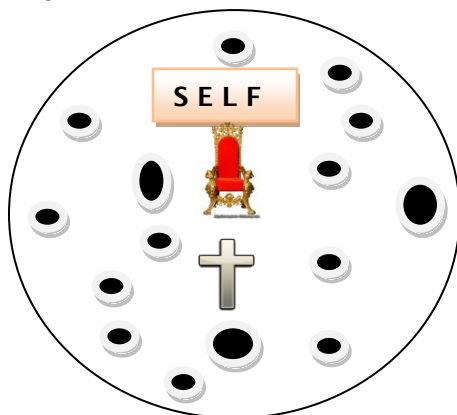
The first circle has self on the throne of life with Christ on the outside of that life. Every aspect of that life (represented by the black spots in the circles) is most often in disorder, frustrating and confusing. Fulfillment and meaning are illusive.



Eph. 2:12

“Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

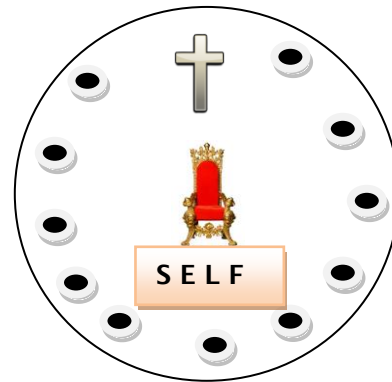
The second circle still has self on the throne of life, but now Christ is a part of that life but is subject to self. Life issues are still subject to circumstances and feelings with little harmony, peace, or satisfaction. Happiness is fleeting.



1 Cor. 3:1-3

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

The third circle has Christ on the throne of life with self at the foot of the throne under Christ’s control. All of life lies within the Lordship of Christ and fits in that life as He directs for His purpose bringing lasting satisfaction, contentment and joy.



2 Cor. 5:14-15

“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

We need to understand the Biblical Mandate for every believer.

Ephesians 4:17-24

“So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Questions — Which circle represents your life & where do you want to be?

Consider these additional Scriptures:

Ps 51, 73, 139:23-24; Pro. 4:23; Matt. 4:19, 5:2-16, 6:33, 7:24-27, 13:3-9, 18-23, 22:37, 39; John 15:1-16; Rom. 12:1-2, 13:11-14; Col. 3:1-17; Titus 2:11-14; James 4:1-10; 1 John 1:9, 2:15-17, 4:15-19

(From Holy Spirit booklet – Campus Crusade for Christ)

Community Engagement

CRITICAL QUESTION: How does your Church serve your community?

In other words, what are the bridges that your church has established with your community whereby they can be introduced to Jesus?

In thinking about how to serve your community, it is best to see the biblical mandate for reaching a community.

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Matthew 25:34–40

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Here are some ideas church leaders can work through in developing a ministry plan for serving their community.

FIRST, PRAY!!

With Leaders & Congregation

Consider doing a Prayer Walk through your community; you might even consider soliciting Prayer Requests from the homes in your community and then host a Community Prayer Day. This will also help you determine the needs in your community. Then pray and think about which needs your church could address in order to serve more effectively. Understanding needs is an expression of love, concern, interest, and value.

Short list of potential needs:

- Elderly shut-ins, widows, single parents, disabled, health issues, transportation
 - After-school tutoring/English-as-a-second-language
 - Serving the local school in the classroom, cafeteria, assemblies, in the school's music, sports, and drama departments
 - Jail ministry / Quilting ministry
- Additional potential community outreach arenas:
- After-school game ministry: Super Bowl, Final Four, Father/Son Golf Tournament, YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, soccer camp
 - Special Events / Once-a-month special dinner & program, financial planning, health issues, community concerns
 - Police & Firefighters focus & thank you
 - Easter, Christmas & Halloween ministries, Musicals on Christmas & Easter themes
 - Flowering plant gift to the homes around your church, newborn gift package

Take a look at these ministries listed below and see if your church might be interested in something like what they provide for community outreach.

- MOPS – www.mops.org
- Mainly Music – www.mainlymusic.org
- Pacific Camps – great before & after-school programs – for info contact Dave Galceran 503-351-2372 – www.pacificcamps.com
- Generation Alive – www.generationalive.org
- Reality Sports – www.realitysports.org

Something else to consider:

- Find out what other churches are doing to serve their community.
- Should every Church ministry have a community face to it? Women, Men, Youth, Children, small groups, etc.
- Recruit a person with vision & passion to be a COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR for your church.

One more thing — Often, connecting with your community in a neutral setting and focusing on needs, opportunities, and interests is a very helpful way in building a bridge.

The Local Church

The Biblical Mandate —

Hebrews 10:19–25

Therefore, brethren, having boldness[a] to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Example of the early Church

Acts 2:42, 44

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers..

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,.

The Function of the Church

Check out the following "one another" passages.

TOPICAL STUDY – ONE ANOTHER

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Philippians 2:3

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Colossians 3:9

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

Colossians 3:13

Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Romans 12:10 NASB

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

Romans 12:16 NASB

Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Romans 13:8

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Romans 14:13

Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Romans 14:19

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another

Romans 15:5

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

Romans 15:7 NASB

Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 12:25 NASB

So that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

Galatians 5:13

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:26

Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Galatians 6:1,2

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Ephesians 4:2

With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:21

Submitting to one another in the fear of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,

1 Thessalonians 4:9

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 NASB

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

II Thessalonians 1:3 NASB

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.

Hebrews 3:13

But exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24–25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

James 4:11

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

James 5:9

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

1 Peter 1:22

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

1 Peter 4:8 NASB

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

1 John 3:11

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1 John 3:23 NASB

This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:12

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Zechariah 8:16 NASB

These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates.

Ecclesiastes 4:9,10

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

Proverbs 27:17 NASB

Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Malachi 3:16

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name.

What a healthy Church looks like:



Why I Love the Local Church

by Pastor Jeff Moorehead

Oh, how I love the church! There is nothing like her in terms of her origin (founded by our Creator, Redeemer, and King Jesus), her mission (to provide the ultimate remedy of life for our ultimate disease of sin), and her viability (she survives and thrives beyond any and all obstacle or opposition).

Here are 8 reasons why I love the church and wanted to reiterate them so we can all grow in our love for the Lord's Church!

I love the church because:

1. It is guided by the greatest purpose ever devised: to glorify God by making more and better disciples of Jesus Christ which gives our life ultimate meaning and purpose.

2. It is populated by the greatest people ever assembled: Ex-sinners turned forgiven saints, fellow heirs, fellow members, fellow citizens, all justified, sanctified, and eventually glorified.

3. It is promised the greatest protection ever needed: Jesus said, the gates of Hades will not overpower it (Matt. 16:18b). We are part of a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:28).

4. It is driven by the greatest power ever available: the Holy Spirit who seals us, baptizes us, gifts us, energizes us, nourishes us, sustains us, perfects us, motivates us, produces fruit in us, and fills us with power and hope.

5. It is motivated by the greatest promises ever made: the gospel of God's grace overcomes our past sins, empowers our present ability to face trials and temptations, and guarantees our future life with Christ.

6. It is united by the greatest practice ever experienced: the love of God which was poured out into our hearts to share selflessly and mutually what is the best for others in truth, care, forgiveness, patience, grace, correction, encouragement, and service.

7. It is grounded in the greatest perspective ever known: the truth which conforms to the reality that God communicated to us about Himself (our Triune God), who we are, our core need, His gospel solution and the purpose of life.

8. BUT BY FAR and not even close, I love the church the most because it revolves around the greatest Person ever known: the Lord Jesus Christ, our gracious Savior, sympathetic High Priest, Sovereign Head of the church, Author and Perfector of faith, Chief Shepherd, and our coming King of kings and Lord of lords.