

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....1

Personal Testimony.....2-5

Witnessing .....6-11

Mentoring .....12-15

Spiritual Passion .....16-19

Spiritual Gifts .....20-24

Temperament .....25-30

Stewardship .....31-34

Love .....35-38

Answer Key .....39-40

Studying the Scriptures .....41

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE,  
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.  
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984  
International Bible Society. Used by  
permission of Zondervan Bible  
Publishers.

© 2012 by Jack Selcher

## Introduction

*Running to Win* is a four-part series to help you become more like Jesus. The books are *Starting Fast*, *Clearing Hurdles*, *Stretching Your Stride*, and *Handing Off*. You'll benefit most by studying them in that order.

Throughout the series you've been reading the New Testament and writing spiritual insights in the devotional journal in Appendix A of *Starting Fast*. The goal is to read through the New Testament by the time you complete *Handing Off*. The hope is that you'll form a life-long daily habit of reading the Scriptures and writing down your thoughts and personal applications! You remember best what passes over your lips (what you say) and fingertips (what you write). Knowing God's Word isn't sufficient. You have to apply it to your life to mature spiritually.

You've also been memorizing scripture related to each lesson (I know. Some of you have avoided it for three books now!). This discipline requires hard work motivated by a conviction that the benefits justify the time and effort. The core issue is, "*How much is victory over sin's power worth to you?*" Is it worth the energy required to hide God's Word in your heart (Psalm 119:11)? The strength of your desire to overcome sin is an accurate indicator of your spiritual health. Memorizing Scripture equips you not only to battle sin, but also to communicate God's Word more effectively to others.

God's plan for you is vastly bigger than ushering you through the pearly gates and into your prepared dwelling place. The success of his kingdom's expansion depends on an ongoing relay race in which you are a participant—Paul to Timothy to reliable men to other reliable men...to you...to other reliable persons (1 Timothy 2:2). You're running for the Lord Jesus and others, not

just yourself. You're running so that the whole relay team wins.

To win races, relay teams must hand off the baton properly. If one runner in the 400-meter relay drops the baton, four people lose. God entrusts you with specific resources and responsibilities so that those who ran the race before you, and you, and those who run after you all will share the same victory. The baton has been passed to you through generations of Christians stretching back to the first century. You certainly don't want to be the last link on a nearly 2000-year-old chain of believers, do you? Your mission is to hand the baton of faith to others and challenge them to do the same.

Churches exist to nurture believers and reach out to those who haven't yet believed. You can even impact those who haven't yet been born through your influence on those who have. God has equipped you to serve believers and not-yet-believers through your life experiences, the gospel, your own unique spiritual story, spiritual gifts, natural gifts, a God-chosen personality, spiritual passion, and material resources. In this book you'll learn how to hand off the faith to others.

You're part of a *team* that's running to win. God and others are depending on you. Don't blow the hand-off!

# Personal Testimony



**Share your progress carrying out your “Church Membership” action plan.**

**Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.**

### Who? Me? A Testimony?

Perhaps you think you don't have much of a spiritual story to tell. You weren't that bad before you received Christ, you aren't that good now, and it's been a struggle! Compared to those who can recount deliverance from alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, gambling, etc., your spiritual experience seems as unexciting as watching water drip from a leaky faucet. Unlike Saul of Tarsus, you haven't seen the risen Christ. You haven't heard God speak in an audible voice or seen even a five-second mini-vision in black and white. You're simply a “trust and obey” believer and at times feel decidedly inferior in even those two basics. Have you ever asked yourself, “Why would anyone be interested in my spiritual experience and because of it want to become a disciple of Christ?” Do you ever feel like your spiritual story isn't very exciting? Explain.

---

---

---

---

### The Way We Were

Many of us have forgotten or never experienced the relentless single-file march of an army of unsatisfying days lived out under sin's merciless control. Nothing changes but the date. No peace. No purpose. No hope. No fulfillment in this world and no claim to the next. Life is like a daily chase after the butterfly of good feelings. Although occasionally it is captured, it always escapes through a hole in the net. Tomorrow it must be pursued all over again.

Butterfly chasers aren't happy with life, but don't realize Christ and his church promise the purpose they've longed for. How does believing our story isn't important add to the problem?

---

---

---

### Write for Insight

Each of us benefits from thinking long and hard about how God has been at work in our lives. We aren't yet what we want to be, and our failures, like facial blemishes, are all too familiar. Nevertheless, we've probably moved farther from the spiritual starting line than we realize. How would writing down your personal testimony prepare you to share it more clearly and often?

---

---

---

### Hold the Testimony

When we were living for ourselves, we were blind to most of our faults. Now, like kittens with their eyes open, we see ourselves more clearly, and that alone is significant progress. God has chosen to store his living water in imperfect vessels still under construction. We're cracked and we leak, but God can still pour his living water through us to satisfy the spiritually thirsty. We're a work in progress, and Jesus gets all the credit for any improvement. Our role isn't to pretend we possess sinless perfection but to be transparent. Not only can't people relate to Never Fail Fred or Freda, it just simply isn't true. Any one of us would be utterly humiliated if Hollywood made a movie based on *all* our thoughts during the last year. I wouldn't attend the premiere! Would you attend yours?

## Your Story Matters

Your story will connect with the people who are like you. Persons who “aren’t that bad now,” and, for example, have never battled alcoholism, can relate to how Christ has worked in a “not so bad life” better than how he worked in the life of a converted alcoholic.

## One Theme and Three Sections

*Your* story can help open the eyes of not-yet-believers, but first you have to write it. Before you can do that, you need to pray and reflect on how God has been at work in your life. The whole process will probably take at least several hours, but the blessings that can result are beyond calculation. Try to organize your thoughts around a single theme, such as how your purpose or values have changed.

To communicate your story effectively, organize it into three sections:

- 1) What your life was like before knowing Jesus personally.
- 2) Spell out how you came to know Christ, so others will know how to receive him too.
- 3) Explain how receiving Christ has changed how you relate to God, others, and yourself.

A carefully prepared testimony can have more impact than the best music or sermon. Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church, often pauses in the middle of a sermon for someone who has prepared ahead of time to share how the truth Rick is expounding has made a difference in his/her life. The testimony, like a hammer, drives Rick’s point into the congregation!

I’m including my testimony to illustrate how you might organize your own. When you read it, look for the dominant theme.

“Spiritual things weren’t always important to me. My parents took me to church three

times a week for at least twelve years, but other things were more important.

Outside the church building, I hardly ever thought about God and never prayed voluntarily or read the Bible on my own. My purpose was to excel in sports and my studies to win the love and acceptance of others. I set goals in both areas and sacrificed a lot to attain them, but discovered that achieving them didn’t bring lasting satisfaction. The thought of dying scared me and a cloud of guilt hung over me. I believed in heaven but had no assurance I’d go there when I died.

In my church I often heard that Jesus had died on a cross to pay the penalty for my moral and spiritual imperfections. I knew I wasn’t perfect, but I didn’t understand how Jesus’ death solved the problem. I pictured his death as a down payment on my passage to heaven. I thought I had to make regular payments by the good things I did.

During the fall of 1968 as a result of hearing 1 John 5:11-12 quoted, I understood I didn’t have to make any payments at all. Jesus had paid the penalty for my moral imperfections *in full*. Those verses say: “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” That evening in my dorm room, I trusted in Jesus’ sacrifice *alone* to give me right standing with God and invited him into my life. That evening was a turning point. Because God loved and accepted me as I was, I *wanted* to do what pleased him. Little by little love displaced fear as a dominant motivator in my spiritual life.

My fear of death greatly diminished. God lifted the weight of guilt for my moral failures when I trusted Jesus’ death as payment in full. I had assurance that I’d go to heaven because I knew I could trust Jesus to keep his promise to take me there.



In the mid 1970s at Penn State University the author was sharing his personal spiritual story with two graduate students in their dormitory room. When he had minutes earlier requested permission to share the gospel with them, they refused. He then asked whether he could share how Christ had made a difference in his own life. Since that seemed safe to the two, they agreed. Jack told how for years he had lived under the slavery of setting goals, sacrificing to reach them, experiencing no lasting fulfillment, and then, starting the whole never-ending process again. He pointed to Jesus as the one who had set him free from that way of life. One of the students smiled, looked at his roommate who was fidgeting in his seat, and said, "He's talking about you!"

Your story can similarly impact others whose hearts the Holy Spirit has prepared. Not only will it influence *them*, but sharing it will stoke your own spiritual fires by reminding *you* anew how much Christ has done.



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

---



---



---

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

---



---



---



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

---



---



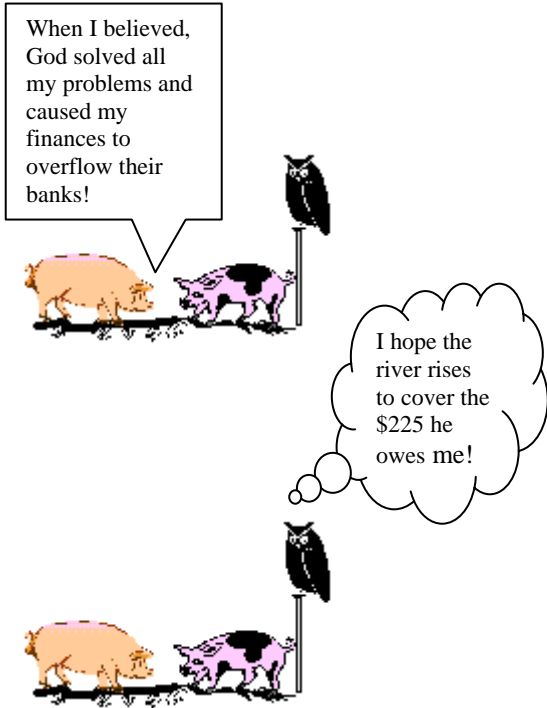
---



---

**Memory Verse**

Romans 1:16 – I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.



## Witnessing



**Share your progress carrying out your “Personal Testimony” action plan.**

**Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.**

### Preparing to Fish

Light attracts some fish. Jesus said, “Let your \_\_\_\_\_ before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). How does this verse describe how and why we should live?”

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To shine our brightest, we must be clean, bold enough to stand for Jesus in the darkness, and connected to God’s infinitely great power supply.

Light bulbs get dirty. So do we. Clean bulbs give maximum illumination. So do clean Christians. When our sins (our self-seeking words, attitudes, and actions) dim our light, God’s all-purpose cleanser is confession. If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is faithful and just and will \_\_\_\_\_ us and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Confession includes agreeing with God that we’ve sinned, changing our attitude, and forsaking our sins. To maximize your shine for Jesus, confess your sins as soon and often as God convicts you.

Light bulbs have to be bold enough to shine all alone in the darkness. Letting our light shine will *always* seem risky. Paul let his light shine because \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:16). Our motivation to illuminate our surroundings with Christ’s light is \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:14). Firemen leave their stations and lifeguards their chairs to rescue the perishing. No risk—no rescue.

Jesus left the safest spot in the universe to come to earth to \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 19:10). Who’s responsible to continue that mission (John 20:21)? \_\_\_\_\_ You can’t fulfill it while remaining in a *safe, comfortable* place. Jesus said, “Come, \_\_\_\_\_ me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

Light bulbs need a source of power and so do Christ’s witnesses. That source is \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:8). How do people come to faith in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:3, John 3:6-8) \_\_\_\_\_? Why, then, is prayer absolutely *vital* for effective evangelism? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

According to Hebrews 11:6, we please God and experience his power through \_\_\_\_\_. That means trusting in his power and acting on his character and promises. When we’re controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, God will use us to seek and save the lost.

### Fishing Styles

Not all fishermen fish alike. Some use fly casting equipment, whereas others use spinning, spin casting, or bait casting outfits. Not everyone evangelizes the same way either. Scripture models at least 6 ways to reach people:

**Direct Method** - In Acts 2, Peter’s preaching was as subtle as a sledgehammer! Some people respond best to the gospel when they’re confronted courageously and directly with their sin and need to repent. Direct evangelists explain the gospel and challenge others to receive Christ as Forgiver and Leader *now*. God may have equipped you with the personality, gifts, and desire to use this approach.

**Rational Method** - In Acts 17 Paul reasoned with the Jews and God-fearing Greeks in Athens, “explaining and proving”

Christ's resurrection. Rational evangelists study the evidence for the resurrection and find answers to the questions skeptics commonly ask. Paul Little's *Know Why You Believe* and Josh McDowell's *Evidence That Demands a Verdict, More Than a Carpenter* and other books will equip you to defend the faith. Does this style appeal to you?

**Personal Experience Method** - John 9 records Jesus' healing of a blind beggar. The Pharisees asked him what he thought about his healer. In verse 25 he said, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" A personal experience evangelist tells the difference Jesus has made in his/her life. Many can share dramatic stories of personal transformation. Is that you?

**Relationship Method** - Jesus delivered a man tormented by an unclean spirit and told him, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you" (Mark 5:19). He told him to share his faith with those close to him. Relationship evangelism is based on living out the faith before unbelieving friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors. Before those individuals will listen to the words of the gospel, they must experience the love on which it's based.

**Come and See Method** - After a long conversation with Jesus the Samaritan woman became convinced that He was the Son of God. She left her water pots and ran into the city. She begged the people to come to the well and hear Jesus for themselves. They did, and many believed in Him (John 4:39). She was a "come and see" evangelist. She couldn't share the message effectively, but she invited those she knew to hear someone who could.

**Servant Method** - Dorcas impacted her city through kind deeds (Acts 9:36). She made clothing for the poor and gave it away in Christ's name. Through her actions she pointed persons to the God who filled her heart with love and could do the same for them. If you have gifts of mercy, helps,

hospitality, giving or encouragement, this may be your style.

#### Which style appeals most to you?

Put a 1 before your primary fishing style and a 2 before your secondary style.

- Direct Method
- Rational Method
- Personal Experience Method
- Relationship Method
- Come and See Method
- Servant Method

#### Casting

Timing is critical to fishing *and* evangelistic effectiveness. Fish bite better during certain times, days and seasons than others. During times of stress, great problems, and upheaval, persons are more receptive to the gospel than when everything is going smoothly.

Many don't fish nearly as often as they'd like because of the difficult transition from the chores to the shores—they just don't get around to it. We don't evangelize as much as we'd like because it's hard to move from small talk to God talk.

Certain questions can help you bridge the conversation from the weather, sports, etc, to spiritual things. They include:

1. Especially when you know someone is going through a tough time, ask, "*Do you feel a need to be closer to God?*" If the answer is "Yes," say, "Let me show you how you can be," and then share the gospel.

2. *Why do you think people feel so empty, even when they have so much?* Here's an opportunity to tell how Jesus has brought meaning to your life and filled up the empty spot by sharing your personal testimony.

3. *Do you ever wonder if there is an overall purpose and meaning in life? What do you think it is?* Here's another opportunity to share your personal testimony!

4. *Do you think faith in Jesus Christ spoils or enriches someone's life? Why? Ask, "May I share how faith has enriched my life?" Share personal testimony.*

5. If they attend a church service with you or other kind of outreach event, ask, "*What did you think of the message?*" After their response, ask, "*Have you made the wonderful discovery of knowing Christ personally?*" If the answer isn't, "Yes," ask, "*Would you like to?*" If the response is positive, share *Connecting with God*.

6. Talk about some need that has become obvious such as a lack of purpose, fear or loneliness and share how Christ has met that need in your life.

Evangelist Bill Fay asks the following questions in sequence:

1. *Do you go to church anywhere?*

2. *Do you have any spiritual beliefs? If he knows they do, he says, "Tell me about your spiritual beliefs."* No matter what they say, don't argue.

3. *To you, who is Jesus?*

4. *Do you believe in heaven and hell?*

5. *If you died today, where would you go? Why?* This is an indirect, excellent question to determine if someone is trusting in his own goodness or in what Christ has done for him on the cross.

6. If the person believes God will let him into heaven based on his performance, ask, "*If what you believe isn't true, would you want to know it?*" If the reply is "Yes," share *Connecting with God*. If the answer is "No," say nothing. Quite likely his curiosity will lead him to ask something like, "Well, aren't you going to tell me?"

### Hooking and Reeling Them in

The essence of the gospel can be explained very briefly as two things to know and two things to do. The first thing we need to know is that we're sinners because we can't measure up to the standard Jesus set when he walked on earth. The second is that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave on the third day, showing God was satisfied with that payment.

The first thing to do is turn from our own self-centered path in life to go God's way. The second is to invite Jesus Christ into our life to be our personal Forgiver and Leader.

When you're sharing the gospel, just read "*Connecting with God*" to the individual. It's available free in a pocket-sized version from: Jack Selcher, 811 Keckler Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. 717-564-6673. e-mail [johnselcher@gmail.com](mailto:johnselcher@gmail.com)

## CONNECTING WITH GOD

### 1. MAN'S ORIGINAL CONDITION

In the beginning man lived in perfect harmony with God and carried out His will flawlessly (Genesis 1-2).

### 2. SIN DESTROYED PERFECT HARMONY

Man and woman deliberately defied God's command and chose their own way. (Genesis 3).

#### SIN Is Living For MYSELF

Isaiah 53:6 - We all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. SIN is a rebellious attitude against the Captain of our "ship." We don't want anyone to tell us what to do – not even God.

#### SIN Is Universal

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Jesus' life is the moral standard against which we're measured. Every person on earth falls short of his standard.

### 3. BECAUSE OF SIN WE ARE:

#### Separated from God

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear (Isaiah 59:1-2).

#### Spiritually Dead

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins (Ephesians 2:1).

### Already Condemned

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son (John 3:18).

#### **Sin separates us from God**

### 4. JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR OUR SIN

#### Jesus Is God's Provision

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

**Jesus died, was buried and rose again the third day.**

#### There's No Other Way

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

### JESUS IS THE ONE WAY BACK TO PERFECT HARMONY WITH GOD.

### 5. WE RECEIVE GOD'S PROVISION [JESUS] BY REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

Mark 1:15 - "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

**a. Repentance means turning from self-centered to God-centered living and being willing to do what he wants.**

**b. Faith means receiving Christ, God's provision for our sin.**

1) To believe in Christ means to receive him.

2) But as many as received him, to them

gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12).

3) Revelation 3:20 pictures receiving Christ: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me."

**Only you can open the door of your life to Jesus Christ.**

**Opening the door means:**

1. Being willing to follow Jesus instead of your own selfish desires [Repent]. God gives the desire and ability to obey.
2. Believing that God forgives you, not because of how good you are, but because Jesus paid 100% of the penalty for your sins on the cross [Believe the gospel].

**Have you opened the door of your life to Jesus in this way?**

**You can through the following prayer:**

LORD JESUS, THANK YOU FOR DYING ON THE CROSS IN MY PLACE AND TAKING MY SIN, DEATH, AND JUDGMENT UPON YOURSELF. I OPEN THE DOOR OF MY LIFE TO YOU. I WANT YOU TO COME INTO MY LIFE AND TAKE CONTROL. THANK YOU FOR FORGIVING MY SINS AND MAKING ME A CHILD OF GOD. I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU. AMEN.

**Does that prayer express your heart's desire?** If it does, would you like to use it to invite Jesus to come into your life as your Forgiver and Leader?

The moment you open the door to Jesus you receive his life. You are born again. You can know that Jesus came into your life. What does he promise he will do in Revelation 3:20 if you open the door? You can take Jesus at his word. Nothing is more certain!

Don't expect a wonderful feeling inside. God honors faith. Don't depend on feelings. In 1 John 5:11-12 God promises eternal life to all who have Jesus, the Son.

If you have Jesus, you have eternal life. Take God's word for it!

**CHRISTIAN GROWTH BASICS**

1. Read the Bible daily. Begin with Matthew. Write briefly in a notebook what you've learned and will try to apply to your life (1 Peter 2:2).
2. Pray daily asking Jesus to control you and show you how to apply the Bible to your life to make you more like him. Pray about all your concerns (Philippians 4:6-7).
3. Every Sunday attend Sunday school and worship (Hebrews 10:24-25; Luke 4:16). Join a discipleship group in your church.
4. Share your time, talents, and treasures cheerfully. Jesus wants to serve others through you. Tell others how you received him and the difference he has made in your life.
5. Moment by moment yield to the control of the Holy Spirit of Christ who lives in you.



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

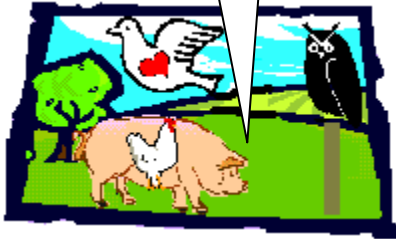
---

---

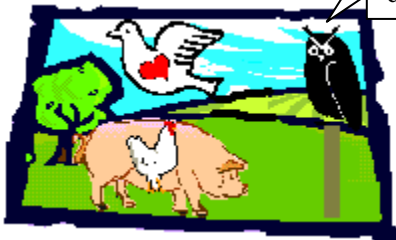
**Memory Verse**

Matthew 4:19 – “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

Witness?  
This pigskin  
is filled with  
leghorn!



Swap it for  
the love of  
God's  
dove!



# Mentoring



**Share your progress carrying out your “Witnessing” action plan.**

**Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.**

## Why Mentor?

Christian mentoring empowers other persons by sharing God-given resources to multiply workers for the spiritual harvest fields.<sup>1</sup> All believers have divinely granted assets that can help others serve Jesus better.

Christianity is best absorbed through imitation. A mentor is a model, albeit not a perfect one. Timothy witnessed Paul’s teaching, way of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, faith, patience, \_\_\_\_\_, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings (2 Timothy 3:10-11). Jesus appointed twelve men that they might be \_\_\_\_\_ him (Mark 3:14). By watching and imitating him they learned how to apply faith and obedience to all of life. His life was their textbook. He challenged them to live their lives for the Father and showed them how.

## The Impact of Mentoring

Andrew received no headlines. He and Barnabas were lesser lights of the Christian team, but, oh, how essential! Andrew brought \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus (John 1:40-42) and Barnabas mentored \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 11:25-26).

In the 1800s Edward Kimball led Dwight L. Moody to Christ and taught him in his Sunday school class. God used Moody to reach millions for Christ in North America and Europe. Moody influenced Reverend F. B. Meyer who touched Pastor J. Wilber Chapman who in turn influenced Billy Sunday. Sunday’s ministry produced a group of praying men in Charlotte, North Carolina, who invited evangelist Mordecai

Ham to speak at the crusade at which Billy Graham came to Christ. This “influence chain” can be traced back to Edward Kimball.<sup>2</sup> What does God want to do through you?

## Swelling the Master’s Convoy

Knowing God’s Word isn’t our ultimate objective. Legions of demons could score 100% on a Bible content test, but their application is zero. We don’t want to imitate *them!* One of the goals of mentoring is to help believers establish disciplines that nourish faith and obedience. Jesus said that the wise person hears his words and puts them into \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 7:24). The challenge is to transform typical Christians into committed ones. What are the characteristics of a committed Christian?

## The Committed Christian Life

The Holy Spirit, responding to human faith, empowers the Christian life. Such faith reveals its presence by self-sacrificing, love-motivated living for God’s glory. The following disciplines characterize Jesus’ life on earth and those who are empowered by his Spirit. Mentors teach them through word and example. The acrostic DISCIPLES summarizes them:

*D*evotions ( regular Bible reading and prayer). John 15:7 describes this as

---

*I*nvests time, talents, and treasures to further God’s kingdom. In 2 Corinthians 5:15 this is described as \_\_\_\_\_ ing for Christ. God will reward believers who are \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 19:17) in the way they manage these resources. Those who give themselves \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord will also give their resources to meet others’ needs (2 Corinthians 8:1-7).

**Small** group participant. In a small group, believers can \_\_\_\_\_ one another (John 13:34-35), \_\_\_\_\_ together (Acts 2:46), \_\_\_\_\_ God together (Acts 2:47), and through it, \_\_\_\_\_ and proclaim the good news (Acts 5:42).

**Congregational** Worship participant. We must not give up \_\_\_\_\_ together because this is a practical way to \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Hebrews 10:25).

**Involved** in loving ministry. God has given us a \_\_\_\_\_ to be used to minister to others (1 Timothy 4:14).

**Practical** knowledge and application of Scriptures. Mature believers are well grounded in God’s Word and can \_\_\_\_\_ good from evil (Hebrews 5:14).

**Living sacrifice.** Giving God our \_\_\_\_\_ is our spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1). In Luke 9:23 this is described as denying ourselves and taking up our \_\_\_\_\_ daily.

**Empowered** by the Holy Spirit and prayer. The Holy Spirit gives \_\_\_\_\_ to be Christ’s witnesses (Acts 1:8) and leads believers (Galatians 5:18). The prayer of a righteous man is \_\_\_\_\_ and effective (James 5:16).

**Shares** Christ with others. Committed believers work in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ field (Matthew 9:38).

**Major on the Fundamentals**

The fundamental faith builders are

\_\_\_\_\_ and the ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 6:4). The Bible provides nourishment, direction, and values. Disciples must hear (Romans 10:17), read (1 Timothy 4:13), study (2 Timothy 2:15), memorize (Psalm 119:11), meditate on (Psalm 1:2) and apply it (James 1:22). Teaching these disciplines is an important part of mentoring.

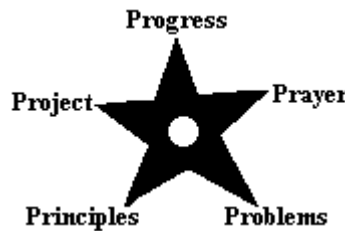
Prayer demonstrates our dependence on God. Its primary motivation isn’t to *get* something, but to *become* something— more like Jesus. We must teach believers to play all the keys on the instrument of prayer, including exalting God for who he is and what he has done; trusting in Jesus, no matter what; acknowledging our sins; surrendering to God and his purpose for our lives; thanking him for what he has done; and asking him to supply what we and others need.

**Choosing Someone to Mentor**

Unless you’ve discovered how to recycle your hours, you can only mentor one person at a time. That’ll take about twelve months. Choose someone who is faithful, available, teachable, spiritually hungry, accountable and open to change. Such a person does assigned tasks and studies the Scriptures on his/her own.

Mentoring is intensely relational. That’s why males should mentor males, and females, other females. You don’t need to add fuel to the fires of sexual temptation through the emotional closeness developed by mentoring someone of the opposite sex.

**What to Do**



The gist of mentoring is spending two hours a week with an individual emphasizing five areas.

The first four (Progress, Principles,

Problems, and Prayer) will consume an hour and the Project will consume another hour.

1. Progress – Check whether the assigned lesson has been completed, the assigned verses memorized, and at least five chapters/week read in the New Testament. Lead the way by doing all these yourself. Lovingly confront when assignments aren't completed. Cease mentoring those who won't do assignments.
2. Principles – Communicate biblical principles through the following sequence:
  - 1) *The Running to Win Series* – Assign one lesson/week for 32 weeks. When you meet, answer any questions. This series can be downloaded from [www.swatarachurchofgod.org](http://www.swatarachurchofgod.org). Click REAL LIFE Resources/Discipleship Resources.
  - 2) *Studying the Scriptures* – one week. This lesson is found at the end of "Handing Off." Assign Luke 7:1-10 and Ephesians 2:1-10 to practice this method.
  - 3) *Life's Ultimate Question* – Assign one lesson/week for six weeks. Answer any questions. This series can be downloaded from [www.swatarachurchofgod.org](http://www.swatarachurchofgod.org). Click REAL LIFE Resources and Life's Ultimate Question. It will equip the one you mentor to defend and communicate the faith.
  - 4) *We Believe* – Assign three lessons a week for six weeks. Order this book by calling 717-652-0255
3. Problems – Listen to his/her problems and suggest biblical solutions. Don't try to project perfection. Be real. Everyone has problems. If you want him to share

his, you have to share yours. There are no whole people. Show how to glue God's promises to problems. Beware of fostering spiritual dependence.

4. Prayer - Prayer will bond you to the person you're mentoring. Over the twelve months of the mentoring relationship, as you pray together, you'll be demonstrating how to pray.
5. Practical Projects – Go together in witnessing, ministry, and encouraging others. This is the best way to develop ministry skills in another. The temptation is to tell others what they should do without showing them how. Show believers how to do something with their faith.

Use the Spiritual Journey Tracker to chart spiritual progress. Enter the date your mentoree begins or completes each, as applicable. If there are items you as a mentor haven't completed, work on them while you mentor someone else. You can't lead others where you haven't been!

**Spiritual Journey Tracker**

- Has assurance of salvation
- Knows how to deal with sin
- Has been baptized
- Participates in Lord's Supper & Footwashing
- Reads, applies the Scriptures and prays at least 5 days/week
- Memorizes and meditates on Scripture regularly

- \_\_\_ Regulars participates in a small group
- \_\_\_ Attends worship regularly
- \_\_\_ Knows how to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_ Demonstrates fruit of the Spirit
- \_\_\_ Has joined the church
- \_\_\_ Faithful steward of time, talents and treasures
- \_\_\_ Has shared the gospel with a non-Christian
- \_\_\_ Has shared 3-minute personal faith story with a non-Christian
- \_\_\_ Has led another person to faith in Christ
- \_\_\_ Has read the New Testament
- \_\_\_ Has read the Old Testament
- \_\_\_ Ministers to others based on passion, temperament and spiritual gifts
- \_\_\_ Mentors someone else

---



---



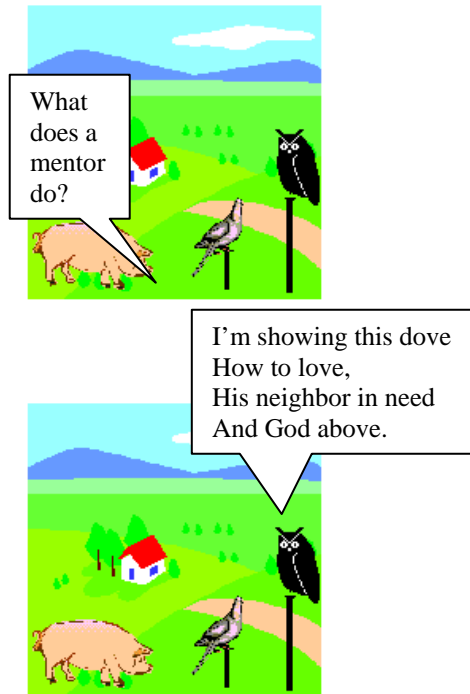
---



---

**Memory Verse**

2 Timothy 2:2 - And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.



Literature Cited

1. Paul D. Stanley & J. Robert Clinton, Connecting: The Mentoring Relationships You Need to Succeed in Life (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1992), p. 115.
2. Waylon B. Moore, Multiplying Disciples, (Missions Unlimited, Tampa, Florida 1981), pp. 16-17.



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

---



---



---

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

---



---



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

---

Spiritual Passion



Share your progress carrying out your "Mentoring" action plan.

Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.

Who Wants to Make a Difference?

Are you satisfied to live and die without leaving a ripple on the pond of life? I doubt it! You want your life to count for something (unless you're very unusual), but it's unlikely your schoolwork or job will fulfill that desire. In fact, you probably don't even like your homework or job! We aren't talking tolerate here, we're talking like. Has your job or schoolwork given you any sense of significance? Explain.

Four horizontal lines for writing.

A Vital Part of an Eternal Plan

God's game plan for history includes you. You are a starter on his team. You're probably not the quarterback, but you have an important role. On God's team the cheerleaders are as important as the "stars." Their encouragement is responsible for many wins that would otherwise be losses. God has a purpose for everything and everyone. His lineup contains no designated pew potatoes, spectators, or critics. Read Matthew 25:14-30. How serious is God about receiving a return on his investment in you? What does Jesus want you to do?

Three horizontal lines for writing.

God created geese for water, deer for forests, groundhogs for fields, squirrels for trees, and hawks for the skies. He made you to extend his k \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ on earth (Matthew 6:10). As he gave special skill, ability, and knowledge to B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and

O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ to build the temple (Exodus 31:1-6), he has hardwired you with talents, desires, and abilities to build his church! He's depending on and expecting you to use them to serve him.

Bodybuilding Equipment

Paul compares the church to the human \_ \_ \_ \_ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Each part performs a necessary function. Coordinated effort brings maximum results. Sprinters wear spiked shoes on their feet, but need ears to hear the starter's gun. Public speakers need a brain and tongue that function under pressure. Kidneys can't make a three point shot with a basketball, but good luck to your hands if your kidneys haven't been filtering blood for the last two weeks!

You need to find your place in the body of Christ and work together with other believers. In the process you'll experience deep satisfaction.

You are part of God's "bodybuilding" equipment. He has resourced you with spiritual passion, spiritual gifts, and an appropriate temperament, so you can contribute to the health and growth of the church. These three complement each other. In this lesson you'll identify your spiritual passion. The next two lessons will help you discover your spiritual gifts and temperament.

Spiritual Passion Defined

Spiritual passion is a valuable guide to the "body-building" ministry to which God is calling you. Spiritual gift inventories are a recent development. For over 1900 years no such tools existed. The key has always been need and passion. Your ministry is where your desire to serve intersects the needs of the church and world. The key question is, "What do you want to do for Jesus?" What makes the spiritual wind chimes of your heart sing? What drives you? What are you internally motivated to do? What excites

you? What fulfills you? If your ministry is consistent with what gives you the most joy and what you're born to do, you'll experience rich fulfillment through it.

I experienced a strong desire to teach the Bible long before a spiritual gifts inventory told me I had the gift of teaching. An inventory measures our passion for specific areas of service. Ministry desire is from God and is present in every believer.

### Passion-Driven Ministry

Many Christians carry the mistaken notion that whatever they want to do for Jesus couldn't *possibly* be what God wants. They think what he has in mind has to be painful, obnoxious, distasteful, and the very last thing they want to do. According to this logic, if my passion is to teach elementary-aged kids in my church in Harrisburg, God probably wants me to evangelize AIDS victims in southern Africa. Not so! Our spiritual passion is like a flashing arrow pointing toward our ministry. "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:12-13). God constantly expends his unlimited energy to make you spiritually fruitful. He gives you the desire and ability to accomplish his will. He gives spiritual passion. Paul's passion was to present every man \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Colossians 1:28). He wrote, "To this end I labor, struggling with all his \_\_\_\_\_, which so powerfully \_\_\_\_\_ in me" (Colossians 1:29).

### Passion Points toward Your Ministry

Some persons prefer to work with people, some with things and others with information. A friend, who attended seminary with me, excelled in Hebrew and Greek. He spent a year as a pastoral intern in Idaho, and, in the process, discovered his

passion *wasn't* pastoral ministry. He prefers to work with information. In 1982 he joined Wycliffe. Since then he has translated much of the Scriptures into the language of the Quechua in Peru. He relates with people but primarily works with information. He is touching thousands for Christ in a ministry in which his desires and the world's needs meet.

Your passion might change as you mature. Jim Moss, Sr., Associate for Church Planting and Renewal for the Eastern Regional Conference of the Churches of God, had a passion to minister to youth when he began to work for the Conference in 1977. Less than fifteen years later his passion became planting churches.

You may have a burden to work with infants, young children, Junior High, Senior High, young adults, adults, or the elderly. Perhaps you're highly motivated to help singles, couples or young families. The church's task is to fulfill the Great Commission, motivated by love for God and others, and powered by prayer. Every ministry is a piece of the bigger picture of fulfilling the Great Commission. **What do you want to do more than anything for Jesus Christ that will help make more and better disciples?**

One practical way to discover your passion is to consider a list of all the ministries your church offers and a description of each. If your church doesn't yet have such a list, developing one should be a priority. In general, the list includes ministries of the word and practical service. Which ones are most attractive? God might be giving you a passion to begin a ministry that isn't yet on the list. Your pastor would probably love to hear about it. A suggestive list of ministries follows. The list was adapted from "New Providence Church of God Ministry Opportunities." First, put a check in front of all that appeal to you, even though your church might not yet have these ministries. Second, review the ministries you've

marked, and circle the four ministries of *greatest* interest.

### Ministries

**Christian Education:**  Nursery Attendant  
 Preschool Teacher  Elementary  
 Teacher  Middle School Teacher  High  
 School Teacher  Young Adult Teacher  
 Adult Teacher  Teacher Training  
 Instructor  Discipleship Training  
 Discipleship Training Coordinator  
 Mentoring Ministry  Teach Home  
 Bible Studies for Believers  Department  
 Director  Christian Education Director  
 Vacation Bible School Teacher  
 Vacation Bible School Helper  
 Vacation Bible School Director  
 Pioneer Club Worker (Youth Work)  
 Pioneer Club Leader  Camp Ministry  
 Library/Resource  Help Place Others  
 in Ministry  Children's Christmas/Easter  
 Program Director  Children's  
 Christmas/Easter Program Worker  
 Develop Leaders in the Church

**Worship:**  Song Leader  Choir Leader  
 (adult)  Choir Leader (children)  Choir  
 member  Instrumentalist ( Orchestra  
 Band  Piano  Organ  Keyboard)  
 Vocalist ( Worship Team  Soloist)  
 Worship Leader  Songwriter  
 Drama ( Director  Player  
 Scriptwriter  Costumes)  Public  
 Scripture Reading  Public Prayer  
 Speaking/Preaching  Usher  
 Worship intercessor (Praying during  
 service outside of sanctuary)  Junior  
 Church Director  Junior Church Worker  
 Parking Lot Greeter  Inside Greeter  
 Answer Newcomers' Questions

**Communications/Media:**  Artist  
 Photographer  Printing  
 Audiovisual Technician  Sound  
 Technician  Calligraphy  Preparing  
 Teaching Aids  Desktop Publishing  
 Reporter to Newspaper  Send  
 Bulletins to Absentees  Phone Absentees  
 Mail Cards

**Building/Grounds:**  Custodial Services  
 Lawn Care  Color Plantings  
 (Spring/Fall)  Painting  Carpentry  
 Plumbing  Electrical  Mechanical  
 Carpet Cleaning  Roofing  
 Locks/Security  Snow Removal  
 Trim Shrubbery  Weed

**Outreach:**  Visitation ( Hospital  
 Prospective Members  Nursing Home  
 Prison  Homebound  Grieving)  
 Feed the hungry  Evangelism  
 ( Individual  Group)  Evangelistic  
 Home Bible Study ( Host  Leader )  
 Counseling ( Spiritual  
 Psychological  Grief  Substance  
 Abuse  Financial  Premarital  
 Marriage)  College Campus Ministry  
 Benevolent Ministry  Missions  
 Greeting Newcomers  Outreach to  
 Singles  Servant Evangelism Project  
 Coordinator  Servant Evangelism  
 Participant  Evangelism Training  
 Coordinator  Evangelism Trainer  
 Evangelistic Event Coordinator  
 Social visits to Church Visitors  
 Evangelistic visits to Church Visitors  
 Coordinate Sports Ministry Outreach  
 Organize Seeker Sunday School  
 Classes/Small Groups  Coordinate  
 "Defending the Faith" Ministry  Help  
 Others Communicate Their Personal  
 Testimony Effectively  Alpha Course  
 Coordinator  Alpha Course Leader  
 Alpha Course Host  Lead Recovery  
 Group  Youth Outreach Leader  Youth  
 Outreach Worker  Entertain unbelievers  
 Show Evangelistic Videos

**Social and Hospitality:**  Social Program  
 Planner  Banquet Coordinator  Food  
 Preparation  Cleanup after Church  
 Dinners  Light Refreshment Service  
 Decorating  Host for Guest Speakers  
 Lodging for Missionaries  Retreat  
 Planning  Serve at Hospitality Table  
 Sports Event Planner  Provide  
 Transportation  Coordinate funeral  
 dinners

**Youth Ministry:**  Lead Discussions

**Running to Win**

\_\_ Direct Projects \_\_ Direct Recreation  
\_\_ Bible Quizzing Coach

**Intercession:** \_\_ Pray for the Lost by Name  
\_\_ Pray for Church Leaders by Name  
\_\_ Pray for Church Members by Name  
\_\_ Pray for New Believers by Name  
\_\_ Pray for Missionaries by Name

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Now that you've reviewed the list of potential ministries, define your spiritual passion in 25 or fewer words:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Memory Verse**

Romans 12:11 - Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

**Handing Off**

Weeeeeeee!  
I dread  
teaching  
Junior High!



Look for ministry you can do with zeal instead of squeal.





**Share your progress carrying out your “Spiritual Passion” action plan.**

**Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.**

### **Getting the Drift of Spiritual Gifts**

Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities to serve him. The Holy Spirit distributes them to believers as he chooses (1 Corinthians 12:11). They’re different from the natural and acquired abilities that unbelievers also possess. Natural and acquired abilities in athletics, art, music, business, accounting, advertising, agriculture, architecture, computer science, cooking, electronics, engineering, auto repair, industrial arts, marketing, craftsmanship, medicine, and acting, among others, are also useful in God’s service. Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again (2 Corinthians 5:15). God gives all believers gifts, abilities, and resources to be used to glorify Jesus Christ.

### **Interdependent Ministry**

There’s no single spiritual gift that all believers possess. In 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 Paul asks, “Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?” The expected answer to all these questions is, “No!” The distribution of spiritual gifts demonstrates that the parts of Christ’s body, the church, are interdependent.

### **Your Church Needs Your Gift(s)**

Every part of the human body contributes to the well-being of the whole. No parts are unneeded. None are independent. The same truth applies to the church. You have at least one spiritual gift to build up the body of Christ (1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11). Ministry is every believer’s business.

### **Jigsaw Ministry Placement**

When putting a jigsaw puzzle together, we experiment to find the right fit. Lend a helping hand in many areas of service, especially in those in which you have the greatest interest. This is how you’ll discover the ministry that best fits your passions, gifts, and temperament.

### **Make the Most of Your Gift(s)**

Don’t expect your gifts to bless the socks off others the first three minutes after they’re unwrapped. No one jumps into the water for the very first time and sets a world record in the 400-meter freestyle. God gives some infants Olympic-caliber swimming potential, but their first strokes would suggest otherwise. Discovering and developing your gifts is a process that takes time. It starts when you “get into the water.”

**Fruitful ministry = God-given gifts & desire + Comfort-zone stretching faith + Training + Effort.**

### **Primary and Supportive Gifts**

The spiritual gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28 and Ephesians 4:11 can be divided into primary and supportive gifts. Primary gifts are prophecy, teaching, helps, giving, administration, encouragement, leadership, mercy, evangelism, shepherding, and hospitality. Supportive gifts include apostleship, discernment, faith, healing, interpretation, knowledge, miracles, tongues, and wisdom. They strengthen the primary gifts but remain secondary. We will test only for the primary gifts.

### **Primary Gifts Definitions**

Prophecy - The ability to declare God’s Word clearly with power and conviction.

Teaching - The ability to understand God's Word, and feed others spiritually by explaining and applying it.

Helps - The ability to recognize and humbly and joyfully meet practical needs so that spiritual ministry can take place in and through those who are helped.

Giving - The desire and ability to give with joy and cheer more than 10% of income to further God's kingdom.

Administration - The ability to humbly exercise authority and to organize God's work.

Encouragement - The ability to comfort and encourage others and challenge them to act.

Leadership - The ability to set goals to fulfill God's mission for the local church.

Mercy - The desire and ability to serve others cheerfully through kind, loving deeds.

Evangelism - The ability to lead others to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord with unusual consistency.

Shepherding - The ability to lead, feed, and guard a group of believers.

Hospitality - The cheerful ability to provide a warm, accepting, loving home environment, perhaps including lodging and food, for believers who need it.

### Measuring Your Ministry

Perhaps you already have a ministry. Does it fit your spiritual passion, gifts, and temperament? If it does you should be growing in Christ, motivated to serve, seeing spiritual fruit, helping others grow in Christ, experiencing fulfillment, feeling good about your contribution, and affirmed in your ministry by others. Do you feel like you're in the right place? \_\_ Yes \_\_ No

### Finding Significance through Ministry

The following spiritual gifts inventory will help you who aren't presently involved in any ministry to find your niche. Powered by the Spirit of God, you can make a significant contribution. You might never become a familiar name in the larger Christian community, but your eternal impact can be greater than you'd ever imagine!

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

Circle the bullet at the beginning of each sentence that describes you. Then record the number of circled bullets in each group in the Spiritual Gifts Inventory Chart on p. 24.

#### Group 1 (Bullets Circled = \_\_)

- People tell you that you "step on their toes" when you share the Word.
- You are open and honest about your shortcomings.
- You are persuasive.
- You are often blunt.
- You speak and act without thinking about the consequences.
- You freely express your opinions.
- You are dominant in relationships.
- You confront others with the truth.
- You are independent.
- You relate the Scriptures to everyday life when you share them.

#### Group 2 (Bullets Circled = \_\_)

- You research to determine if statements others make are true.
- You enjoy organizing details and facts.
- You decide based on facts.
- When someone asks a question about what a Scripture passage means, you're motivated to find the answer.
- You enjoy studying.
- When you teach the Scriptures, people tell you they are blessed.
- You are not influenced much by personal feelings or opinions.
- You are self-disciplined.
- You work at understanding God's Word, people, and the culture of those to whom you communicate the Word.
- You enjoy teaching and applying God's Word.

**Group 3 (Bullets Circled = \_\_\_)**

- You excel at meeting the physical needs of people.
- You judge the value of service by the amount of appreciation received.
- You are a behind the scenes, small details person.
- You dislike public recognition.
- You are loyal.
- You are easygoing.
- You want to be liked and accepted by others.
- You are shy in public.
- You get involved in too many activities.
- You don't feel worthy to be a spiritual leader.

**Group 4 (Bullets Circled = \_\_\_)**

- You invest money wisely.
- You don't want recognition for giving.
- You are sensitive to financial needs that others don't recognize.
- You aren't receptive to emotional appeals.
- You are conscientious.
- You give gifts that have lasting value.
- You have an emotional attachment to the work you support.
- You wrestle with how to respond to a multitude of appeals for money from many sources.
- You try to enlist others to join you in giving.
- You are willing to live on less so you can give more to further God's work.

**Group 5 (Bullets Circled = \_\_\_)**

- You know how to subdivide the task into manageable parts.
- You excel at organizing, coordinating, and delegating work.
- You encourage, motivate, and inspire others to join the team to achieve the goal.
- You are a detail person.
- Your work is thorough and careful.
- You are calm and objective.
- You are good at seeing the big picture and how each part relates to the whole.
- You develop strategies to achieve goals.
- You are frustrated by disorganization.
- You mobilize resources to accomplish the goal.

**Group 6 (Bullets Circled = \_\_\_)**

- You approach truth logically.

- You want others to decide now.
- You can relate to those unlike you.
- You are tolerant.
- You feel for those who are hurting.
- You emphasize the positive.
- You have a strong faith.
- You are committed to helping people become fully devoted disciples by showing the necessary steps.
- You get pleasure from supporting the weak and stabilizing the unstable.
- You challenge and rebuke others so they'll grow spiritually.

**Group 7 (Bullets Circled = \_\_\_)**

- You are motivated to set goals.
- You can "see" what things will be like when the goal is accomplished.
- Others look to you for input about a matter before they make a decision.
- You can make others want to reach a goal.
- You intentionally set an example for others to follow.
- You influence others to be all God created them to be.
- You have confidence.
- You use common sense.
- You are a practical person.
- You keep pursuing the goal even when others disagree with or oppose you.

**Group 8 (Bullets Circled = \_\_\_)**

- You enjoy visiting those in nursing homes, helping the homeless, working in a food-bank, etc.
- You are patient.
- You put up with a lot from others.
- You are not very decisive or firm.
- You show your love to others by giving them things to meet their needs.
- You have a faith that stabilizes your life.
- You attract the emotionally and spiritually hurting and meet their needs.
- You thrive on deep friendships.
- You don't have a very good self-image.
- You desperately want to remove other people's hurts.

**Group 9 (Bullets Circled = \_\_\_)**

- You excel at leading people to open the door of their heart to Jesus.
- You frequently share with others the difference Jesus has made in your life.

- You are burdened by the plight of lost people.
- You relate well to others.
- You are good at sensing the spiritual condition of others after a brief conversation about spiritual things.
- You can share the gospel clearly.
- You are confident that sharing the gospel will provide a solution to people's problems.
- You develop relationships with unchurched persons.
- You have a desire to see new believers become part of a local church.
- You are interested in finding answers to the questions critics of the faith ask.

**Group 10 (Bullets Circled = \_\_)**

- The spiritual progress of others energizes you.
- You are usually calm.
- You hurt with the hurting.
- You put up with the quirks of others.
- You desire a close spiritual relationship with others.
- You often give in to what others want.
- You desire to model the truth.
- You usually have patience with others while they are developing spiritually.
- You often deny yourself to help others.
- You get upset at the attempt of cults to lead astray those to whom you minister.

**Group 11 (Bullets Circled = \_\_)**

- Providing food and shelter for someone in need energizes you.
- You see visitors as sent by the Lord.
- You see your home as a center for ministry.
- It's easy for you to talk to strangers.
- You are blessed by ministering to those who can't return the favor.
- You feel comfortable around all kinds of people.
- New people in the church are attracted to you.
- You are more concerned with using your home to bless than to impress others.
- You make a special effort to talk with people who are alone.
- You can make strangers feel comfortable around you.

**Spiritual Gifts Inventory Chart**

Record the total number of circled bullets in each group. Then place numbers 1-3 after the three highest scoring gifts.

- Group 1** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Prophecy**)
- Group 2** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Teaching**)
- Group 3** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Helps**)
- Group 4** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Giving**)
- Group 5** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Administration**)
- Group 6** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Encouragement**)
- Group 7** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Leadership**)
- Group 8** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Mercy**)
- Group 9** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Evangelism**)
- Group 10** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Shepherding**)
- Group 11** \_\_\_\_\_ (**Hospitality**)

**My spiritual gifts are:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

---



---



---

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

---



---



---



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

---



---



---



---

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 12:7 – Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.



## Temperament



Share your progress carrying out your “Spiritual Gifts” action plan.

Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.

### Tuned to Touch Lives

God designed your temperament to harmonize with your spiritual passion and spiritual gifts. Someone whose ministry is confrontational evangelism takes the initiative in sharing the gospel with others. He/she also takes the initiative in completing other kinds of tasks not related to evangelism, because that’s characteristic of the personality God gave him/her. Some believers have a heart to love, respond to, and serve unbelievers and point them toward the One who placed that love in their hearts. They love to serve people, period. God wired them with that nature.

### Interdependent Temperaments

No personality type is superior to another. All are necessary to accomplish God’s work in your church. Each of us has influencing strengths and weaknesses based on our temperament and revealed by how we relate to tasks and people. A “people-person” won’t be very fulfilled doing some detail-oriented administrative task behind a desk all by herself. A task-oriented individual might actually enjoy that same job. We maximize our influence on others for Christ when our ministry environment fits the strengths of our temperament. God doesn’t require those he’s gifted to pitch baseballs to throw basketballs! Your temperament fits your ministry!

As we shall see, Directors are gifted at formulating your church’s mission and goals. Promoters excel at pulling people together to accomplish the mission and goals. Helpers respond to Directors and Promoters to do the work necessary to fulfill

the mission and achieve the goals. Perfecters make sure everything is done right.

### Discovering Your Temperament

Here’s how to determine your temperament. In each group of four descriptions, put a **3** in front of the characteristic that **best** describes you, a **2** in front of the next best description of you, etc., down to a **0** in front of the one that is the **least accurate** description of you. Each group of four descriptions will have exactly one **3**, one **2**, one **1** and one **0**. Answer based on how you see yourself at work or at school. If you don’t work outside the home or go to school, answer based on how you see yourself at church. For example, Joe Smith fills out the first group of four descriptions as follows:

- 1 a. Take the lead in beginning tasks
- 0 b. Take lead in meeting people
- 2 c. Respond to people
- 3 d. Help others complete tasks

Joe **MOST** likes helping others complete tasks, so he put a 3 in front of “d” He hates taking the lead in meeting people, so he put a 0 in front of “b” because that was **LEAST** like him. Joe also likes to respond to people but not quite as much as he enjoys helping others complete tasks, so he marked “c” as a 2. He dislikes taking the lead in beginning tasks, but is more likely to do that than to take the lead in meeting people, so he marked “a” with a 1.

Number each of the 16 groups of four items from the one that describes you **best** (3) down to the one that is **least** like you (0). Each of the 16 groups of four should have one 3, one 2, one 1, and one 0.

#### Group 1

- \_ a. Take the lead in beginning tasks
- \_ b. Take lead in meeting people
- \_ c. Respond to people
- \_ d. Help others complete tasks

**Group 2**

- a. Love a challenge
- b. Like public recognition
- c. Calm
- d. Strive for perfection

**Group 3**

- a. Get results
- b. Seek others' approval
- c. Relaxed
- d. Make and follow the rules

**Group 4**

- a. Enjoy arguing
- b. Friendly
- c. Good listener
- d. Say things just right

**Group 5**

- a. Play to win
- b. Fun-Loving
- c. Patient
- d. Remember information

**Group 6**

- a. Work on many projects at once
- b. Fear losing face/social approval
- c. Excellent at completing projects
- d. Can figure out complex problems

**Group 7**

- a. Brave
- b. Persuasive
- c. Helpful
- d. Detail-Oriented

**Group 8**

- a. Take chances
- b. Make friends easily
- c. Give in
- d. Expect best of myself and others

**Group 9**

- a. Speak freely
- b. Look on bright side
- c. Logical
- d. Like planning/organizing

**Group 10**

- a. Determined
- b. Outgoing

- c. Steady
- d. Safety-Conscious

**Group 11**

- a. Poor listener
- b. Care-Free
- c. Family-Oriented
- d. Precise

**Group 12**

- a. Quick temper
- b. Talkative
- c. Loyal
- d. Shy

**Group 13**

- a. Like to change things
- b. Likeable
- c. Think before speaking
- d. Avoid risks

**Group 14**

- a. Want control
- b. Disorganized
- c. Hard on myself
- d. Want many explanations

**Group 15**

- a. Do it my way
- b. Lose things
- c. Want peace
- d. Want to be right

**Group 16**

- a. Speak before thinking
- b. Like to dream
- c. Hard to say, "No."
- d. Fear criticism of my work

**Adding Your Scores**

Add up the totals of all the "a"s (in Groups 1 through 16), all the "b"s, "c"s, and "d"s and record them in the **Temperament Analysis Sums Chart** that follows. The total of the "a"s, "b"s, "c"s and "d"s, added together, should be **96**. If not, check your addition.

**Temperament Analysis Sums Chart**

1. Total of "a"s in Groups 1-16 \_\_\_\_
  2. Total of "b"s in Groups 1-16 \_\_\_\_
  3. Total of "c"s in Groups 1-16 \_\_\_\_
  4. Total of "d"s in Groups 1-16 \_\_\_\_
- Grand Total \_\_\_\_

**If Grand Total isn't 96, recount.**

Record the sums that correspond to each temperament name. The highest total is your dominant temperament, the next highest is your second strongest, etc.

\_\_\_\_ Director ("a"s)  
 \_\_\_\_ Promoter ("b"s)  
 \_\_\_\_ Helper ("c"s)  
 \_\_\_\_ Perfecter ("d"s)

Check (x) your dominant temperament. If two are tied for the highest, check both.

\_\_ Director \_\_ Promoter \_\_ Helper  
 \_\_ Perfecter

**Temperament Strengths/Weaknesses**

Exploring the strengths and weakness of your dominant and secondary temperaments will help you understand yourself better and point you toward the ministry that God has designed for you. Studying the descriptions of temperaments unlike your own will improve your understanding of and relationships with others. Just because people aren't like you doesn't mean there's something wrong with them!

Only some of the strengths or weaknesses that follow under a description of your dominant temperament will fit you. That's because your personality is a combination of usually two and sometimes three major temperament parts in varying proportions. The description of your dominant temperament should fit you better than any of the others, but strengths and weaknesses of other temperaments may also fit. To get a more complete picture of how you're wired, **underline any**

**strength or weakness that applies to you in the following descriptions.**

**Directors****Strengths**

Directors are take-charge individuals who excel at starting tasks. They love challenges and want to be in the middle of the action. They thrive on accomplishing what no one else can. Like a coyote locking its eyes on a rabbit, they pursue a goal until they achieve it.

Directors lead boldly. Their decisions aren't influenced by their emotions or possible consequences. If you need a job accomplished, assign it to a Director, and it will get done. The Apostle Paul had the temperament of a Director.

Directors take risks that "play-it-safe" temperaments wouldn't even consider. They can play a valuable role in leading the church to step out in faith into risky ministries that are beyond the comfort zones of other temperaments.

**Weaknesses**

Directors quickly become impatient when life isn't going their way. They hate wasted time and probably get upset when they miss one panel of a revolving door!

Directors aren't in touch with the feelings of others because productivity has a higher priority. In their single-minded, pedal to the metal focus on their goal, they run over the "rabbits" and "opossums" with whom they work or whom they supervise. The office is strewn with "road-kill." Their bottom line is results, and they're pushy to get them. Directors are a lot more productive than they are popular, but that doesn't bother them.

Directors are poor listeners. Since they hate wasting time, they want others to get directly to the point. When communicating

with Directors, start with the bottom line, and then, only fill in those details they request.

In conflict situations Directors push the control pedal to the floor. They insist that things be done their way, and that they be done now.

Directors would be more effective if they focused on patiently listening to and supporting people, worked at being less controlling, and gave people a higher priority than productivity.

## Promoters

### Strengths

Promoters excel at inspiring and influencing people and getting them involved. They make super salespersons. They lean heavily on their verbal skills to accomplish this. One church took teenagers to a movie, *Left Behind*. The majority of the 26 teenagers who attended came as a result of the invitation of one of the youth leaders who is a Promoter.

Promoters are warm, outgoing, and personable. They like to have fun and rush from one exciting activity to the next. People naturally are attracted to them. They make friends easily.

Church planters who are Promoters or Directors see their churches grow by their fifth anniversary to twice the attendance of those planted by Helpers or Perfecters. Why? Perhaps, because Directors take the initiative with tasks and Promoters with people, whereas Helpers respond to people and Perfecters respond to tasks. Taking the initiative pays big dividends in church planting.

Promoters' emotions swing more widely than any other temperament type, running from peak to valley to peak. They tend to be good speakers because of their verbal skills coupled with their passion and enthusiasm for the subject. They enjoy being on stage,

in the spotlight, and in front of people. They stir the emotions of their audience. They value public recognition and approval. The Apostle Peter was a Promoter.

### Weaknesses

Promoters tend to make snap decisions without considering all the facts or consequences. Peter denied Jesus without considering the impact on the remainder of his life. Promoters' decisions, based more on intuition than facts, sometimes get them and others into trouble.

Promoters tend to be overly optimistic. They see a silver lining in every approaching cloud, even if it's a funnel cloud!

Follow through can be a problem. They don't always do what they so enthusiastically recommend to others. They start projects with great enthusiasm, but often don't finish. Uncompleted projects in and around their homes bear testimony to this characteristic.

At times they use their considerable verbal skills to manipulate and take advantage of others. Some Promoters are adept at using words to paint a picture of reality that benefits them.

The response of Promoters in conflict is predictable. Like cornered animals, they attack. Verbal bullets are fired in a machine-gun barrage at the source of the irritation.

Promoters would be more effective if they focused on results, facts, possible consequences of their decisions and follow through.

## Helpers

### Strengths

Helpers build relationships and get along well with others. Having close relationships with others is very important to their emotional health. They value peace and harmony. They're loyal to the core. When things aren't going well in a church, and

people begin to leave, Helpers will stay until the bitter end.

Helpers are the best communicators of the four temperament types because they *listen* as well as they talk. They make great counselors.

Expressed appreciation motivates Helpers to keep on serving. If you're a Helper, you already know that. If you're not, make sure that the Helpers in your church know that you appreciate them. Don't drag them in front of the congregation for public recognition. Promoters love that, but Helpers don't. Send cards, give them a call, or tell them privately how much you appreciate them. That will keep their motors humming!

Helpers are dependable, steady, and reliable. Emotionally they live on the plains, with few emotional peaks or valleys. Abraham was a Helper.

Helpers ask others for input before they make decisions. This leadership style can be a strength or weakness depending on how quickly the decision needs to be made. On one hand, people affected by a decision feel they have some say. On the other hand, a Helper's desire for peace and harmony often prevents his making a decision that would benefit the majority, because it would upset a few people.

#### **Weaknesses**

Helpers aren't comfortable initiating tasks or relationships with people. Although they would make a faithful friend for unchurched persons who are looking for friends, they rarely risk the first step to form the relationship.

Helpers are very resistant to change because of the security old ways and forms provide. They faithfully support the status quo in churches. It is difficult to convince them why, for example, a change in musical style in the church would help to reach more people. If the music was good enough for

Great Grandpa Smith, it's good enough for them!

In conflict situations, to promote peace and harmony, Helpers give in. Those who serve on church councils vote for a proposal even though they really don't favor it. The vote is unanimous. They don't voice their opposition at the meeting but might in the parking lot. Their "yes" doesn't always mean "yes." They won't support the proposal with their time or money.

Helpers are hard on themselves and often have low self-images and little self-confidence. They hate to disappoint, so they don't say no to requests. As a result, they often serve in too many areas to do an adequate job in any of them. Meanwhile, resentment smolders because they don't like the jobs they agreed to take, and perhaps, because they don't feel very appreciated in those roles.

They'd be more effective if they cared less about what others think of them, didn't cave in during conflict, learned to say no to others' requests, and initiated more.

## **Perfecters**

#### **Strengths**

Perfecters love details and facts. They're solemn, thoughtful, thorough, organized and accurate. Their strong motivation to do things right is the distinguishing characteristic of this temperament. If they don't have time to do a job properly, they won't do it at all. They're extremely careful and safety conscious. They work hard and don't quit when the going gets tough. Engineers, surgeons, and pilots typically are Perfecters. Moses is a biblical example.

Perfecters value making and keeping rules. They drive in the right hand lane and would be embarrassed to dust to receive a speeding ticket.

Perfecters respond to tasks. They aren't people-persons. Their social skills are often

underdeveloped. They walk past others without saying hello because their mind is turning over how to do some task perfectly.

To encourage Perfecters, praise **their work**, not them. That will motivate them to keep serving with all of their heart.

**Weaknesses**

Like the other three temperaments, the weakness of Perfecters is their strength out of control. Perfecters waste time trying to make everything perfect. The volume of their work is limited by their fear of making mistakes. They need a mountain of evidence before they make a decision. Of all temperaments, they're most sensitive to criticism.

Perfecters avoid conflict. The problems they ignore often fester and become more serious.

Perfecters are critical of themselves and others. They are difficult to live with because their expectations are so high. Their child or spouse often feels that pleasing them is impossible. Perfecters take great pains in everything and give them to others!

Perfecters would be more effective if they emphasized doing right things as much as doing things right, made decisions before every possibility of error was eliminated, risked more, and worked harder on building relationships.

What have you learned about yourself from this lesson?

---

---

---

---

---

---

What have you learned about others?

---

---

---

---

---

---



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

---

---

---

---

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

---

---

---



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

---

---

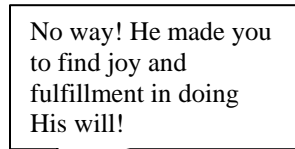
---

---

---

**Memory Verse**

Isaiah 64:8 – Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.



Stewardship



Share your progress carrying out your "Temperament" action plan.

Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.

Reading a Borrowed Book

In February 2001, I borrowed a book from Jim Moss, Sr., titled Lost in America. He told me I could read it, but he wanted it back when I was finished. Typically, when I read my own books, I underline important ideas. By contrast, I didn't make a single mark in Jim's book, because he'd entrusted it into my care. It was his and not mine. I was merely a steward of it while I was reading it.

Living a Borrowed Life

In the first century a steward cared for the material goods, property, or children that belonged to a superior. He could use them, if he chose, for his own benefit. If called upon, however, he had to explain how he'd carried out his duties. His continuing employment depended on his faithfulness (Luke 16:1-13).

Jesus speaks as a superior in Luke 12:42 and implies that you're managing his resources while he's absent. He didn't purchase you to just eat, drink, be merry, and play with your toys until he calls you home! You represent him. Wow!

To whom do you belong (Romans 14:8)? \_\_\_\_\_. Why don't you hold the "title" to yourself (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)? \_\_\_\_\_ What's the purchase price (Revelation 5:9)? \_\_\_\_\_

As a result, for whom are you to live (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)? \_\_\_\_\_ Let's consider how these huge ideas should radically alter how you live.

Who's the Boss?

Wise managers settle the ownership issue. Until Jesus' name is on the title deed of your life, you have no chance of being a faithful steward. Everything you have comes from him. The earth is the Lord's and \_\_\_\_\_ in it, the world, and \_\_\_\_\_ who live in it (Psalm 24:1). Everything is his and you'll have to give account of its use to him. Based on how you spent your time, money, energy, and abilities this last week, whose name was on the title deed the majority of the time? \_\_\_\_ Mine \_\_\_\_ Jesus'

Stewardship with Zip

The Parable of the Loaned Money illustrates both "steward-zip" and "sinking-stewardship." Read Matthew 25:14-30. In the first century a talent was the largest unit of silver currency. It could purchase an ox and would be worth more than a thousand dollars today.

The man going on a journey represents (v. 14)? \_\_\_\_\_. The servants represent \_\_\_\_\_. It was fair to give the servants different amounts because (v. 15) \_\_\_\_\_

Were the first two servants equally faithful? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Why (vv. 21, 23)? \_\_\_\_\_

How were they rewarded? \_\_\_\_\_

Sinking-Steward-Ship

The third servant returned to his master what he'd been given. He'd successfully protected it against loss. Why wasn't his master pleased (vv. 26, 27)? \_\_\_\_\_

How was the third servant punished (vv. 28-30)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Based on this parable, what does God expect from *you*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Facets of Stewardship**

God is the giver of every \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ gift (James 1:17). You are a steward of all the gifts he has bestowed. Some day you'll have to explain how you managed each one. Many believers think stewardship begins and ends with dollar signs. It comprises *much* more. You're responsible to manage faithfully your *whole life* including:

- 1. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (s) (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Specifically, you're responsible to manage the spiritual gifts you listed on p. 23, which are  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Within the next week, will you ask your pastor how you can use your spiritual gifts in the ministry of your church?  
\_\_ Yes \_\_ No

- 2. G \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

Suppose on his deathbed, a very intelligent relative of yours gives you a paper that explains how to make from typical household products a medicine that cures all kinds of cancer. That's news is too good to keep to yourself! The gospel is the only cure for sin. You can't keep it to yourself and tell no one! To prepare to share the message as effectively as possible, will you attend evangelism training during the next year or read a book on

evangelism such as *How to Give Away Your Faith* by Paul Little?

\_\_ Yes \_\_ No

Will you share at least one difference Christ has made in your life with three unchurched or unbelieving persons in the next three months? \_\_ Yes \_\_ No

- 3. W \_\_\_\_\_ (s) (Matthew 12:36)

Well-chosen words build up; careless words tear down. To or about whom do you need to alter the way you speak \_\_\_\_\_ (first name)? To change the way you talk to or about this person, you need to think about him/her differently. Praying for that person will help you change your attitude. Will you pray for this person's welfare every day for the next three weeks? \_\_ Yes \_\_ No

Think about the situations in which you most often speak words and display attitudes that don't represent Jesus accurately. Specifically, how can you increase your wise words and decrease your foolish ones in these situations? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 4. G \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 8:7)

**What to Give**

Giving is one way to thank God for his grace. Matthew 25:35-36 describes various types of giving including (unscramble):

- odof \_\_\_\_\_
- knird \_\_\_\_\_
- aliythsopt \_\_\_\_\_
- locignht \_\_\_\_\_
- mdecinei \_\_\_\_\_
- meit \_\_\_\_\_
- yemon \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 12:41-44)

One way to meet needs in the aforementioned areas is to support a child through an organization like World Vision. Another is to participate in relief efforts in areas of the world touched by natural disasters. A third is to give to local projects

that meet basic human needs. A fourth is to meet the basic needs of those who are part of your church fellowship.

**How to Give**

- 1. Proportionately. The freewill offering was to be given in \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord's blessings (Deuteronomy 16:10). The Lord expects \_\_\_\_\_ from those who've been given much (Luke 12:48). Whom did Jesus commend for giving (Luke 21:1-4)? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What is it about someone's giving that impresses Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. Cheerfully. God doesn't want you to give \_\_\_\_\_ or under \_\_\_\_\_. He loves a \_\_\_\_\_ giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- 3. Generously. The generous giver realizes that everything he has comes from God's \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Chronicles 29:14). The one who sows generously will \_\_\_\_\_ generously (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- 4. Regularly. On the first day of \_\_\_\_\_ week, Paul told the Corinthian believers to set aside a sum of money in keeping with their incomes (1 Corinthians 16:2).

**Blessings of Giving**

- 1. What does God promise faithful managers of material resources (2 Corinthians 9:6, 8)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 2. God awards \_\_\_\_\_ for giving (Philippians 4:17).

- 3. A generous person will \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 11:25, 22:9).

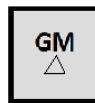
- 4. God promises those who give him 10% of their income that he'll pour out so much blessing that they won't have \_\_\_\_\_ enough for it (Malachi 3:10).

- 5. By the same measure you use to give, it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you (Luke 6:38).

- 6. God will meet all your \_\_\_\_\_ according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

Summarize what you're going to do with the resources God has entrusted to you:

- 1. Spiritual gifts -
- 2. Gospel -
- 3. Words -
- 4. Giving



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

---

---

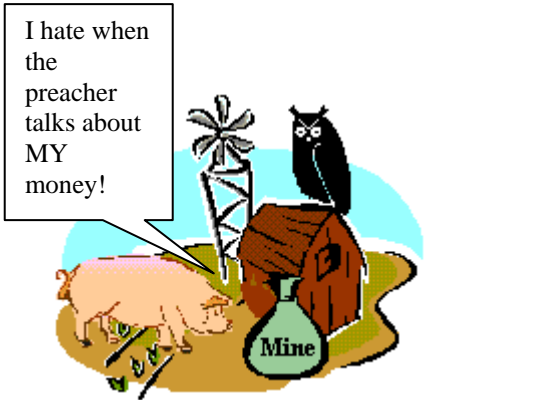
---

---

---

**Memory Verse**

1 Corinthians 4:2 – Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.



# Love



Share your progress carrying out your “Stewardship” action plan.

Share one God-message from your devotional time since we last met.

## The Greatest of These

1 Corinthians 13, the famous “love chapter,” concludes, “And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” Biblical love isn’t a feeling or an emotion, as much as a *decision*, whatever the cost, to live to benefit others.

## Retiring to “Motherhood”

Elizabeth was a seamstress who had never married. She worked in the capital city of her state in a store that sold top of the line fashions for women. She was within a year of retirement. Then the unexpected happened. Her youngest brother’s wife died from complications from surgery at the age of 37. Her brother was left with five young children.

Elizabeth’s decision was as swift as her skilled hand with a needle. With only one year remaining before she could retire, kick back, and enjoy the fruit of her many years of labor, she made a very costly decision. She didn’t wait to be asked by her brother (which he was going to do). Elizabeth packed up her belongings and moved into his home to help raise his five children and also care for her elderly mother who was living with her brother.

Her second career was *far* more difficult than her first—but much more fulfilling. She wasn’t a very skilled cook initially, but she learned by trial and error in the kitchen of the home she had often visited on weekends. Without any prior experience, she suddenly assumed responsibility for five children ages one, three, two sevens, and thirteen, and for her 86-year-old mother. All this at the age of 64!

She didn’t just give up her job for these children. She daily poured out her love sacrificially by expending her energy and time even though the kids were too immature to grasp the price she was paying. She suffered through their frequent fights, impudence, defiance, and childish ways, because she loved them. There were many days when she probably felt like repacking her things and moving back to a less stressful life. She didn’t. For more than 20 years she gave those boys the best of her time, talents, and energy. Before she died, she arranged for her extremely modest financial resources to be divided among them. Amazingly, at the end of her life, she didn’t feel spent, used, and taken advantage of. She would have done it all over again. I write these words with tears, for I’m one of the five.

Elizabeth’s life demonstrates the costly love to which Jesus has called every believer. Often we do a better job of talking love than showing it. We’re like the fourth grade class that sent a letter to their teacher who was at home recovering from surgery. The card read, “Your fourth grade class wishes you a speedy recovery—by a vote of 15 to 14.”

## Gospel in a Word

Why is loving others so important? Jesus summarized in 24 words the 951 pages of the Old Testament resting on my desk (Matthew 22:35-40). He said:

---



---



---

God loves *you*, so... love Him and others. It’s not complicated. That’s your purpose! The principle is second grade simple. Practicing it consistently is rocket-science hard. Loving others as a way of life, even when they offend, criticize, and hurt us, is absolutely contrary to the way we run our affairs as

CEO of our own lives. As a boy my payback principle was, "If you hit me once, I'll hit you *at least* twice, and both punches will be harder than yours." Returning *love* for punches (physical and verbal) is so contrary to my nature that it's impossible, unless I allow God to love others through me. For that to happen, I must surrender my will and plans to His. How consistently do you love others who've hurt you? What's the secret of whatever success you've experienced?

---

---

---

**More Like the Master**

When God loves us, He's just being Himself. He provides the resources we need to love as He did! According to Philippians 1:6 and 2:13 they include:

---

---

---

Jesus told us to love others as \_\_ loves us (John 13:34). It's possible. His love-standard is attainable. It requires streeetching, but we can achieve it. Loving others is clearly His will since He commanded it. \_\_\_\_\_ obeyed this command when he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:59, 60).

We can obey it too by claiming the promise of 1 John 5:14-15. If, by faith, we ask God to enable us to love others as He does, He will. He keeps His promises! His plan is to make us just like Jesus (Romans 8:29) as His Spirit controls us and loves others through us.

The fruit of the Spirit is \_ \_ \_ \_  
(Galatians 5:22).

After the Civil War began, sugar became scarce. Some persons boiled down the juices pressed from watermelons to make syrups and sugars. When it comes to love, substitution is popular. What happens when we try to substitute human love for divine love?

---

---

---

**Misdirected Love**

A temptation we face daily is directing our love toward things that enslave rather than free us. Misdirected love causes more damage than misdirected bullets. Under its control, we waste our lives feeding a Heinz 57 variety of addictive substitutes for God. We're shaped by what we love.

Contrary to Jesus' command to love God and others first, we love:

- a. Matthew 23:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Luke 16:19-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. John 12:43 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. 2 Timothy 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. 2 Timothy 3:4 \_\_\_\_\_

The greatest miracle God does through us isn't giving us faith to heal the sick or raise the dead. It's transforming us into persons who consistently love like Jesus!

**Actions Demonstrate Love**

What four behaviors are associated with love in Deuteronomy 10:12-13?

---

---

---

Agree or disagree: Every sin is a failure to love either God or man, and probably both. Defend your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

**Go with the Flow**

What does God’s love look like as it flows through us? Match the following Scriptures and the demonstrations of love they describe:

- \_\_\_ 1. Proverbs 10:12
- \_\_\_ 2. Proverbs 13:24
- \_\_\_ 3. Malachi 1:6-11
- \_\_\_ 4. Matthew 5:44-45
- \_\_\_ 5. Luke 5:13
- \_\_\_ 6. Luke 6:37-38
- \_\_\_ 7. Luke 10:27-37
- \_\_\_ 8. John 13:34-35
- \_\_\_ 9. John 14:21
- \_\_\_ 10. John 15:12-13
- \_\_\_ 11. John 21:15-17
- \_\_\_ 12. Romans 12:9
- \_\_\_ 13. 1 Corinthians 13:4
- \_\_\_ 14. 1 Corinthians 13:5
- \_\_\_ 15. 1 Corinthians 13:6
- \_\_\_ 16. 1 Corinthians 13:7
- \_\_\_ 17. 1 Corinthians 13:8
- \_\_\_ 18. Ephesians 5:25
- \_\_\_ 19. Ephesians 5:28-29
- \_\_\_ 20. Hebrews 13:2
- \_\_\_ 21. Hebrews 13:3
- \_\_\_ 22. Hebrews 13:4

\_\_\_ 23. Hebrews 13:5

- a. Prays for persecutors.
- b. Husbands sacrifice for their wives.
- c. Husbands feed and care for their wives as their own bodies.
- d. Patient, kind; not envious, boastful or proud.
- e. Not rude, self-seeking or easily angered.
- f. No delight in evil; rejoices with the truth.
- g. Unfailingly protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres.
- h. Never fails
- i. Disciplines one’s children
- j. Refrains from judging/condemning. Forgives/gives.
- k. Gets personally involved in helping others become “clean.”
- l. Meets the needs of the hurting.
- m. Loves other believers as Jesus does.
- n. Lays down life for friends.
- o. Obeys Jesus’ commands.
- p. Feeds Jesus’ sheep.
- q. Sincerely hates evil and clings to good.
- r. Entertains strangers.
- s. Remembers prisoners and the mistreated.
- t. Honors marriage vows.
- u. Stays free from the “cling” of things.
- v. Covers others’ wrongs.
- w. Gives God one’s best.

**Practical Application**

As you reflect on the aforementioned dimensions of love, which three will you pick to work on now?

---

---

---

Develop a practical strategy for each of the three.

---

**Running to Win**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**What's God's message to you in this lesson?**

---

---

---

---

**What underlying attitudes/thought patterns do you need to change?**

---

---

---



**Write your action plan to make those changes:**

---

---

---

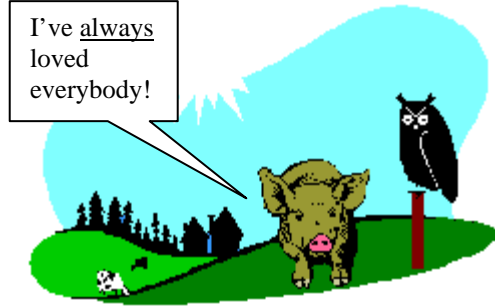
---

---

**Memory Verse**

John 13:34-35 – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**Handing Off**



## Appendix - Answer Key

### Personal Testimony

- Personal responses

### Witnessing

#### Preparing to Fish

- light
- shine
- Our life should be dedicated to doing good to bring glory to our heavenly Father.
- confess
- forgive
- He wasn't ashamed of the gospel
- Christ's love
- to seek and save what was lost
- his disciples
- follow
- the Holy Spirit
- by the Holy Spirit's work
- Only the Spirit brings salvation. We can't.
- Faith

### Mentoring

#### Why Mentor?

- life
- purpose
- love
- with

#### The Impact of Mentoring

- Simon
- Saul

#### Swelling the Master's Convoy

- practice

#### The Committed Christian Life

##### Devotions

- remaining in Christ

##### Invests

- living
- trustworthy
- first

##### Small

- love
- eat
- praise
- teach

##### Congregational

- meeting
- encourage

##### Involved

- gift

##### Practical

- distinguish

##### Living sacrifice

- bodies
- cross

##### Empowered

- power
- powerful

##### Shares

- harvest

#### Major on the Fundamentals

- prayer
- word

### Spiritual Passion

Who Wants to Make a Difference?

- Personal

#### A Vital Part of an Eternal Plan

- Very serious. Jesus wants me to use the gift(s) he has given me to advance his kingdom.
- Kingdom
- Bezalel and Oholiab

#### Bodybuilding Equipment

- Body

#### Passion-Driven Ministry

- will
- act
- perfect
- energy
- works

### Spiritual Gifts

- Personal responses

### Temperament

- Personal responses

### Stewardship

#### Living a Borrowed Life

- the Lord
- I was bought at a price
- The blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God
- Christ

#### Who's the Boss?

- everything
- all
- Personal

#### Stewardship with Zip

- Jesus
- Christians
- Each received an amount consistent with his ability to manage and multiply
- Yes. Both doubled the amount given to them.
- They were given greater responsibility and a share of their Master's happiness

#### Sinking-Steward-Ship

- Because the servant was wicked and lazy and didn't multiply his Master's investment.
- His talent was taken away and he was thrown out into the darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- God expects me to make the most of the gifts and opportunities for service he provides.

#### Facets of Stewardship

- good
- perfect
- 1. gift  
Personal  
Personal
- 2. Gospel  
Personal  
Personal
- 3. Word  
Personal  
Personal  
Personal
- 4. Giving

#### What to Give

- food
- drink
- hospitality
- clothing
- medicine
- time
- money

**How to Give**

1. - proportion  
- much  
- A poor widow. Because she gave all she had to live on.  
- Jesus is impressed, not by how much we give, but by the cost of our gift (the sacrifice involved).
2. - reluctantly  
- compulsion  
- cheerful
3. - hand  
- reap
4. - every

**Blessings of Giving**

1. - to provide all resources necessary to abound in every good work
2. - credit
3. - prosper  
- refreshed  
- blessed
4. - room
5. - measured
6. - needs
  - Personal

**Love**

**Gospel in a Word**

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Personal

**More Like the Master**

- God began and will carry out a good work in me by giving me the will and ability to do it.
- He
- Stephen
- love
- Human love is tinged with self-interest, shallow, and easily extinguished. It's conditional and fixed on some admirable quality in the one loved.

**Misdirected Love**

- to be honored and thought important
- things money can buy
- praise from men
- ourselves and money
- pleasure

**Actions Demonstrate Love**

- fearing the Lord, walking in all his ways, serving him enthusiastically, and observing his commands
  - Personal
1. v 19. c
  2. i 20. r
  3. w 21. s
  4. a 22. t
  5. k 23. u
  6. j
  7. l
  8. m .Personal
  9. o .Personal
  10. n
  11. p
  12. q
  13. d
  14. e
  15. f
  16. g
  17. h
  18. b

