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Small Group Leadership Training Manual

by
Duane L. Anderson



Serve and Equip
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Small Group Leadership Training Manual

Pages 47-66 can be found by itself in the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”
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Small Group Leadership Training Manual

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Small Group Leadership Training Manual

The purpose of this manual

This manual is designed to give guidelines to help us to understand what God has commissioned us to do, to learn how to obey that commission, and to learn how to obey the commands that will help us to fulfill that commission. The early church focused on making disciples by one-to-one spiritual parenting and small group fellowship. This training manual is designed to assist you in learning how to make disciples both through small groups and through one-to-one spiritual parenting.

Purpose

The next page gives a Biblical definition for a purpose-led Christian.

Pattern

Acts 2:42-47

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Characteristics of the early church which helped it develop disciples:

Bible study

Fellowship

Worship (breaking of bread, praising God)

Prayer

Love (sharing needs)

Unity

Visiting one another

Evangelism

Product

Acts 6:7

“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

The Purpose-Led Christian

Our purpose is to glorify God by becoming disciples and making disciples who love God with our whole heart, our whole soul and our whole mind; who love our neighbor as ourselves; and who love one another as Christ has loved us.

To fulfill this purpose, we will focus on the following objectives:

Magnify - glorify God
Maturity - become disciples
Multiplication - make disciples

who:

Exalt - love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind
Evangelize - love our neighbor as ourselves
Edify and Equip - love one another as Christ has loved us

Our Purpose **1 Corinthians 10:31**

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Our Great Commission **Matthew 28:19-20**

“Go(ing) therefore and **Make Disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

Our Great Commandment **Matthew 22:36-40**

“Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, ““You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second *is* like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Our New Commandment **John 13:34-35**

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

I. Personal Development to Fulfill our Purpose

Philippians 3:10-14

“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Key principles for personal development

Learning to know Christ and not just knowing about Christ

- ◆ That I may know Him - this happens as we are learning to abide in Him - John 15:1-11
- ◆ That I may know the power of His resurrection - this happens as we are learning to yield to the Holy Spirit and learning to depend on His power instead of our own strength - Acts 1:8; Romans 6:13-16
- ◆ That I may know the fellowship of His sufferings - this happens as we are learning to trust Him and turn things over to Him when we face opposition - John 15:18-27
- ◆ That I may be conformed to His death - this happens as we are learning to die to our will and submit to His will - Philippians 2:5-16

Learning to press on

- ◆ We have not already arrived
- ◆ We have not yet become fully mature
- ◆ We choose to keep focused on what Christ wants to do in our lives

Learning to focus on where we are going

- ◆ We trust Christ to give us strength to let go of the past
- ◆ We trust Christ and His plans for our future
- ◆ We keep our eyes focused on the purpose Christ has for us
- ◆ We look for eternal rewards rather than temporary rewards

A. Where am I in my spiritual development?

1. Understanding the spiritual newborn

The physical newborn

Luke 2:12, 16

“And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ ...And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.”

Luke 18:15

“Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them.”

Acts 7:19

“This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live.”

The spiritual newborn

2 Timothy 3:15

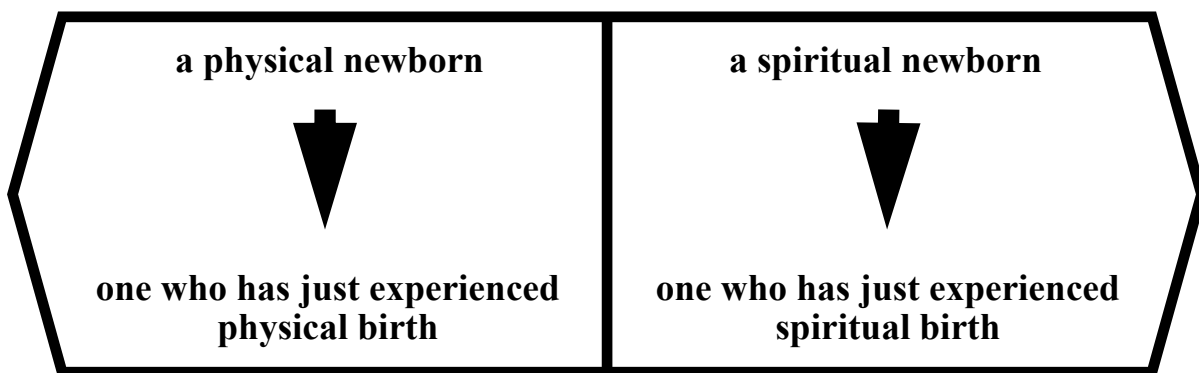
“And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

1 Peter 2:2

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...”

John 3:3-7

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.”’”



Focus of the spiritual infant: FOOD

2. Understanding the spiritual toddler

The physical toddler

Matthew 21:15-16

“But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ they were indignant and said to Him, ‘Do You hear what these are saying?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes. Have you never read, “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?”’”

The spiritual toddler

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?”

1 Corinthians 13:11

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

Ephesians 4:14

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting...”

Hebrews 5:11-14

“Of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

The Greek word “nepios” means:

**A babe or young child (toddler) that cannot yet speak clearly.
It also refers to one who is childish, untaught or unskilled
and can refer to one who stopped growing or went backward.**

**Everything that is mentioned about spiritual toddlers
suggests that these verses are talking about someone
who started to grow and then stopped growing.**

Focus of the spiritual toddler: MY Needs, MY Problems

3. Understanding the spiritual child

The physical child

Luke 1:80

“So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.”

Luke 2:40

“And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

The spiritual child

John 21:5

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Children, have you any food?’ They answered Him, ‘No.’”

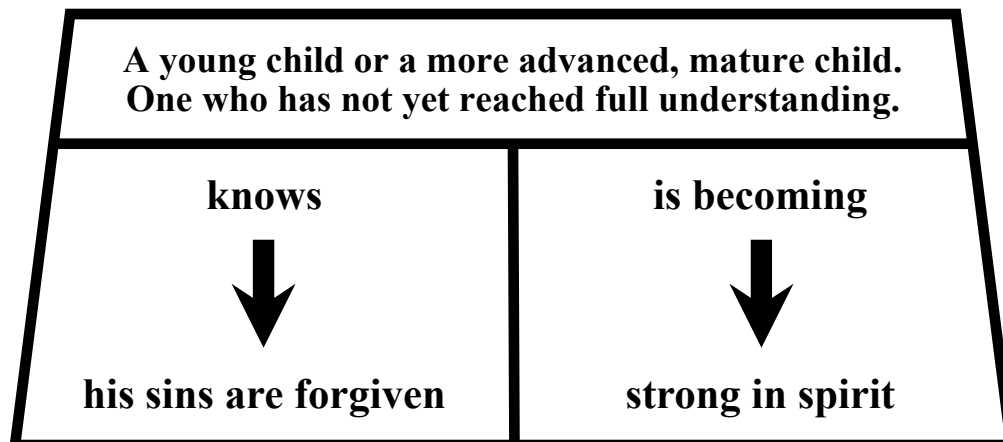
1 John 2:12-14

“I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.”

1 John 2:18

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”

The Greek word “paidion” means:



Focus of the spiritual child: GROWTH

4. Understanding the spiritual young man

The physical young man

Matthew 19:20-22

“The young man said to Him, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

Mark 14:51

“Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked *body*. And the young men laid hold of him...”

Acts 5:10

“Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband.”

The spiritual young man

1 John 2:12-14

“I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.”

A spiritual young man:

has become strong in spirit

has the Word of God in his heart

**has overcome Satan and is experiencing
a life of joy and victory instead of defeat**

Focus of the spiritual young man: SERVICE

5. Understanding the spiritual parent

The physical parent

2 Timothy 1:5

“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

The spiritual parent

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

1 John 2:12-14

“I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.”

Spiritual parents:

lead by love and example

Focus of the spiritual parent: CARE of SPIRITUAL CHILDREN

6. Understanding the spiritual parent with Timothy

The spiritual parent with Timothy

Acts 15:40

“But Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”

Acts 16:1-3a

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him.”

Acts 17:14-15

“Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.”

Acts 18:18, 26

“So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had *his* hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow... So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

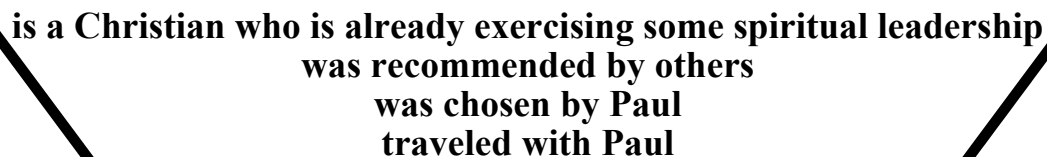
Acts 20:4

“And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia -- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

1 Corinthians 4:15-17

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

A spiritual Timothy:



is a Christian who is already exercising some spiritual leadership
was recommended by others
was chosen by Paul
traveled with Paul

Focus of a spiritual parent with Timothy:
GODLY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Am I growing in my level of spiritual maturity?

If I am a:	I am able to:	My spiritual leadership
new born babe	evangelize	will quickly bring division to a group if given a position of spiritual leadership
spiritual toddler	evangelize	will quickly bring division to a group if given a position of spiritual leadership
spiritual child	evangelize, do follow-up, and teach	able to lead an unstable group for a period of time; can cause a stable work to become unstable
spiritual young man	evangelize, do follow-up, teach and equip	able to lead a stable group and help it mature
spiritual parent	all of the above plus develop godly leaders	able to produce a stable growing group with godly leadership
spiritual parent with Timothys	all of the above plus train leaders who can develop other godly leaders	able to produce a stable growing group with godly leaders who are also developing godly leaders
spiritual parent with Timothys who teach faithful men	all of the above plus develop godly leaders who can start new ministries	able to produce a stable growing group that is sending out leaders to start new ministries
spiritual parent with Timothys who equip faithful men to teach others also	all of the above plus develop godly leaders for reproducing ministries	able to develop reproducing ministries that are producing godly leaders and reproducing themselves

The above list shows the critical importance of continuing to grow in our spiritual maturity if we want to see the Lord use our lives to make a growing impact!

C. How do I grow to the next level of spiritual maturity?

(ask yourself the following questions)

1. Have I experienced spiritual birth?

Focus of the spiritual infant: Spiritual food

- a. Do I have a real hunger for spiritual food? - 1 Peter 2:2
- b. Do I have a desire to learn the Word of God and become obedient to it? - James 1:22

2. Have I started to grow and then stopped or gone backward?

Focus of the spiritual toddler: My needs, my problems

Scripture gives at least ten characteristics of spiritual toddlers. Do several of these describe my spiritual life at this time?

- a. Do I often act like one who is not a Christian? - 1 Corinthians 3:1
- b. Do I find it hard to understand difficult teachings? - 1 Corinthians 3:2
- c. Do I often experience envy, strife and divisions? - 1 Corinthians 3:3
- d. Is my talk, understanding and thinking of spiritual things limited? - 1 Cor. 13:11
- e. Am I easily confused by false teachings? - Ephesians 4:14
- f. Do I have difficulty recognizing false teachers? - Ephesians 4:14
- g. Am I dull of hearing to spiritual truth? - Hebrews 5:11
- h. Do I need to be retaught the basics of Christianity? - Hebrews 5:12
- i. Am I unskillful in using the word of righteousness? - Hebrews 5:13
- j. Are my senses developed to recognize good and evil? - Hebrews 5:14

Other important questions to ask yourself

- a. Do I depend on my own strength? - Romans 7:14-25
or do I yield to God and depend on His strength? - Romans 6:13-16, 8:1-39
- b. Am I motivated by fear or by love? - 1 John 4:18; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- c. Am I walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit? - Galatians 5:13-26

3. Am I growing and becoming a spiritual child?

Focus of the spiritual child: Spiritual growth

- a. Do I have the assurance that my sins are forgiven? - 1 John 2:12
- b. Do I really know the Father or just know about Him? - 1 John 2:13
- c. Am I becoming strong in spirit? - Luke 1:80, 2:40
- d. Am I walking in fellowship with God and with other Christians? - 1 John 1:3-7
- e. Am I focusing on having the love of God grow to maturity in my life? - 1 John 2:3-6

4. Am I growing and becoming a spiritual young man?

Focus of the spiritual young man: Service

- a. Have I become strong in spirit? - 1 John 2:14
- b. Do I have the Word of God abiding in my heart? - 1 John 2:14
- c. Have I overcome Satan so that I am experiencing joy and victory? - 1 John 2:13-14
- d. Have I chosen to follow Christ instead of things? - Matthew 19:20-22

5. Am I growing and becoming a spiritual parent?

Focus of the spiritual parent: Care of spiritual children

- a. Do I have one or more spiritual children that I regularly help in their spiritual growth? - 1 Corinthians 4:14-17
- b. Do I lead my spiritual children by my love? - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9
- c. Do I lead my spiritual children by my example? - 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12
- d. Am I continuing to deepen my personal relationship with God? - 1 John 2:12-14

6. Am I growing and becoming a spiritual parent with Timothy?

Focus of the spiritual parent with Timothy: Godly leadership development

- a. Do I have one or more Timothys who are already exercising some spiritual leadership? - Acts 16:1-3
- b. Do I take Timothy with me when I minister? - Acts 20:4
- c. Do I give Timothy responsibility to help others? - 1 Corinthians 4:17
- d. Am I helping Timothy learn to reproduce? - 2 Timothy 2:2

D. How do I help others grow to the next level of spiritual maturity?

Basics for helping Christians grow to maturity

Exodus 18:20

““And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.””

Teach them the Word of God

we must have clearly in mind what we
want each Christian to know and
understand of the things of God.

Growth in knowledge

Show them the way to walk

we must have clearly in mind what we
want each Christian to become

Growth in character and attitude

Show them the work to do

we must have clearly in mind what we
want each Christian to learn to do and a
workable plan to help each one
accomplish it

Growth in ministry

Paul's 20/20 plan for developing spiritual maturity

Acts 20:20

“how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shown you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house...”

teach all that is profitable - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
teach by your own example - 1 Timothy 4:12
teach publicly - Acts 17:17
teach from house to house - Acts 2:46

Results of Spiritual Birth

The profile of a spiritual newborn babe

1. His attitude is repentance toward God - Acts 20:21
2. His attitude shows faith in our Lord Jesus Christ - Acts 20:21
3. He gives evidence of possessing new life - 2 Corinthians 5:17

The profile of a spiritual toddler

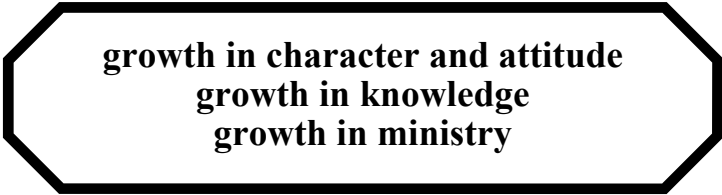
A spiritual toddler is a person who became a Christian and started to grow but then stopped growing and continues to show the following characteristics:

1. He acts like one who is not a Christian - 1 Corinthians 3:1
2. He is not able to understand difficult teachings from the Word - 1 Corinthians 3:2
3. He experiences envying, strife and divisions - 1 Corinthians 3:3
4. His talk, understanding and thinking of spiritual things is limited - 1 Corinthians 13:11
5. He is tossed to and fro by every false teaching - Ephesians 4:14
6. He is easily deceived by false teachers - Ephesians 4:14
7. He is dull of hearing to spiritual truth - Hebrews 5:11
8. He needs to be retaught the basics of Christianity - Hebrews 5:12
9. He is unskillful in the word of righteousness - Hebrews 5:13
10. His senses are not developed to recognize good and evil - Hebrews 5:14

Growing from Spiritual Birth to a Spiritual Child

Objectives for the development of a spiritual newborn babe or a spiritual toddler to help him become a spiritual child

Objectives for development include:



**growth in character and attitude
growth in knowledge
growth in ministry**

Growth in Character and Attitude

Goal is a transformed spirit - Romans 6

- learn to live by faith
- learn to walk in the Spirit
- learn to submit to the righteousness of God

Growth in Knowledge

Goal: a transformed mind, emotion and will - Romans 12:1-2

growth in the Word through:

- hearing - Romans 10:17
- reading - Revelation 1:3
- studying - Acts 17:11
- memorizing - Psalm 119:9, 11
- meditating - Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3

growth in experiencing the love of God - 1 John 4:10-11

- through fellowship with God - 1 John 1:3-7
- through fellowship with other believers - John 13:34-35; Hebrews 10:24-25

growth in submission to the will of God - Matthew 26:39

Growth in Ministry

Goal: a transformed relationship with others
to God

- love - 1 John 4:10, 19
- obedience - John 14:15; Matthew 7:24-27

to one another - this requires learning how to practice the one anothers of Scripture in our

- relationship to each other - John 13:34-35

there are 31 positive one anothers

there are 12 negative one anothers

to the world - this requires learning how to practice the three phases of evangelistic ministry

- Luke 15:3-7
- seeking - making contacts
- finding - sharing the Gospel and leading a person to Christ
- bringing - basic follow-up

The profile of a spiritual child

A spiritual child is one who is growing in the same way that Christ grew as a child - Luke 2:40-51

1. He is becoming strong in spirit - Luke 2:40
development of godly character and attitudes - Galatians 5:16, 22-23
2. He is increasing in godly wisdom - Luke 2:40; James 3:17
3. He is growing in grace - Luke 2:40; 2 Peter 3:18
this is reproduction by the indwelling Holy Spirit of the graciousness of God
in the life and service of the believer (Christian growth)
4. He has the attitude of a learner - Luke 2:46
5. He is growing in ministry - Luke 2:47
6. He is growing in fellowship with the Father - Luke 2:49
7. He is growing in his application of submission - Luke 2:51
8. He is developing a proper family relationship - Luke 2:51

**Godly Character and Attitude plus Growing Bible Knowledge
and Application results in Growing Ministry**

Growing from a Spiritual Child to a Spiritual Young Man

Objectives for the development of a spiritual child to help him become a spiritual young man

Growth in Character and Attitude

Goal: continuing growth in depth of character and attitude

- has a good reputation - Acts 16:2, 6:4
- is filled with the Spirit as a basic pattern of life - Ephesians 5:18; Acts 6:4
- is an example for others - 1 Timothy 4:11
- is filled with wisdom - Acts 6:4
- has the attitude of a servant - Mark 10:42-45

Growth in Knowledge

Goal: continuing growth in knowledge and application of the Word

- is becoming familiar with the entire Word of God - 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- effective meditation has become a basic part of life - Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3
- has a clear commitment to the doctrines of the Word of God - 1 Timothy 4:16

Growth in Ministry

Goal: development of an effective and balanced ministry

- an effective ministry of submission to spiritual leaders - Titus 2:4-8; 1 Peter 5:5-6
- an effective ministry in the home, if married - Ephesians 5:18-6:4
- an effective ministry of service to the body - Acts 16:1-2
- an effective ministry of evangelism to the lost - Acts 8:4, 11:19-21

The profile of a spiritual young man

1. He is strong in spirit - 1 John 2:14; Ephesians 3:16-19
2. He has the Word of God abiding in him - 1 John 2:14
 - this includes knowledge of the whole Word of God - Acts 20:20, 27
 - this includes effective meditation - Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3
3. He has overcome the wicked one - 1 John 2:14
 - he practices separation from sin - 1 John 2:15-17
 - he practices separation from false teaching - 1 John 2:18-27
4. He is continuing to experience balanced growth and development - Luke 2:52
 - growth in wisdom
 - growth in spiritual as well as physical stature
 - growth in favor with God
 - growth in favor with man
5. He is an example to other Christians - 1 John 4:11
6. He has an effective ministry - Acts 16:1-2

Growing from a Spiritual Young Man to a Spiritual Parent

Objectives for the development of a spiritual young man to help him become a spiritual parent

Growth in Character and Attitude

Goal: to develop the attitude which Christ had in Philippians 2:5-8

- an attitude which produces true care for spiritual children - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12; 1 Corinthians 4:15-17
- an attitude of commitment to one or more Timothys - 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- a proper attitude toward becoming a spiritual leader - 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; 1 Timothy 3:1

Growth in Knowledge

Goal: to desire to know Christ in the way that Paul desired to know Him in Philippians 3:7-14

- advanced in the knowledge of God - 1 John 2:13
(know the God of the Word as well as the Word of God)
- able to answer false teachers from the Word of God - Titus 1:9

Growth in Ministry

Goal: to become an effective spiritual parent who can reproduce himself in the lives of others

- has an effective ministry in helping the spiritual development of his own family - Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- has an effective ministry in helping new Christians grow - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
- ministers with a servant's heart - Mark 10:42-45
- is an example of faithfulness - 1 Corinthians 4:2

The profile of a spiritual parent

1. He is advanced in his knowledge of God - 1 John 2:13
2. He demonstrates true care for his spiritual children - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
3. He has one or a few Timothys that he is bringing to spiritual maturity - 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:15-17
4. He has become a mature disciple - Matthew 13:52
 - he is instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven
 - he is the head of a spiritual household
 - he has a treasure (the Word of God) - Psalm 119:11
 - he shares from his treasure things that are new (he is continuing to study the Word of God so that his growth continues)
 - he shares from his treasure things that are old (he is able to help his spiritual children understand the basic teachings of the Word of God)
5. He is spiritually mature and has become like His teacher - Luke 6:40

Questions to ask to understand if I know how to help individuals grow from their present level to the next level of spiritual maturity

1. Questions about my own understanding of my purpose as group leader

- a. Do I have clearly in mind what I want each person to know and understand of the things of God? - Exodus 18:20a
- b. Do I have clearly in mind what I want each person to become in character and attitude? - Exodus 18:20b
- c. Do I have clearly in mind what I want each person to learn to do and a workable plan to help each one accomplish it? - Exodus 18:20

2. Do I have a 20/20 plan for developing spiritual maturity Acts 20:20

- a. Am I getting prepared to teach all that is profitable? - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- b. Am I teaching godly living by my own example? - 1 Timothy 4:12
 - 1) Am I an example by my words?
 - 2) Am I an example by my conduct (actions)?
 - 3) Am I an example by my love?
 - 4) Am I an example in my spirit?
 - 5) Am I an example by my faith?
 - 6) Am I an example by my purity?
- c. Am I teaching the Word of God publicly?
 - 1) Do I take members of the group with me when I minister to show them how to minister? - Matthew 4:18-22
 - 2) Do I give group members opportunity to participate as well as observe? - Mark 3:13-14; John 6:11-12
- d. Am I teaching the Word of God from house to house?
 - 1) Do I minister to group members in their homes? - Matthew 8:14-15, 9:9-13; Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-3
 - 2) Do I invite group members into my home so that I can have opportunities to minister to them? - Acts 18:26

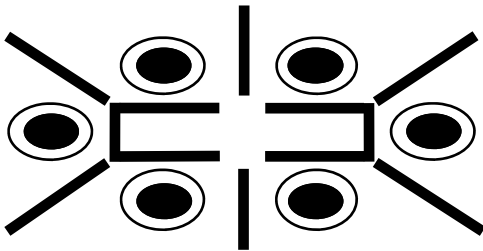
E. How do I help a small group grow to the next level of spiritual maturity?

Building group relationships

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

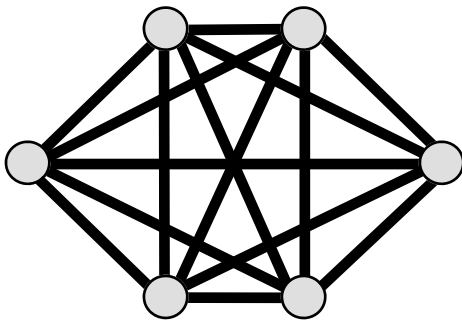
Fear Based Relationships



Fear Relationships

relationships are controlled by fear
people erect barriers with others
people create shells to protect their feelings
no trust
no communication

Love Based Relationships



Healthy Relationships

relationships are controlled by love
barriers have been replaced by acceptance
shells have been replaced by openness
trust is a characteristic of relationships
communication is direct

Before we placed our trust in Christ, our relationships became controlled by more and more fear. By the time most people become Christians, fear-controlled relationships have become the thing that controls their lives. Only after we place our trust in Christ and begin to understand the love of Christ for us can we begin to move toward love-based or healthy relationships. Since it involves relationships, this only happens within the family or a spiritual family (small group). Once we place our trust in Christ, we can begin to move from relationships that are controlled by fear to relationships that are controlled by the love of Christ for us.

1 John 4:10-11

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

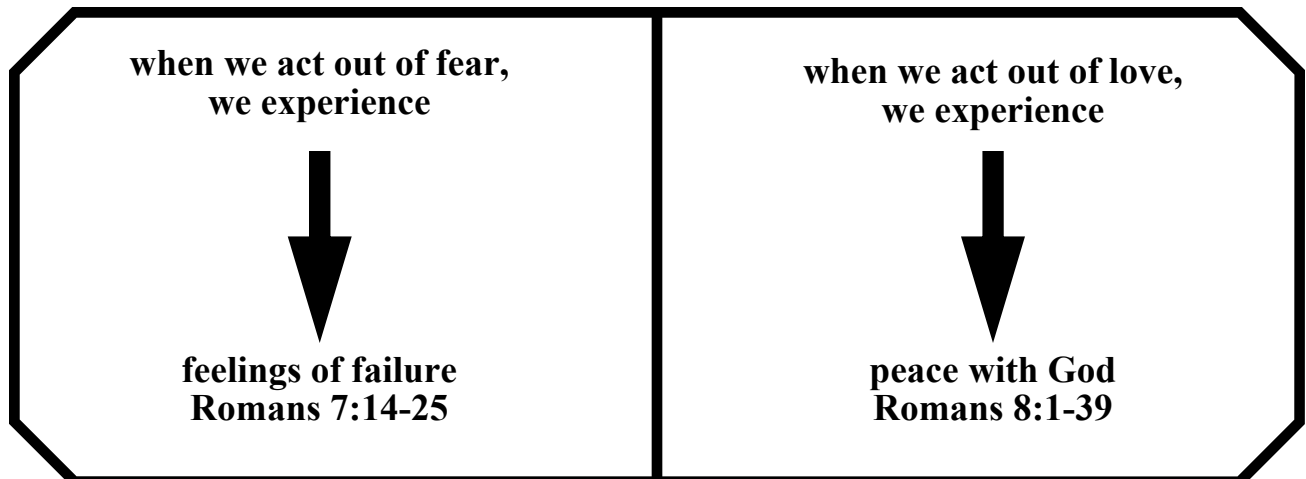
Questions to ask to understand if I know how to help the group develop healthy relationships

1. Questions about my own understanding of how I move from fear to love

- a. Are my personal relationships controlled by fear or love?
 - 1) Am I motivated by the love of Christ? - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - 2) Is my motivation to serve others through love? - 1 Corinthians 9:19-24; Galatians 5:13; Acts 21:17-26
 - 3) Am I motivated by the fear of the rules of other Christians? - Galatians 2:10-11
 - 4) Is my fear of the rules of other Christians causing me to hinder the spiritual growth of other Christians? - Galatians 2:12-14
- b. Am I growing in my understanding of Christ's love for me? - 1 John 4:7-11

2. Questions about my understanding of how to help the group grow toward love

- a. Do I understand and know how to explain the 12 negative one anothers in Scripture that will happen when we act out of fear?
- b. Do I demonstrate some of these negative one anothers by my own example; and if so, what am I doing to let the Lord help me grow and change?
- c. Do I understand and know how to explain the 31 positive one anothers in Scripture that will happen as we yield to Christ and act in love toward one another?
- d.. Are the positive one anothers becoming a growing part of my life so that I am an example of growing in my understanding and application of love in my life?

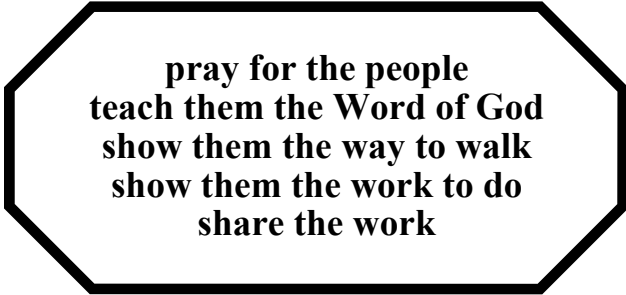


II. Personal Priorities for Effective Small Group Leadership

The priorities that Moses was given for small or large group leadership Exodus 18:19-21

“Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

Five priorities for any spiritual leader:



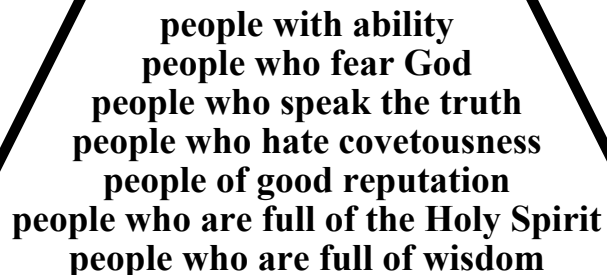
pray for the people
teach them the Word of God
show them the way to walk
show them the work to do
share the work

Basic qualities we want to see develop in each person Exodus 18:21

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

Acts 6:3

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...”



people with ability
people who fear God
people who speak the truth
people who hate covetousness
people of good reputation
people who are full of the Holy Spirit
people who are full of wisdom

A. Pray for those you lead

Give thanks in prayer as you see the healthy development of the group

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.”

**give thanks for their work of faith
give thanks for their labor of love
give thanks for their patience of hope**

If any of these three things are lacking, pray for their development!

Pray for the spiritual development of each group member

Ephesians 3:14-19

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Your daily prayer for the spiritual growth of each group member:

pray that each would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the inner man

**pray that Christ would dwell in their hearts by faith
(make Christ at home so that He leads and guides their daily lives)**

pray that each would take root and be grounded in Christ's love

pray that each would understand the love of Christ which passes knowledge

pray that each would be filled with all the fullness of God

Pray without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

B. Teach them the Word of God

Teaching involves various of ways of communicating

Acts 19:8-10

“And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”

**speaking with boldness from the Word
to discuss in conversation
to persuade by words to believe**

Teaching involves more than just telling

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

**Teaching them to observe (obey) all things
(the word translated “observe” means *to keep or obey*)**

**in teaching, we help people learn what Christ has taught
“tell them what”
in teaching, we help people learn why we are to obey
“tell them why”
in teaching, we show people how to obey
“show them how”
in teaching, we then do it with them
“do it with them”
in teaching, we observe to see if they have learned
“let them do it”**

Five ways we help people learn the Word of God

**we help them learn to hear the Word - Romans 10:17
we help them learn to read the Word - Revelation 1:3
we help them learn to study the Word - 2 Timothy 2:15
we help them learn to memorize the Word - Psalm 119:11
we help them learn how to meditate on the Word
Joshua 1:7-8; Psalm 1:1-3**

C. Show them the way to walk

Godly character is caught not taught (people will become what we are)

Luke 6:40

““A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.””

a disciple - one who follows a leader's teachings

**a teacher - in the New Testament,
one who teaches concerning the things of God and the duties of man**

**one who is perfectly trained -
one who is mended, strengthened and has become complete**

**like his teacher -
people will become what we are whether that is good or bad**

Show them the way to walk (Make Disciples)

Commanded -Matthew 28:19-20

Defined - Matthew 13:52

Illustrated by Christ - Matthew 27:57

Continuously practiced - Acts 14:21-23

Making godly disciples is defined - Matthew 13:52

“Then He said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe instructed (*who has become a disciple*) concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.’”

a scribe - one who is skilled in the Word of God

**instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven -
who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven**

**is like a householder -
has become the head of a spiritual family or household**

**brings out of his treasure things that are new -
he is continuing to learn and teach new things from the Word**

**brings out of his treasure things that are old -
is able to teach basic Biblical teachings to newer Christians**

D. Show them the work to do

Ministry skills are taught by example

Ephesians 4:11-13

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...”

God gave two gifts to form our foundation:

apostles to give us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection - Acts 1:21-22
prophets to give us the written Word of God - 2 Peter 1:19-21
these two gifts are our foundation and no longer exist - Ephesians 2:20-22

God gave three gifts to equip us for ministry:

Evangelists - to equip us to share the Gospel with the lost
“love our neighbor as ourselves”

Pastors - to equip us to minister to (serve) one another
“love one another as Christ has loved us”

Teachers - to teach us the Word of God and equip us to obey it
“love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind”

This results in:

the building up of the body
growth in the unity of the faith
growth in the knowledge of Christ
growth in the maturity of the body
growth in Christlikeness

E. Share the work with them according to their level of spiritual maturity

The guidelines given to Moses for sharing responsibility

Exodus 18:21

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

share responsibility with able people
share responsibility with people according to their level of ability
share responsibility with people who fear God
share responsibility with people who speak the truth
share responsibility with people who hate covetousness

The guidelines given by the apostles for sharing responsibility

Acts 6:3

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...”

share responsibility with people of good reputation
respected by Christians - Acts 6:5
respected by non-Christians - 1 Timothy 3:7
share responsibility with people who are full of the Holy Spirit
share responsibility with people who have wisdom

Remember to fulfill our purpose we have the following objectives:

Magnify - Glorify God

Maturity - Become Disciples

Multiplication - Make Disciples

who:

Exalt - Love God with our whole heart, soul and mind

Evangelize - Love our neighbor as ourselves

Edify and Equip - Love one another as Christ has loved us

Questions to ask myself about my personal priorities for group leadership

1. Questions about my understanding of Biblical priorities in leadership

- a. Am I committed to praying for each person in the group daily?
- b. Am I committed to learning and teaching the Word of God?
- c. Is my life a godly example for others to follow?
- d. Do I know how to show by my example how to serve the Lord?
- e. Do I have a plan to share the ministry in the group with others?

2. Questions about my prayer for the group development

- a. Am I praying and thanking God for the growth of the group in our faith?
- b. Am I praying and thanking God for the growth of the group in our hope?
- c. Am I praying and thanking God for the growth of the group in our love?

3. Questions about my prayer for the development of each person

- a. Am I praying that each person will be strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man?
- b. Am I praying that each person will make Christ at home in their heart by faith?
- c. Am I praying that each person will take root and be grounded in the love of Christ?
- d. Am I praying that each person will grow in their understanding of the love of Christ for them?
- e. Am I praying that each person will be filled with all the fullness of God?

4. Questions about my plan for teaching the Word of God?

- a. Am I prepared to involve the group in group discussion about a passage?
- b. Am I prepared to show and teach the group how to obey what we are learning?
- c. Am I prepared to help the people in the group learn how to study the Word?
- d. Am I prepared to help the people in the group learn how to memorize and meditate on the Word of God?

5. Questions about my example and plan for developing godly character

- a. Am I continuing to grow in godly character in my own life?
- b. Am I an example that will help others to develop godly character as they follow me?
- c. Am I able to help the group focus on what God wants us to become rather than what we presently are?
- d. Am I able to help the group focus on inward change rather than outward rules?
- e. Am I able to help the group focus on what we will be as we become disciples?

6. Questions to ask myself about what skills I want the group to learn

- a. Do I know what spiritual gifts the Lord has given me?
- b. Do I have a good enough understanding of spiritual gifts to help the group discover their spiritual gifts?
- c. Do I know how to help the group understand how we can use our spiritual gifts to minister to each other?
- d. Do I know how to help the group understand how we can use our spiritual gifts to minister to other Christians?
- e. Do I know how to help the group understand how we can use our spiritual gifts to lead non-Christians to Christ?
- f. Do I have a clear understanding of the equipping gifts that God uses to equip us for effective ministry?

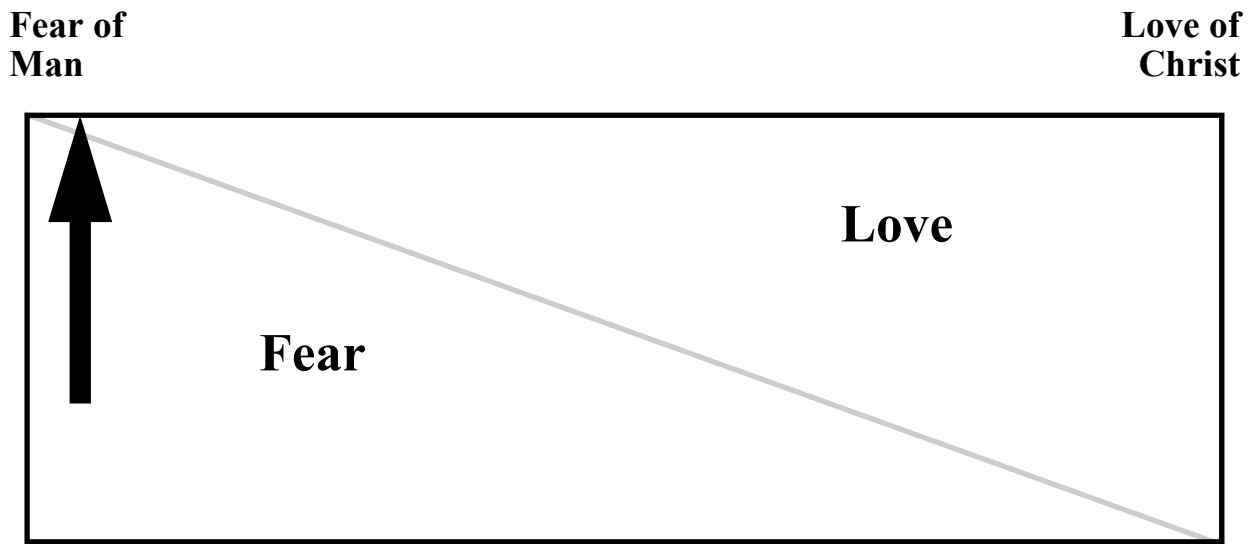
7. Questions to ask myself about how I can share ministry with the group

- a. Do I understand how various levels of maturity will affect what kinds of ministry a person is able to do effectively?
- b. Do I have a plan to help each member of the group gradually take increasing levels of responsibility as they mature spiritually?
- c. Do I know how to work with each member of the group to help them discover and develop their spiritual gifts?
- d. Do I know how to help each member of the group learn to use their abilities in ministry?
- e. Do I know how to help the group reach out as a group to others?

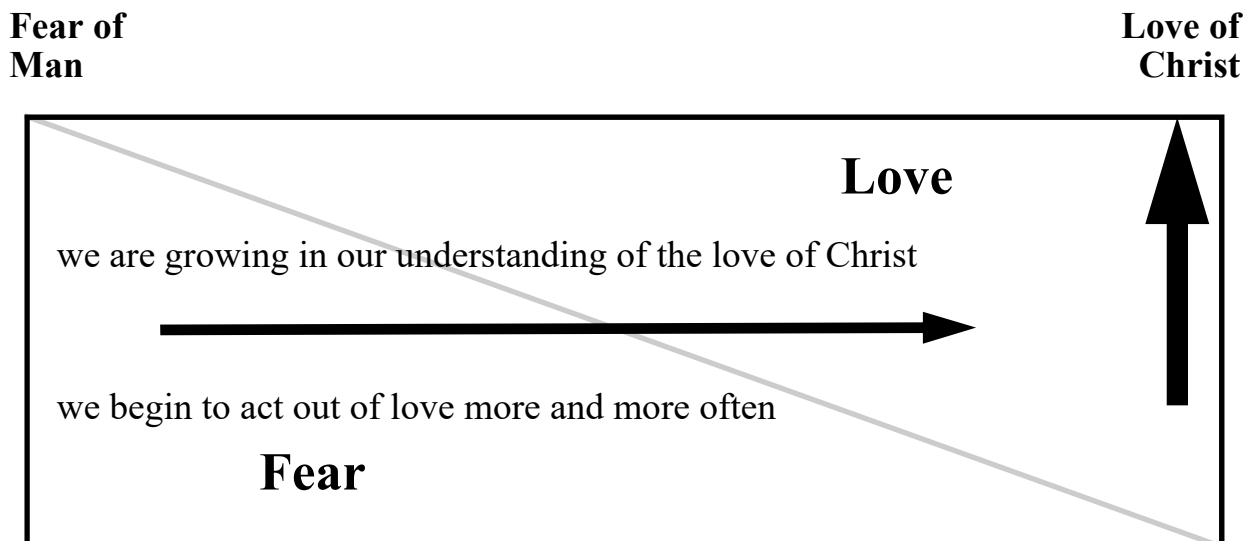
III. Helping the Group Move From Fear to Love so They Can Minister to One Another 1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

**Because of sin, fear instead of love became what motivates people
Hebrews 2:14-15**



**Because Christ paid for sin, as our understanding of the love of Christ grows,
we see that His love for us becomes the thing that motivates us more and more
2 Corinthians 5:14-15**



the more we act out of love instead of fear,
the greater the inner peace we experience

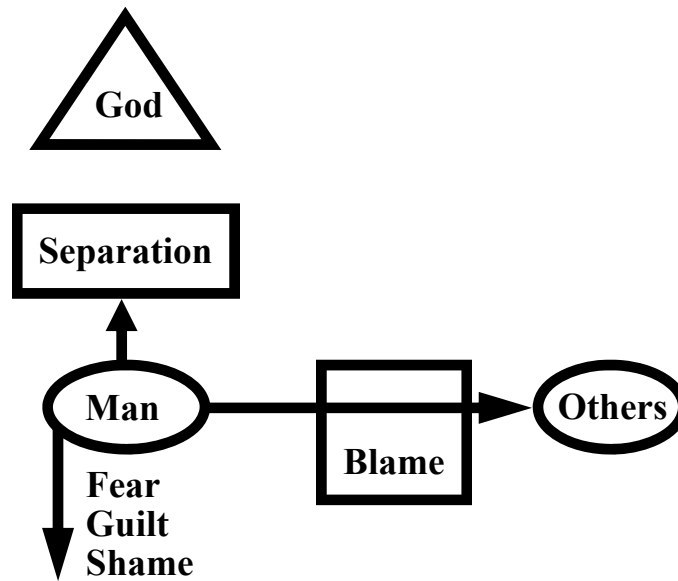
A. How fear originally developed

**When man sinned and abandoned God,
he immediately experienced certain consequences**

Genesis 3:7-13

Shame “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” **Separation from God (and from each other)** “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where *are* you?’” **Fear** “So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’” **Guilt** “And He said, ‘Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’” **Blame** “Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What *is* this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

Sin affects our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others



Sin and fear spread from Adam to all men

Romans 5:12

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

Hebrews 2:14-15

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”



B. Understanding why fear controls our lives

Fear controls our lives because we depend on our own spirit

Romans 7:19-24

“For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

I do what I determined not to do

I have a desire to please God

**I am experiencing an emotional death
because of my constant failures**

Fear controls our lives when we are double-minded

James 1:6-8

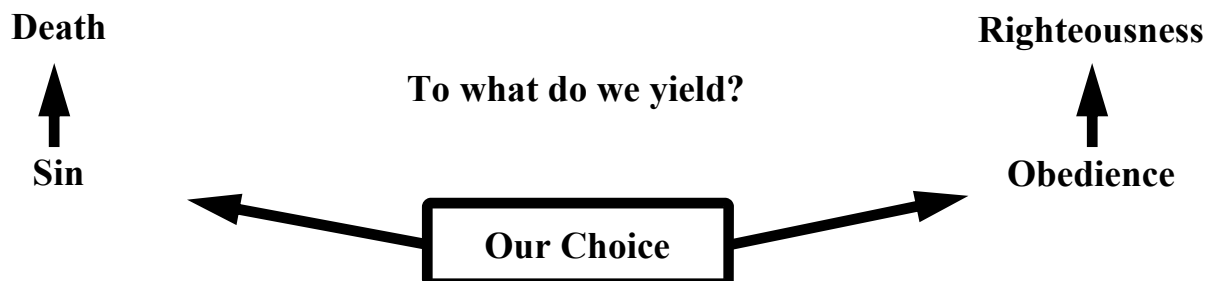
“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

**I can be controlled by doubt instead of faith
I will then feel like I am thrown around by the wind
I will then be unstable in all that I do**

Fear controls our lives because we yield to sin instead of yielding to God

Romans 6:13, 16

“And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God... Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”



C. Understanding the three kinds of love

**We use the word “love” in at least three different ways.
The Greeks had three different words “eros”, “phileo”, “agapao”.**

Eros love

**I want to satisfy my own needs
at its worst, this is just plain lust
however, it can produce a certain amount of loyalty**

“lust”



“loyalty”

Phileo love

**commitment could be used to describe family love
it was used by the Jews to describe Christ’s love for Lazarus
John 11:36**

“Then the Jews said, ‘See how He loved him!’”

“commitment”

Agapao love

**sacrifice describes God’s love for us
John 3:16**

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

“sacrifice”

We want to help people grow in their understanding of God’s love

only the Christian can begin to understand God’s love



the highest level of love the non-Christian can understand is family love



many people have never even experienced family love

D. Understanding how godly love casts out fear

We respond to God's love for us

1 John 4:18-19

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.”

We begin to understand God's forgiveness of our sins as we mature

1 John 2:12

“I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.”

We confess our sins so that we experience daily cleansing

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We take root in Christ instead of our own strength

Colossians 2:6-7

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

We grow and become rooted and grounded in love

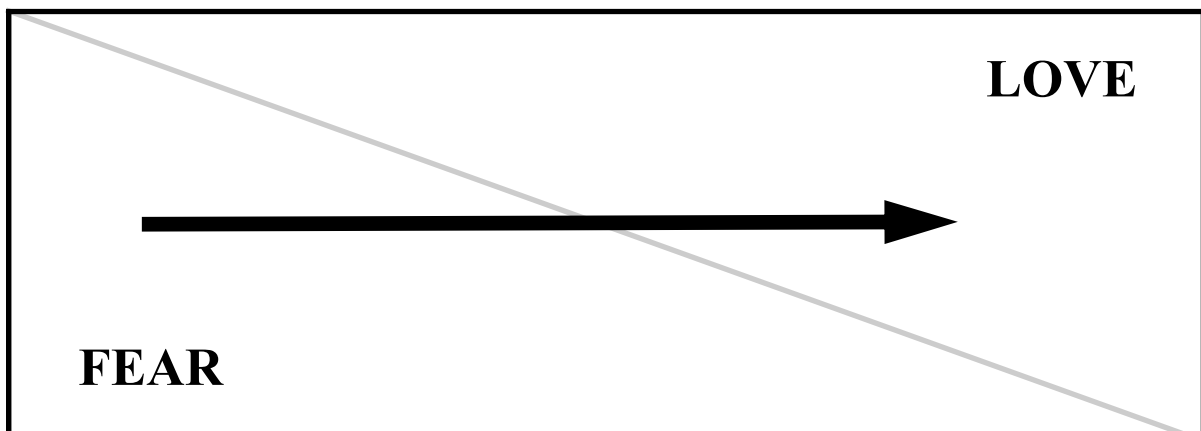
Ephesians 3:16-19

“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

We experience growing love and decreasing fear

**Fear of
Man**

**Love of
Christ**



E. Helping the group take root in the love of Christ

The group will take root in the love of Christ as they:

Yield to God

Romans 6:13, 16

“And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ...Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Are led by the Spirit

Galatians 5:18

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Live in the Spirit

Galatians 5:25

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

The group will take root in the love of Christ as they:

Get together

Encourage one another

Hebrews 10:24-25

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

The group will take root in the love of Christ as they:

Focus on Bible study

Focus on fellowship

Focus on the breaking of bread

Focus on prayer

Acts 2:42

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

Taking root in the love of Christ is the result of the group:

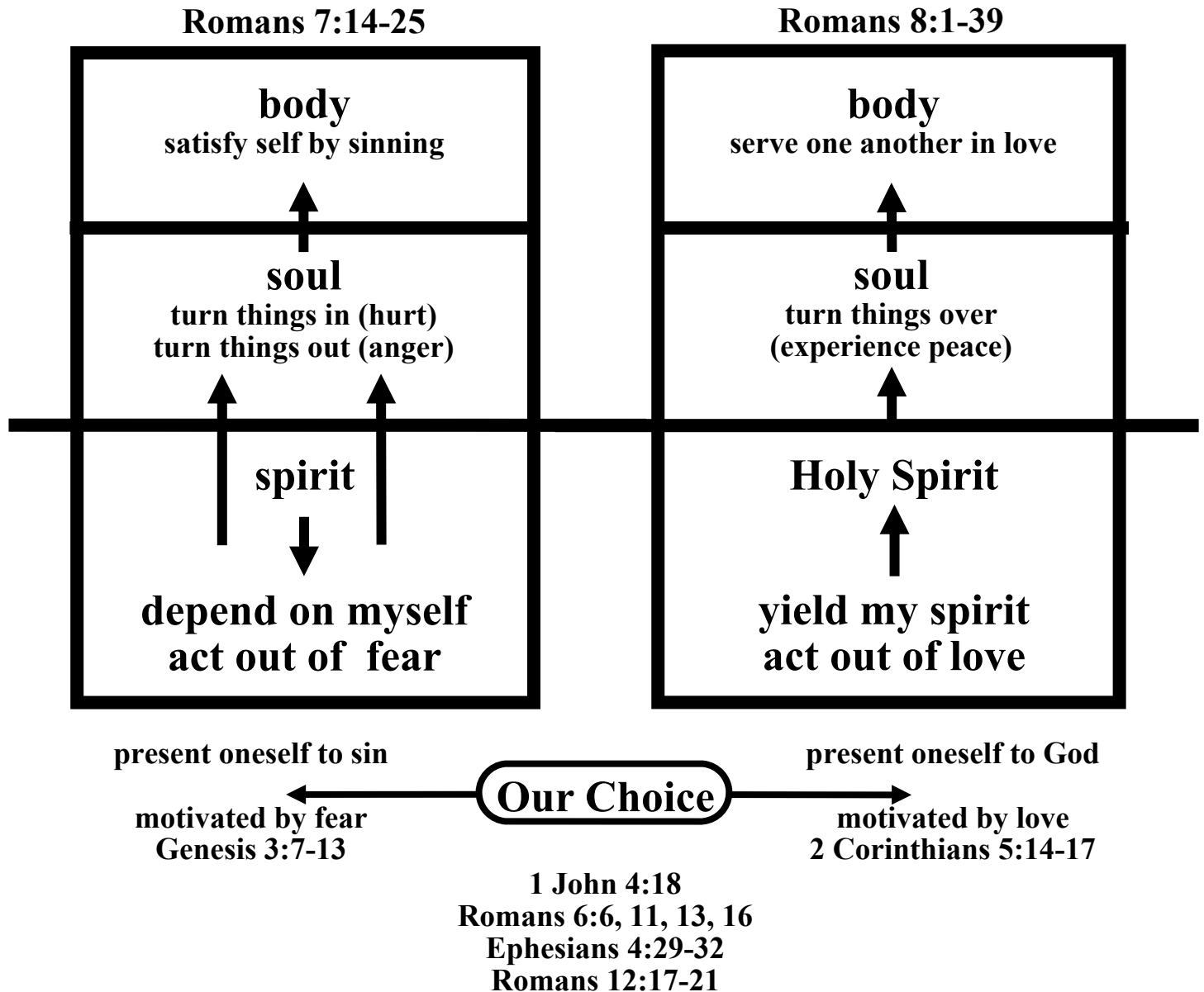


**learning to yield to the Spirit
learning to grow in their relationship to God and each other**

F. Understanding why we can act in love when we yield to God

We will act out of fear when we depend on our own strength

We will act out of love when we present ourselves to God



G. Understanding the negative one anothers when fear is in control

Scripture gives 43 one anothers in the New Testament
12 of these are negative
31 of these are positive

When we are controlled by fear, we may do the negative one anothers

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

1. **judge one another** - to assume the office of judge and condemn one another

Romans 14:13

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

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

2. **go to law with one another** - to have lawsuits

1 Corinthians 6:7

“Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?”

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

3. **deprive one another** - in marriage, to use sex as a weapon to get even with one another rather than as a way to meet the needs of one another

1 Corinthians 7:5

“Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

4. **bite one another** - to wound the soul by speaking evil words
 5. **devour one another** - to make a habit of wounding the soul
 6. **consume one another** - the last act of swallowing down
- “bite-devour-consume” speaks of the process which destroys a relationship

Galatians 5:15

“But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

7. **challenge one another** - to call forth as a contest (hence to stir up what is evil in another)
8. **envy one another** - envy is the feeling of displeasure produced by hearing of or witnessing the advantage or prosperity of another

Galatians 5:26

“Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

9. **lie to one another** - to deceive by telling lies to one another

Colossians 3:9

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

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

10. **repay another with evil for evil** - used to speak of the reverse of doing good to one another

1 Thessalonians 5:14

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

11. **speak against one another** - to speak against or slander

James 4:11

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

When we are controlled by fear, we are tempted to:

12. **complain against one another** - to groan (used of an inward, unexpressed feeling of sorrow)

James 5:9

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

H. Understanding the positive one another when love is in control

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

1. **love one another** - this speaks of the kind of love that Christ showed by His self-sacrifice and obedience to God. It is primarily a decision of the will rather than a feeling.

John 13:34-35

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

other commands to love one another:

John 15:12, 17

Romans 13:8

1 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

2 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Peter 1:22

1 Peter 4:8

1 John 3:11, 23

1 John 4:7, 11, 12

2 John 5

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

2. **accept one another** - to take to oneself, signifying a special interest or welcome on the part of the receiver

Romans 15:7

“Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

3. **admonish one another** - instruction which is primarily a warning against things that are wrong

Romans 15:14

“Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”

Colossians 3:16

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 4. bear one another's burdens** - to bear the weights that are pressing down on another

Galatians 6:2

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 5. bear with one another** - to hold up against a thing so as to bear with or endure

Ephesians 4:2

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

Colossians 3:13

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 6. build up one another** - to promote the spiritual growth and development of character in believers, by example and by teaching, suggesting such spiritual progress is the result of patient labor

Romans 14:19

"Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify (*build up one*) another."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 7. comfort one another** - to come to the side of another and provide comfort, encouragement or exhortation

1 Thessalonians 4:18

"Therefore comfort one another with these words."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (see above)

Hebrews 3:13

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

Hebrews 10:25

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 8. care for one another** - to have a great concern for others which causes us to share ourselves with one another

1 Corinthians 12:25

“That there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 9. be comforted together through faith in one another** - to encourage one another by the mutual faith that we have in one another as well as our joint faith in the Lord

Romans 1:12

“That is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 10. have compassion for one another** - to suffer with another

1 Peter 3:8

“Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous...”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 11. confess our sins to one another** - to confess forth openly and freely

James 5:16

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 12. be devoted to one another** - to have a tender love for one another such as the love of parents for children and children for parents

Romans 12:10

“*Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;...”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

13. fellowship with one another - the sharing together of our lives

1 John 1:7

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

14. forgive one another - to bestow a favor unconditionally so that things from the past are not held against another person. The failure to forgive one another is one of the greatest hindrances to spiritual growth and development.

Ephesians 4:32

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

Colossians 3:13

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

15. seek what is good for one another and for all men - that which is good in its character and beneficial in its effects

1 Thessalonians 5:15

“See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

16. greet one another - to greet, welcome and make feel comfortable

Romans 16:16

“Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.”

1 Corinthians 16:20

“All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.”

2 Corinthians 13:12

“Greet one another with a holy kiss.”

1 Peter 5:14

“Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

17. be hospitable to one another - to show love to a guest

1 Peter 4:9

“Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

18. clothe ourselves with humility toward one another - to make ourselves low of mind and show respect to one another

1 Peter 5:5

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

19. be kind to one another - to be good, pleasant and gracious even to those who are ungrateful and evil

Ephesians 4:32

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

20. be members one of another - members are parts of the body and we are called to have the same relationship to each other as parts of the body

Romans 12:5

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

Ephesians 4:25

“Therefore, putting away lying, ‘*Let each one of you* speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

21. pray for one another - keep continuing to pray for one another

James 5:16

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 22. be of the same mind toward one another** - to have the same concern and regard for one another as we have for ourselves

Romans 12:16

“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”

Romans 15:5

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 23. be at peace with one another** - to bring to peace, to reconcile or to keep peace

Mark 9:50

“Salt *is* good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

1 Thessalonians 5:13

“and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 24. regard one another as more important than ourselves** - to esteem one another highly

Philippians 2:3

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 25. serve one another as a slave** - to serve as a slave, viewed as a relationship to our Master

Galatians 5:13

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 26. employ our spiritual gift in serving one another** - to be a servant, attendant, to serve, wait upon, minister, viewed as a relationship to our work

1 Peter 4:10

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 27. stimulate one another to love and good works** - a sharpening of a feeling or action which causes a greater desire to love and do good deeds

Hebrews 10:24-25

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 28. submit to one another** - to place yourself under the authority of another

Ephesians 5:21

“Submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 29. teach one another** - to give positive instruction

Colossians 3:16

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

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

- 30. wait for one another** - to make sure that all share equally in the love feast (potluck) and none are left out by the selfishness of others

1 Corinthians 11:33

“Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.”

When we yield to God, the Holy Spirit gives us power to:

31. wash one another's feet - speaks of service to one another that will produce a feeling of acceptance and comfort

John 13:14

“If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.”

Why we can only lead a group toward love and godliness if we are yielding to the Holy Spirit

People follow our example and become what we are

John 13:15

“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

**if we are controlled by fear, the group will remain under the control of fear
if we are led by the love of Christ, the group will learn to love**

People need spiritual parents who can show them the way to walk

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

**spiritual parents love their spiritual children
spiritual parents provide an example to imitate
spiritual parents provide for continuing care
spiritual parents remind of their ways
spiritual parents continue to teach**

group leaders become spiritual parents to that group

Questions to ask myself about how to help the group learn to love and minister to one another

1. Questions about how fear originally developed

- a. Am I learning to explain how sin affected our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others?
- b. Am I learning to explain why sin causes fear of death and bondage?

2. Questions about why fear controls our lives

- a. Am I learning to explain why many Christians live a life of continuing failure?
- b. Am I learning to explain how it affects us when we are double-minded?
- c. Am I learning to explain what happens when we yield to sin?
- d. Am I learning to explain what happens when we yield to God?

3. Questions about the three kinds of love

- a. Am I learning to explain the three kinds of love?
- b. Am I learning to explain why non-Christians cannot understand God's love?
- c. Am I learning to recognize when there are individuals in the group who do not even understand family love?
- d. Am I learning to help the group begin to show family love to those individuals?

4. Questions about helping the group move from fear to love

- a. Am I learning to help the group move from fear to love?
- b. Am I learning to help the group take root in the love of Christ?
- c. Am I learning to make the choice more frequently to yield my spirit to the Holy Spirit so that I act out of love instead of fear?
- d. Am I learning to explain how we will react when we are controlled by fear?
- e. Am I learning to explain how we will react when we yield to the Holy Spirit?
- f. Am I learning to explain why the Holy Spirit gives us power to change when we yield to God instead of depending on ourselves?

IV. Helping the group understand its “SHAPE” Galatians 5:13

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

Understanding true liberty

**True liberty is living as we should and not as we please
(the freedom to do what is right)**

**we have been called to liberty
we are not to use our liberty as an excuse to sin
we are to use our liberty to serve one another in love**

**True liberty means we need to understand our “SHAPE”
so that we can serve one another in love**

S - spiritual gifts

H - heart

A - abilities

P - personality

E - experiences in life

A. Understanding how spiritual gifts affect our ministry to one another

1. Understanding the purpose of the sign gifts

sign gifts were to confirm the message of the apostles

Hebrews 2:3-4

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

2 Corinthians 12:11-12

“I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”

sign gifts will be misused in the future

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders...”

sign gifts were needed to confirm the message of the resurrection

Acts 1:21-22

“Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

sign gifts were demonstrated by the men who wrote the New Testament

2 Peter 1:19-21

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

sign gifts include:



speaking in tongues - Acts 2:1-8, 11:15-17
signs and wonders - Acts 5:12; Hebrews 2:3-4

2. Understanding the purpose of the equipping gifts

equipping gifts are to equip the saints for ministry

Ephesians 4:11-13

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...”

apostles and prophets provide our foundation

Ephesians 2:19-20

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*...”

evangelists, pastors and teachers equip us to obey our Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go(ing) therefore and Make Disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

evangelists, pastors and teachers equip us to obey our New Commandment

John 13:34-35

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

in this commission and command, each Christian has three responsibilities:

as we are going, we are to **preach the Gospel** - Mark 16:15
as we love one another, we are to **minister to one another** - Galatians 6:2
as we make disciples, we are to **teach the Word of God** - Matthew 28:20

equipping gift:	equip the saints to:
evangelists	preach the Gospel
pastors	minister to one another
teachers	teach the Word of God

**3. Understanding the serving gifts listed in:
Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1 - 14:40; 1 Peter 4:7-11**

**the first seven gifts are listed in
Romans 12:6-8**

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

the gift of prophecy

Since the prophets gave us the written Word of God, the gift of prophecy does not speak about giving new revelation as that is clearly forbidden in Revelation 22:18-19. Instead, the one with the gift of prophecy is to prophesy what has already been written down in the Word of God. Key passages:

1 Corinthians 14:3

“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

1 Peter 1:10

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you...”

Jude 14-15

“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”

the gift of prophecy: To quote the Word of God to edify, exhort and comfort; to announce the grace that is provided in salvation and to warn of judgment for ungodly deeds. The person with this gift will often quote the Scripture without explaining it, as Peter did in his sermon in Acts 2.

the gift of ministry (Serving)

The Christian who has the gift of serving will usually emphasize practical ways to help other Christians. This will involve many different kinds of ministry but the purpose will be to serve other Christians. Key passages:

1 Corinthians 16:15

“I urge you, brethren -- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints...”

Romans 16:1-2

“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.”

Acts 6:1-2

“Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.”

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

“Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.”

the gift of serving: To serve the saints by helping, by serving, by sharing and by devoting our time to the ministry of the saints. The gift will often involve manual projects and short-term goals.

the gift of teaching

The Christian who has the gift of teaching will tend to emphasize purity of doctrine and will emphasize the importance of much study in order to make certain that there is purity of doctrine. The concern of one who has this gift is for sound doctrine in all teaching and the application of that teaching so that it produces obedience and godly living. Key passages:

1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

Titus 2:7-8

“In all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

Titus 1:9

“Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

the gift of teaching: To spend much time in study so that there will be purity of doctrine in all teaching. This teaching will include both teaching those who want to learn and those who contradict.

the gift of exhorting

The Christian who has the gift of exhorting will tend to emphasize growth toward spiritual maturity so that the Word of God will not be blasphemed. He will urge others to pursue a course of conduct which is always prospective, looking toward the future. Key passages:

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

“But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more...”

1 Timothy 6:1-2

“Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.”

Titus 2:15

“Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.”

Titus 2:4-5

“That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

the gift of exhorting: To encourage the saints to love, to good works, and to godly living by giving specific steps so that the Word of God will not be blasphemed. The person with this gift will often encourage individuals to take small specific steps which will help them to work toward spiritual development and goals.

comparing the three speaking gifts

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

**the one who has the gift of teaching will emphasize:
doctrine**

**the one who has the gift of prophecy will emphasize:
reproof**

**the one who has the gift of exhorting will emphasize
correction**

the gift of giving

The Christian who has the gift of giving tends to emphasize giving to needs that are often not recognized by others. There will also often be an emphasis on giving to missions so that the Word of God can be carried worldwide. Key passages:

Romans 12:8

“He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Romans 1:11-12

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established - that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”

Ephesians 4:28

“Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

“So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

the gift of giving: To give generously so that faith may be strengthened, needs may be met, and others may be able to minister because we have given of our own souls. The person with the gift of giving will often encourage other Christians to share in the ministry of giving so that his or her giving is multiplied.

the gift of leading

The word translated “lead” means *to stand before or lead*. In order to lead effectively, God has given the person with this gift the ability to see what a church or other ministry needs to do to accomplish the work of God in the future. The Christian who has the gift of leading (ruling) tends to take a long-range view and to make long-range plans so that the work of God can be completed smoothly and efficiently. Key passages:

1 Thessalonians 5:12

“And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you...”

Titus 3:8

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.”

Titus 3:8

“And let our *people* also learn to maintain good works, to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”

the gift of leading: To lead under the leadership of the Lord so that the good works of all will be profitable and fruitful. The person with this gift will often be given insight by the Lord to help that person see what a group needs to do to move forward and make progress in their ministry.

the gift of showing mercy

The Christian who has the gift of showing mercy tends to be more sensitive to the inner feelings of others and demonstrates loving concern to those who are in inner distress. The person with this gift is usually effective at offering comfort to those experiencing inner distress. Key passages:

Matthew 20:30-34

“And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, ‘Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!’ Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, ‘Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!’ So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ They said to Him, ‘Lord, that our eyes may be opened.’ So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

“Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

Romans 12:8

“He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

the gift of showing mercy: To feel such sympathy with the misery of another that it produces comfort and thankfulness for the opportunity to show mercy.

In addition to the gifts listed in Romans 12, a number of other gifts that are not included in any of the previous groups are also given in 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Peter 4. These include:

the gift of word of wisdom

The word that is translated “wisdom” in the New Testament is used most often to speak of the ability to understand God’s will and apply it obediently. The Christian who has this gift is able to apply the Word of God to situations that people face in life and to apply God’s Word to the problems and questions that people bring. Key passages:

Acts 6:10

“And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.”

James 3:13

“Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.”

1 Corinthians 2:13

“These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

Colossians 1:28

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”

the gift of the word of wisdom: To share the wisdom of God by showing godly wisdom in living and by applying spiritual wisdom to life so that Christians can make progress in their growth to spiritual maturity.

the gift of the word of knowledge

The word that is translated “knowledge” in the New Testament means *to know through inquiry and investigation*. The Christian who has this gift is able to understand through study the meaning of the text and related passages so that he can in turn explain the Word of God and make it clear to others. Key passages:

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:13-14

“These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Colossians 2:3

“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

the gift of the word of knowledge: The ability to discover through study the full meaning of the text, context, words, phrases, related passages and truths and then help provide that understanding to others.

the gift of faith

The gift of faith is different than saving faith and speaks of the ability to trust God in difficult and demanding ways. This faith is strong in spite of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities. This gift is primarily exercised through prayer to God in asking God and trusting God to do what is beyond His normal provision. Key passages:

Matthew 17:20

“So Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’”

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

James 5:16-18

“Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

the gift of faith: The ability to trust God in difficult and demanding ways in spite of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities. It is exercised through prayer to God as a person asks and trusts God to do what is beyond His normal provision. The person with this gift is the kind of person who makes the ministries of others effective through fervent prayer and the assurance that God is able to and will do the impossible.

the gift of discerning of spirits

Because young and immature Christians often cannot discern between the true and the false, God has given this particular gift to certain Christians to give them the ability to discern what is not in agreement with Scripture and actually has its source from Satan, the father of lies. Key passages:

John 8:44

“You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

Hebrews 5:13-14

“For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Acts 20:19-21

“Serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 14:29

“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.”

the gift of discerning of spirits: The special ability to recognize those ideas, philosophies and teachings which are not in agreement with Scripture but have their source in Satan, the father of lies, and correct those false teachings with the Word of God.

the gift of helps

The gift of helps is similar to the gift of serving in that it speaks of helping and serving others. However, it is different in the sense that the word translated “helps” means *to take the burden off someone and place it on oneself*. It has the special thought of helping the poor, weak and needy. Key passages:

Acts 20:35

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.””

1 Thessalonians 5:14

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

Philippians 2:25

“Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need...”

1 Corinthians 16:15

“I urge you, brethren -- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints ...”

the gift of helps: The special ability to help other Christians, especially the poor, weak and needy, by taking the burden off someone and placing that burden on oneself.

the gift of administration

The word that is translated “administration” comes from the same root word as the word for the pilot of a ship. It has the thought of one who steers the ship and guides it to the harbor. The gift of administration speaks of those who have been given the special ability to make wise decisions and to mobilize, motivate and direct others toward an objective. Key passages:

Acts 27:11

“Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.”

Acts 8:4

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

2 Timothy 4:11-12

“Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.”

the gift of administration: The ability to make wise decisions and to mobilize, motivate, direct others and delegate responsibility to help a group of Christians accomplish a purpose, fulfill objectives and reach the goals that they have been led of the Lord to establish. It may be helpful to distinguish between the gift of leading and the gift of administration. The person with the gift of leading is the person who can make long-range plans and lead a group toward those goals. The person with the gift of administration organizes all of the details and delegates the responsibilities to various individuals to help the group reach those goals.

the gift of hospitality

The gift of hospitality is the special gift of being able to make people feel comfortable and at home both in the church and in the home. Christians with this gift are especially effective at making others feel comfortable. Key passages:

1 Peter 4:8-9

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”

Romans 12:13

“Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”

Hebrews 13:2

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

Acts 16:15

“And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ So she persuaded us.”

the gift of hospitality: The ability to make people feel comfortable and at home so that there will be the opportunity to have an effective ministry to them.

commandments and gifts

Actually, each Christian is commanded to do each of the things that have been mentioned in these spiritual gifts. Obedience will cause us to do each of these things as we have opportunity. However, the gifts we have been given allow us to be able to minister in a way beyond that of most Christians. They also cause us to see needs other Christians do not see. In addition, we can exercise our spiritual gifts for an extended period at any one time.

There are two attitudes that we must avoid in order to be effective in the use of our spiritual gifts. **First**, we must not be proud because we have been given those gifts. **Second**, we must not be critical of other Christians because they do not see the same needs we see. We see those needs because we have been given spiritual gifts to meet those needs. The fact that we see those needs gives us the opportunity to exercise our spiritual gifts without being critical of others.

understanding how we use our gifts

1 Peter 4:10-11

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

**We are to use our gifts to serve one another so that
God will be glorified!**

Equipping Gifts and Serving Gifts

As we look at the gifts that we have listed from the various passages, we see that there are three equipping gifts for today and a whole variety of serving gifts. The spiritual leaders who have been given the equipping gifts are to equip each Christian to use his or her gifts to serve the Lord. We may have several serving gifts. Let's look at these gifts in a diagram form and see the wide variety of possible combinations of gifts we may have.

	Evangelists	Pastors	Teachers
Prophecy			
Ministry (Serving)			
Teaching			
Exhorting			
Giving			
Leading			
Showing Mercy			
Word of Wisdom			
Word of Knowledge			
Faith			
Discerning of Spirits			
Helps			
Administration			
Hospitality			

Taken from p6 "Spiritual Gifts" - Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 Serve and Equip

Questions to ask myself about how to help the group learn to use their spiritual gifts to minister to one another in a way that glorifies God

1. Questions regarding the sign gifts

- a. Am I learning to explain why the sign gifts were important to confirm the message of the apostles?
- b. Am I learning to explain why sign gifts will be misused in the future?

2. Questions regarding the equipping gifts

- a. Am I learning to explain why apostles and prophets form our foundation?
- b. Am I learning to explain how evangelists, pastors and teachers equip us to obey our Great Commission?
- c. Am I learning to explain how evangelists, pastors and teachers equip us to obey our New Commandment?
- d. Am I learning to explain what evangelists equip us to do?
- e. Am I learning to explain what pastors equip us to do?
- f. Am I learning to explain what teachers equip us to do?

3. Questions regarding the serving gifts

- a. Am I learning to explain each of the serving gifts?
- b. Am I discovering what serving gifts the Holy Spirit has given me?
- c. Am I learning how to help other Christians discover their spiritual gifts?
- d. Am I learning how to help other Christians use their spiritual gifts to serve other Christians?
- e. Am I showing other Christians how to use their spiritual gifts to glorify God by the way that I exercise my spiritual gifts?
- f. Am I learning how to help the group function as a body as we exercise our spiritual gifts?
- g. Am I learning how to help the group learn how to use their spiritual gifts to reach out to those who are not yet Christians?

B. Understanding how our “heart” affects our ministry to one another

Every growing Christian has a heart (passion) for some ministry

The example of Epaphras who had a passion to help the Christians in Colosse Colossians 4:12-13

“Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.”

The example of Epaphroditus who had a passion for service to Paul Philippians 2:30

“Because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.”

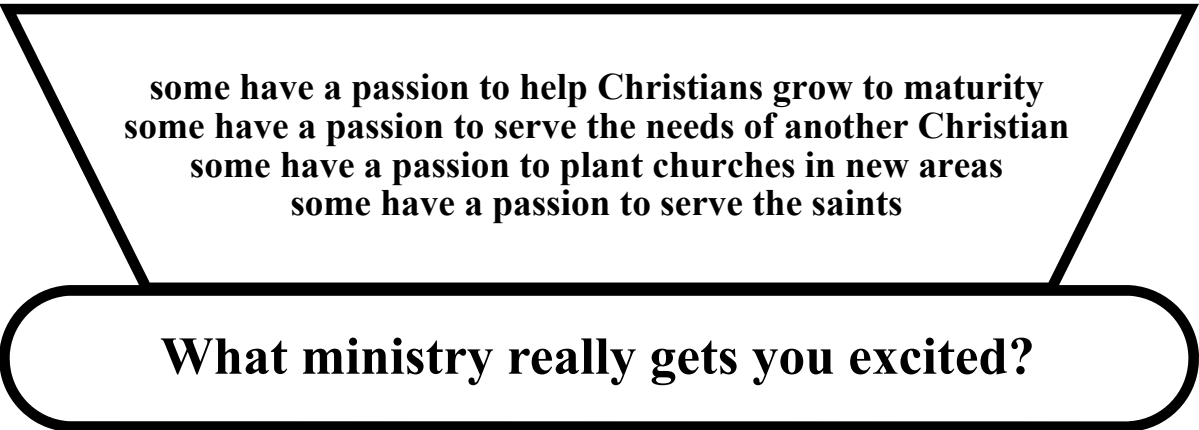
The example of Paul who had a passion for those who had never heard Romans 15:20-21

“And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, but as it is written: ‘To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.’”

The example of Stephanas who had a passion for serving the saints 1 Corinthians 16:15

“I urge you, brethren -- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints...”

Our heart or passion is the ministry that really gets us excited



some have a passion to help Christians grow to maturity
some have a passion to serve the needs of another Christian
some have a passion to plant churches in new areas
some have a passion to serve the saints

What ministry really gets you excited?

C. Understanding how our abilities affect our ministry to one another

Some of us have been given abilities to speak

Acts 14:12

“And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.”

Some of us have been given abilities to play musical instruments

1 Chronicles 16:5-6

“Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, *then* Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly *blew* the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God.”

Some of us have been given abilities to lead singing

1 Chronicles 6:31-32

“Now these are the men whom David appointed over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after the ark came to rest. They were ministering with music before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they served in their office according to their order.”

Some of us have been given abilities to write

Romans 16:22

“I, Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, greet you in the Lord.”

Some of us have been given abilities to be people helpers

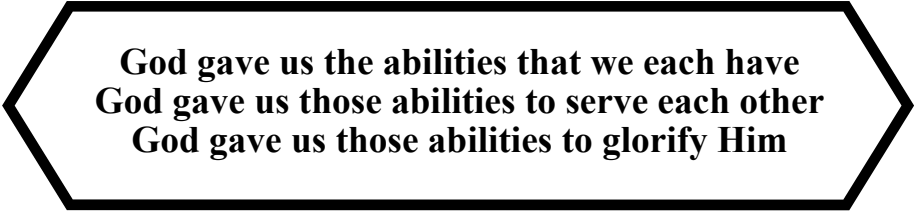
Romans 16:1-2

“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.”

Our abilities are given to us by God to serve one another

1 Peter 4:11

“If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”



**God gave us the abilities that we each have
God gave us those abilities to serve each other
God gave us those abilities to glorify Him**

D. Understanding how our personalities affect our ministry to one another

Some of us are impulsive like Peter

John 13:8-9

“Peter said to Him, ‘You shall never wash my feet!’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.’ Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!’”

Some of us see things negatively like Thomas

John 11:16

“Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.””

Some of us let others speak for us like James and John

Matthew 20:20-21

“Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, ‘What do you wish?’ She said to Him, ‘Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.’”

Some of us focus on people and others focus on the ministry

Acts 15:37-38

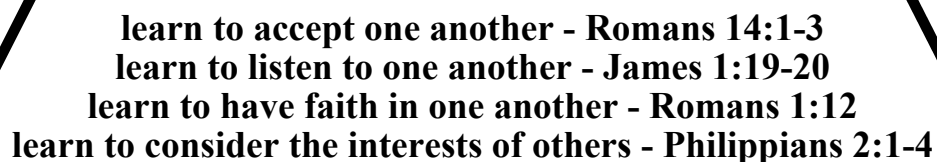
“Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.”

Some of us worry about doing everything properly

Luke 10:39-42

“And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’”

Key principles for building a group with different personalities:



learn to accept one another - Romans 14:1-3
learn to listen to one another - James 1:19-20
learn to have faith in one another - Romans 1:12
learn to consider the interests of others - Philippians 2:1-4

E. Understanding how our life experiences affect our ministry to one another

Some of us have spent time in jail

Acts 16:23-25

“And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Some of us have experienced years of physical problems

John 9:1-3

“Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.’”

Some of us have experienced years of rejection

Matthew 9:10-11

“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, ‘Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’”

Some of us have spent years helping others

Acts 9:36

“At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.”

Some of us have spent years following the law

Acts 21:20-21

“And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, ‘You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children nor to walk according to the customs.’”

Key principles for building a group who have had different life experiences:

learn to deal with your prejudices - James 2:1-13

learn to minister to people in their homes - Acts 2:46

learn to minister from your own suffering - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

learn to develop strong friendships in the group - John 15:12-17

Questions to ask myself about how to help the group understand their SHAPE

1. Questions regarding our heart

- a. What is my personal passion (heart) for ministry?
- b. If I do not know my passion, what kind of a ministry really gets me excited?
- c. Am I learning to recognize what kinds of ministry get others excited?
- d. Am I learning to encourage each member of the group to discover the ministry that really excites them?
- e. Am I learning to lead the group to help each other learn Biblical principles which will help each one develop in the ministry that excites them?

2. Questions regarding our abilities

- a. Am I learning to use my God-given abilities more effectively?
- b. Am I encouraging the group to develop their God-given abilities?
- c. Am I showing by example how we can use our abilities to serve each other?
- d. Am I showing by example how we can use our abilities to glorify God?

3. Questions regarding our personalities

- a. Am I learning how to help the group accept one another?
- b. Am I learning how to help the group really listen to each other?
- c. Am I learning how to help the group really trust and have faith in each other?
- d. Am I learning how to help the group really take an interest in the concerns of others?

4. Questions regarding our different life experiences

- a. Am I learning how to help the group deal with their prejudices?
- b. Am I learning to show the group how to minister to each other in their homes by visiting other group members in their homes and inviting them to my home?
- c. Am I learning to share Biblical principles that I have learned from my own life experiences?
- d. Are we learning to develop lasting friendships in the group?

V. Helping the Group Move Toward Ministry to the World

John 4:35

“Do you not say, “There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

Key principles to help the group see the world with spiritual eyes:

Lead by example

Christ took the disciples to see the needs of Samaria

John 4:3-4

Christ looked at the spiritual needs of people in Samaria

John 4:5-8

Christ was prepared to accept rejection

John 4:9

Christ chose to arouse curiosity

John 4:10-18

Christ taught the meaning of true worship

John 4:19-26

Christ gave a woman great hope

John 4:27-30

Turn example into teaching opportunities

Christ moved the disciples' vision from the physical to the spiritual

John 4:31-34

Christ refocused the vision of the disciples

John 4:35

Christ taught principles of sowing and reaping

John 4:36-38

Christ gave the disciples an opportunity to share in the reaping

John 4:39-42

A. Developing a prayer ministry for unsaved relatives and friends

Christ helped Andrew become concerned about his brother

John 1:41-42

“He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, ‘You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone).”

Christ helped Philip become concerned about his friend

John 1:45-47

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!’”

Christ helped Matthew become concerned about his fellow workers

Matthew 9:9-10

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

Christ expanded that vision to the multitudes

Matthew 9:36-38

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”

Christ expanded that vision to the world

Acts 1:8

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

Principles for developing a prayer ministry for unsaved relatives and friends:

**have the group pray for relatives that are not Christians
have the group pray for friends that are not Christians
have the group pray for fellow workers that are not Christians
have the group begin to pray for others that are not Christians**

B. Learning to work with the Holy Spirit in evangelism

The Holy Spirit convicts and convinces the non-Christian of three things

John 16:8-11

““And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.””

the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin

He convinces a person that the one sin that keeps that person from receiving eternal life is failing to believe in Christ

the Holy Spirit convicts the world of righteousness

He convinces a person that Christ is the Righteous One (this is necessary because Christ is no longer on earth)

the Holy Spirit convicts the world of judgment

He convinces a person that Satan was judged at the cross (and that those who follow Satan will share in his judgment)

We work with the Holy Spirit as we:

**focus on the need to believe in Christ
focus on the fact that Christ is the Righteous One
focus on the fact that Satan has already been judged**

We will work with the Holy Spirit when we share Christ, as we:

**walk in the Spirit - Galatians 5:16
are led by the Spirit - Galatians 5:18
bear the fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23
are filled with the Spirit - Ephesians 5:18
witness in the power of the Spirit - Acts 1:8**

C. Understanding where people are at in their spiritual understanding

1. Some need to begin at creation

These are the people who have no background of the Bible

Illustrated by the people of Athens - Acts 17:16-34

Characteristics of the people of Athens

the people were given to idol worship - Acts 17:16
the people gathered daily in the marketplace - Acts 17:17
the people had no understanding of Paul's message - Acts 17:18
the people wanted to learn about Paul's message - Acts 17:19-20
the people enjoyed empty talk - Acts 17:21
the people were very religious - Acts 17:22
the people did not know what they worshiped - Acts 17:23
the people either mocked or questioned - Acts 17:32

Paul's approach to the people of Athens

Paul met them where they spent time - Acts 17:17
Paul took time to listen to them - Acts 17:18-21
Paul observed and tried to understand their worship - Acts 17:22-23
Paul began at creation - Acts 17:24
Paul focused on the Creator - Acts 17:25-26
Paul showed that no man seeks God - Acts 17:27
Paul used illustrations from their own poets - Acts 17:28
Paul focused on the Godhead - Acts 17:29
Paul focused on the message of repentance - Acts 17:30
Paul focused on judgment for sin - Acts 17:31
Paul focused on the resurrection of Christ - Acts 17:32
Paul gave them time to think - Acts 17:32-33
Paul spent time with those who accepted his message - Acts 17:34

Applied to our own lives

we need to listen and understand their background - James 1:19-20
we may need to begin evangelistic Bible studies with Genesis 1-12
we need to focus on the death and resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
we need to focus on repentance and faith - Acts 20:21

2. Some need clarification

These are interested church attendees who have never understood the meaning of repentance and faith -Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

Using clarification to share the Gospel

Illustrated by Philip in Acts 8:26-40

listen to find out what the person understands - Acts 8:30-31
be available to explain what is not clear - Acts 8:31, 35
use the Scripture - Acts 8:32-33, 35
listen to see what the person does not understand - Acts 8:34
focus on Christ and what He has done - Acts 8:35
make certain the person clearly understands - Acts 8:36-37

Illustrated by Paul in Acts 17:11-12

share the Word of God
encourage people to study the Word for themselves
take time to study the Scriptures with them
both speak and listen

Illustrated by Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:24-26

they invited Apollos to their home
they explained the Gospel more clearly

Applied to our own lives

explain the Word of God - Acts 17:11, 18:26
encourage group Bible study - Acts 17:11
take time to study with them - Acts 17:11, 18:26
listen to the things they understand - Acts 8:30-31
listen to the things they do not understand - Acts 8:34
focus on Christ and what He has done - Acts 8:35
use your home for personal one-to-one studies - Acts 18:26

3. Some need compassion
These individuals feel I am “too bad” to be accepted by God

Using compassion to share the Gospel

Illustrated with Matthew - Matthew 9:9-13
(he had rejected the acceptable standards of culture and religion)

go to people where they live, work and spend their free time - Matthew 9:9-10
accept people as they are and invite them to follow Christ - Matthew 9:9
eat meals with those who need compassion - Matthew 9:10
accept the friends of those with whom you come in contact - Matthew 9:10
accept criticism from the religious - Mathew 9:11
choose to show mercy - Matthew 9:12

Illustrated with the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-24
(he had lived a wild life)

accept the right of people to make wrong choices - Luke 15:12
have compassion and show it - Luke 15:20
accept people as they are - Luke 15:20
forgive (let go) of the sins of people - Luke 15:21-24
explain how Christ makes us worthy - Luke 15:21; 2 Timothy 2:21
explain how God accepted the righteousness of Christ - Luke 15:22;
2 Corinthians 5:21
explain how Christ accepts us as sons - Luke 15:22, 24; John 1:12
celebrate the salvation of new Christians - Luke 15:6-7, 9-10, 23-24

Illustrated with the Samaritan woman - John 4:1-42
(she had grown up in a different religion and culture and had lived a sinful life)

accept people as they are - John 4:7
accept rejection and distrust - John 4:9-10
develop curiosity - John 4:10
offer everlasting life - John 4:14
don't get sidetracked by questions about religion - John 4:19-21
focus on the meaning of true worship - John 4:22-24
introduce people to Christ - John 4:25-26
use the opportunity to train those with you - John 4:31-38
focus on reaching the extended family and community - John 4:39-42

4. Some need confrontation

These individuals are church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Using confrontation to share the Gospel

**Illustrated with Nicodemus - John 3:1-21
(he had depended on religious involvement)**

confront with Scripture - John 3:14-15

confront with love - John 3:16-17

confront by pointing out choices and consequences - John 3:16-21

**Illustrated by the rich young ruler -
Luke 18:18-27; Mark 10:17-22; Matthew 19:16-26**

confront with Scripture - Luke 18:19-20

confront with love - Mark 10:21

confront by pointing out choices and consequences - Matthew 19:21

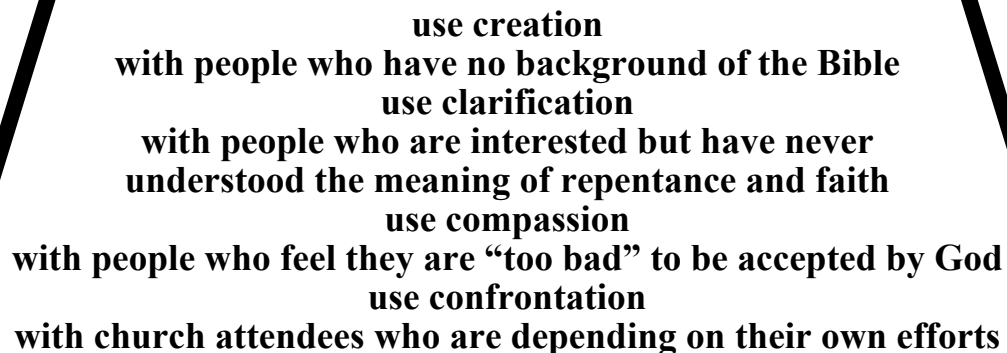
Confrontation

is necessary when we are talking to church attendees who are depending
on their religious involvement or their own good works

was used by Christ primarily with religious leaders like the scribes,
Pharisees and Sadducees

was used by Christ with those who were depending on their own efforts
to be right with God by trying to keep the law

Knowing what approach to use



use creation
with people who have no background of the Bible
use clarification
with people who are interested but have never
understood the meaning of repentance and faith
use compassion
with people who feel they are “too bad” to be accepted by God
use confrontation
with church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Questions to ask myself about how to help the group move toward ministry to the world

1. Questions about developing a prayer ministry for unsaved relatives

- a. Am I praying daily for relatives, friends and fellow workers who are not yet Christians?
- b. Am I growing in my vision for the multitudes of the world who have not yet placed their trust in Christ?
- c. Am I encouraging the members of the group to develop a list of relatives, friends and fellow workers that are not Christians for whom they can pray daily?
- d. Are we praying as a group for the salvation of some of these relatives, friends and fellow workers who are not yet Christians?

2. Questions about learning to work with the Holy Spirit

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of the three things that the Holy Spirit does to convict and convince the non-Christian?
- b. Am I growing in my ability to help the group learn to work with the Holy Spirit as we share salvation with relatives, friends and fellow workers who are not Christians?
- c. Am I growing in learning to depend on the Holy Spirit instead of my own strength?
- d. Am I learning to help the group learn to depend on the Holy Spirit?

3. Questions about where to begin with different people

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of how to discover the spiritual backgrounds of the people that I meet?
- b. Am I learning to recognize when people have no background of the Bible so that I can begin with creation?
- c. Am I learning to recognize when people do not clearly understand the meaning of repentance and faith so that I can give clarification?
- d. Am I learning to recognize when people feel that they are “too bad” to be accepted by Christ so that I can help them understand His compassion and forgiveness?
- e. Am I learning to recognize when people are depending on their own efforts for salvation and need to be confronted?
- f. Am I growing in my understanding of how to help the group recognize backgrounds?

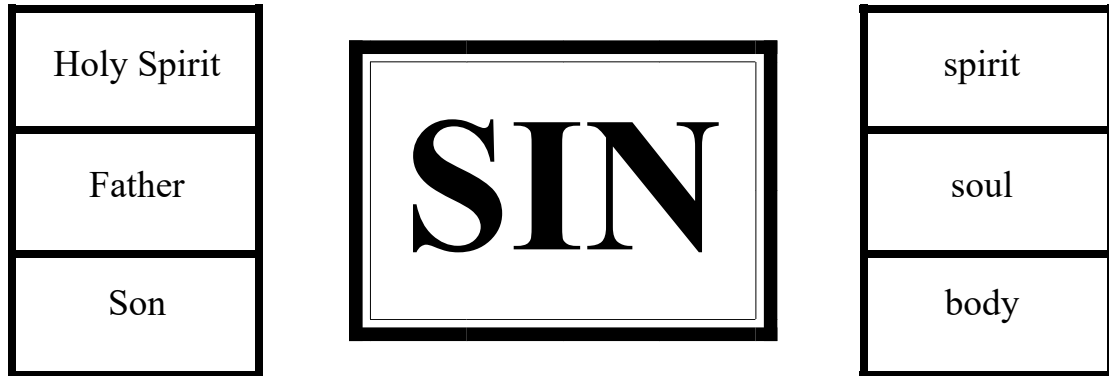
D. Understanding how to help a person place his trust in Christ

1. Understanding separation from God by sin

Separation from God

Genesis 3:8

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”



Separated from God by our own sin

Isaiah 59:1-2

“Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear.”

five things we experienced when we sinned and abandoned God

shame guilt separation from God fear blame

Genesis 3:7-13

Shame “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” **Separation from God (and each other)** “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where *are* you?’” **Fear** “So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.’” **Guilt** “And He said, ‘Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’” **Blame** “Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’ And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What *is* this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

2. Understanding the importance of the death of Christ

The penalty for our sin had to be paid to restore our relationship to God

Hebrews 9:22

“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

The Father sent Christ to pay the penalty for our sin on the cross

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Christ became sin for us by taking our sin on Himself on the cross

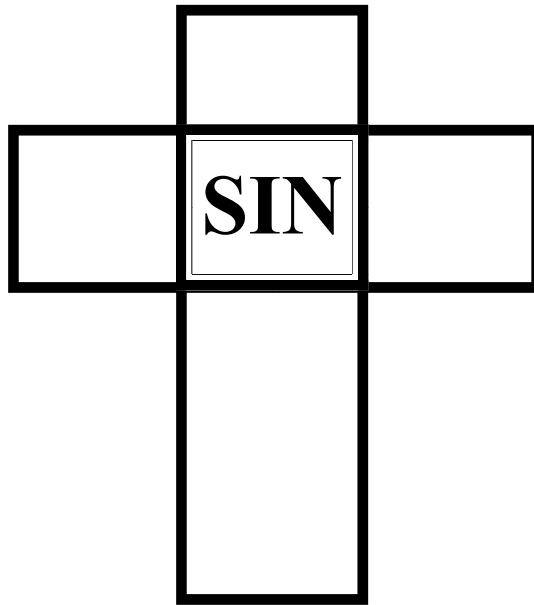
2 Corinthians 5:21

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

Christ paid the penalty for our sin on the cross

1 Peter 2:24

“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed.”



We are condemned but we can be forgiven

John 3:18

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

3. Understanding the importance of the resurrection of Christ

The Father was satisfied with Christ's payment for sin

“propitiation” means *that which satisfies*

1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”

Hebrews 2:17

“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

The Father showed He was satisfied by raising Christ from the dead

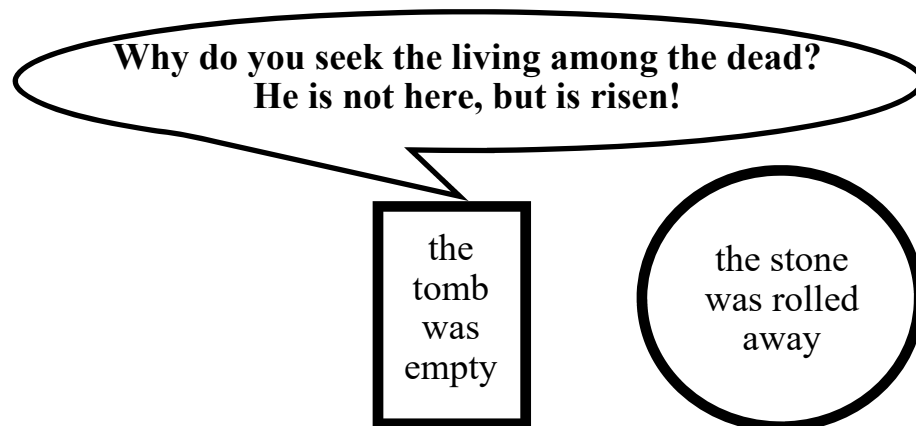
1 Corinthians 15:3-7

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.”

The Father had the empty tomb opened to show that Christ is alive

Luke 24:2-7

“But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”’”



The Father is able to give us life just as He gave life to Christ

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

4. Understanding the meaning of repentance

The Bible teaches us that forgiveness of sins is based on repentance and faith

Acts 20:20-21

“how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

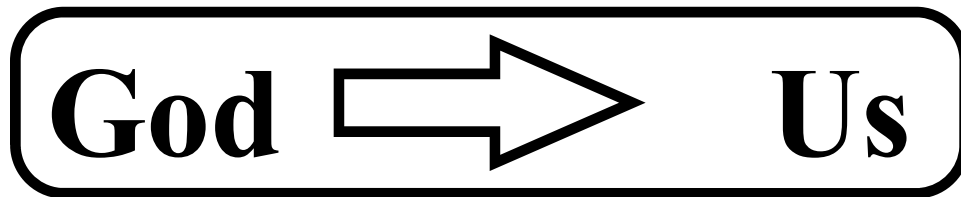


Repentance is a change of mind that produces a change of actions

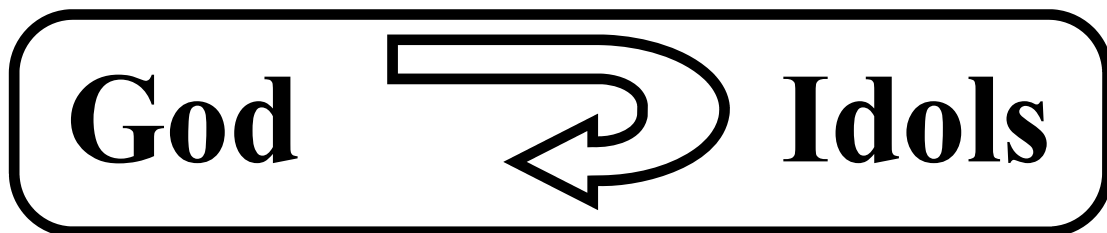
1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

When Adam sinned, we turned away from God and went our own way



In repentance, we turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God



God calls us all to repent

Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 17:30-31

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

5. Understanding the meaning of saving faith

Saving Faith is believing that Christ died for our sins, believing that God raised Christ from the dead, and choosing to depend on Christ's payment for our sin and not our own efforts to be right with God. It includes three parts:

1. A firm persuasion based on hearing that what God has said about Christ and His death and resurrection are true - 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep."

2. A personal surrender to Him - John 1:12

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

3. A new walk produced by such a surrender - 2 Corinthians 5:7

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Believe	Surrender	New Walk
Do you believe: that Christ died for your sins that the Father was satisfied with Christ's payment and that the Father showed He was satisfied by raising Christ from the dead?	Have your surrendered: the control of your life to Christ so that He is now in charge instead of you?	Are you enjoying: a new walk in the strength that Christ provides instead of your own strength?

Do you know how to explain saving faith?

6. Explaining to a person how to make a commitment to Christ

Help them to understand the choice that the tax collector made

Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, “God, I thank You that I am not like other men -- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Help them understand what we do and what we believe

Romans 10:9-10

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

We confess with our mouth

Jesus is our Lord

We believe in our heart that

God raised Christ

We are promised salvation

Romans 10:13

“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’”

John 10:27-30

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.”

Romans 8:35-39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 John 5:13

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Questions to ask myself about how to help the group learn how to lead a person to Christ

1. Questions about understanding separation from God by sin

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of how completely sin separates man from God?
- b. Am I learning to help the group understand this separation?
- c. Am I able to explain the five things that happened when Adam sinned?

2. Questions about understanding the importance of the death of Christ

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of why it was necessary for the penalty for sin to be paid?
- b. Am I learning to explain to the group why Christ could pay the penalty for sin?

3. Questions about understanding the importance of the resurrection

- a. Am I able to explain why the Father was satisfied with Christ's payment for sin?
- b. Am I able to explain the importance of the the resurrection of Christ?

4. Questions about the meaning of repentance

- a. Am I growing in my ability to explain the meaning of repentance?
- b. Am I growing in my ability to explain why we need to turn from idols to serve the living and true God?

5. Questions about the meaning of faith

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of how to explain what it means to believe?
- b. Am I growing in my understanding of how to explain the meaning of surrendering the control of our life to Christ?
- c. Am I growing in my understanding of how to experience new life in Christ's strength?

6. Questions about helping a person make a commitment to Christ

- a. Am I growing in my ability to explain the choice that the tax collector made?
- b. Am I growing in my understanding of what a person needs to do and what a person needs to believe to be saved?

VI. Helping the Group Move Toward Reproduction (Christ gave four calls and a commission to His disciples)

A. Selecting potential leaders - “Come and See”

Call One: “Come and See”

John 1:39

“He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).”

goal: evangelism and follow-up (birth)

Meet Christ and learn who He is
Christ called the disciples to put their trust in Him

vision shared with them:

lift up your eyes and look on the fields - John 4:35
see the needs of others around you
 relatives - John 1:40-42
 friends - John 1:43-46
 co-workers - Mark 2:13-17
 others - John 4:32-35

Take potential leaders with you as you share the Gospel with others (godly serving)

John 1:43

“The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’”

John 2:11-12

“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.”

John 3:22

“After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized.”

Christ invited all to “Come and See”

B. Teaching potential leaders - “Come and Grow”

Call Two: “Come and Grow”

(this call came approximately one year after the first call)

Mark 1:16-20

“And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also *were* in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.”

goal: edification

Go with Christ and grow in the knowledge of Him
Christ called the disciples to grow in their knowledge of Him

vision shared with them:

let us go into the next towns - Mark 1:38-39
learned to make contacts in their Jerusalem and Judea

Take potential leaders with you and show them how to make contacts (growing in maturity)

Mark 1:35-39

“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. When they found Him, they said to Him, ‘Everyone is looking for You.’ But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.’ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.”

In the book of Mark, Christ selected workers who were:

Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-14

faithful - they had already spent much time with him
available - they were willing to change their priorities
teachable - they wanted to learn to fish for men
a learner’s attitude - they wanted to become fishers of men
a servant’s heart - they were willing to leave fishing and follow Christ

Christ selected some to: “Come and Grow”

C. Training potential leaders - “Come and Serve”

Call Three: “Come and Serve”

(this call came approximately 21 months after the first call)

“Come and Be With Me”

Mark 3:13-15

“And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons...”

goal: equipping for ministry

Go with Christ and learn to serve with Him
Christ called the disciples to follow His example

vision shared with them:

Matthew 9:36-10:8; Luke 10:1-3

sent them forth to minister

share the good news in their Jerusalem and Judea
minister to the hurting in their Jerusalem and Judea

Select leadership team after much prayer

Luke 6:12-13

“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles...”

Give the leadership team on-the-job training

Luke 9:1-2

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

Give the leadership team opportunities to share what God is doing

Luke 9:10

“And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.”

**Christ selected a leadership team to:
“Come and be with Me” (Come and Serve)**

D. Sharing leadership of ministry - “Come and Shepherd”

Call Four: “Come and Shepherd”

(this call came approximately 3 1/2 years after the first call)

John 21:15-17

“So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’ He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’”

goal: expansion of leadership

Serve with Christ and love as He loved
Christ called the disciples to love Him

vision shared with them:

Luke 22:32; John 21:15-17; Ezekiel 34:1-16
take the responsibility for a part of the flock

Share the ministry with the leadership team

Help them learn to lead by your example

John 13:14-15

“If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

Help them learn to love as Christ loved

John 13:34-35

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

Help them learn to depend on the Holy Spirit

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

Christ shared the leadership with His leadership team “Come and Shepherd”

E. Commissioning new leadership - “As you are going, Make Disciples”

The Commission: “As you are going, MAKE DISCIPLES”

Matthew 28:18-20

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go(ing), therefore and Make Disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

goal: extension to the ends of the earth (reproduction)

Wait on Christ until you are endued with power from on high

Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8

Christ called the disciples to obedience

Obedience to the Great Commission - Matthew 28:19-20

Obedience to the New Commandment - John 13:34-35

vision shared with them:

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48;

John 20:21; Acts 1:8

reproduce yourselves in the lives of others in your:

Jerusalem - cross the barrier of your own fear of
sharing the Gospel

Judea - cross the barrier of making contacts

Samaria - cross the barrier of another culture
and religion

Uttermost - cross the barrier of learning another
language

Commission the leadership team to carry out the command of Christ

The commission involves one command: **Make Disciples**

(we are told how to obey that command by three participles)

going - as we go, we are to share the Gospel

baptizing - as people become Christians, help them identify with Christ

teaching them to obey - help people learn how to obey Christ

Christ commissioned the leadership team to: Make Disciples

Questions to ask myself about helping the group move toward reproduction

1. Questions about understanding Call One: “Come and See”

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of how Christ built relationships with people?
- b. Am I growing in helping the group learn to build relationships with others?
- c. Am I learning to help the group share the Gospel with others?

2. Questions about understanding Call Two: “Come and Grow”

- a. Am I learning to help the group grow in their relationship with Christ?
- b. Am I helping the group develop a vision for other areas that need Christ?
- c. Am I learning how to help the group grow toward spiritual maturity?

3. Questions about understanding Call Three: “Come and Serve”

- a. Am I praying about who I should focus on developing at the present time?
- b. Am I learning to spend more time with those who are developing into leaders?
- c. Am I learning to give the group opportunities for on-the-job training?

4. Questions about understanding Call Four: “Come and Shepherd”

- a. Am I learning to help developing leaders take the personal responsibility for the spiritual development of one or a few new Christians?
- b. Am I learning how to help developing leaders learn to lead by example?
- c. Am I showing developing leaders how to lead by love, instead of by fear?
- d. Am I helping developing leaders learn to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit, instead of their own strength?

5. Questions about commissioning new leadership to “Make Disciples”

- a. Am I helping the leaders who are preparing to lead another group to know how to help people become disciples?
- b. Am I helping new leaders learn to cross barriers?
- c. Am I helping new leaders to understand what we do as we are going, baptizing and teaching?

VII. Helping the group move toward multiplication

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Level One: We Lead

Acts 11:25-26 - *Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

Paul

We lead:

through programs, abilities and gifts - personality-centered leadership
or through spiritual maturity and gifts - character-centered leadership

Level Two: We Develop Godly Leaders

Ephesians 4:11-12 - *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edi-*

Paul



Timothy

We develop other leaders:

we are servant leaders who serve people by developing their potential

Level Three: We Multiply Godly Leaders

Acts 20:20 - *And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house...* (KJV)

Paul



Timothy



Faithful Men

We train leaders who are developing other leaders:

we are servant leaders who lead by love - John 13:34-35

Level Four: We Develop Godly Reproducing Leaders

2 Timothy 2:2 - *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

Paul



Timothy



Faithful Men



Others

We serve leaders who are training other leaders to develop leaders:

we are servant leaders with the love of Christ flowing through us - 2 Corinthians 5:14

Developing Godly Reproducing Leaders - 2 Timothy 2:2 (Page 1 of 1) Updated: July 2023

Adapted from page 38 of the manual “Planting Healthy Reproducing Churches”

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A. Training leaders how to select potential leaders

Select potential leaders by prayer

Luke 6:12-13

“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles...”

Acts 13:1-3

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.”

Select potential leaders by character

Exodus 18:21

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

Acts 6:3

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...”

Acts 16:1-3a

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him.”

Select people who are:

FAT people with a learner’s attitude and a servant’s heart

Faithful - Luke 16:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 2 Timothy 2:2

Available - Acts 16:2-3, 20:4

Teachable - 1 Timothy 4:11-16; Titus 2:1-8

A Learner’s Attitude - 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Philippians 3:13-14

A Servant’s Heart - Mark 10:42-45; Galatians 5:13

Help leaders understand each of the levels of spiritual maturity

spiritual newborn babes - 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

**spiritual toddlers - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 13:11; Ephesians 4:14;
Hebrews 5:11-14**

spiritual children - 1 John 2:12-14

spiritual young men - 1 John 2:12-14

spiritual parents - 1 John 2:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

**Help leaders focus on helping people grow from where they are
to the next level of maturity
1 John 2:12-14**

**little children received help to become young men
young men received help to become spiritual parents**

Help leaders understand that we need to continue to grow ourselves
Philippians 3:10-14

**we need to get to know Christ better
we have not yet arrived
we need to keep pressing on**

C. Training leaders to train potential leaders

Five priorities for effective leadership

Exodus 18:19-21

“Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

have leaders pray for potential leaders
have leaders teach potential leaders the Word of God
have leaders show potential leaders the way to walk
have leaders show potential leaders the work to do
have leaders share the ministry with potential leaders

Have leaders train potential leaders by example

Acts 20:20

“how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shown you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house.”

show all that is profitable
show by example
show by teaching publicly
show by teaching from house to house

Have leaders train potential leaders by becoming spiritual parents

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

D. Training leaders to share increasing levels of leading and shepherding

Give potential leaders short opportunities for ministry without the leader

Luke 10:1-3

“After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.”

give potential leaders short-term ministry
give potential leaders opportunities to pray for laborers
give potential leaders opportunities to answer their own prayers
give potential leaders opportunities to learn to depend on the Spirit

Give potential leaders opportunities to report on their ministry

Luke 10:17-20

“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.’ And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

encourage potential leaders to tell what God has done
help potential leaders see their ministry was effective
help potential leaders to understand what is most important

Give potential leaders increasing responsibility

Luke 16:10

““He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.”

**He that is faithful in a little responsibility
can be given greater responsibility**

E. Training leaders to develop new ministries

Help leaders see what God wants done in the world

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go(ing) therefore and Make Disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

Help leaders begin praying for the multitudes

Matthew 9:36-38

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”

Help leaders to begin praying about what Christ wants them to do

Acts 13:1-2

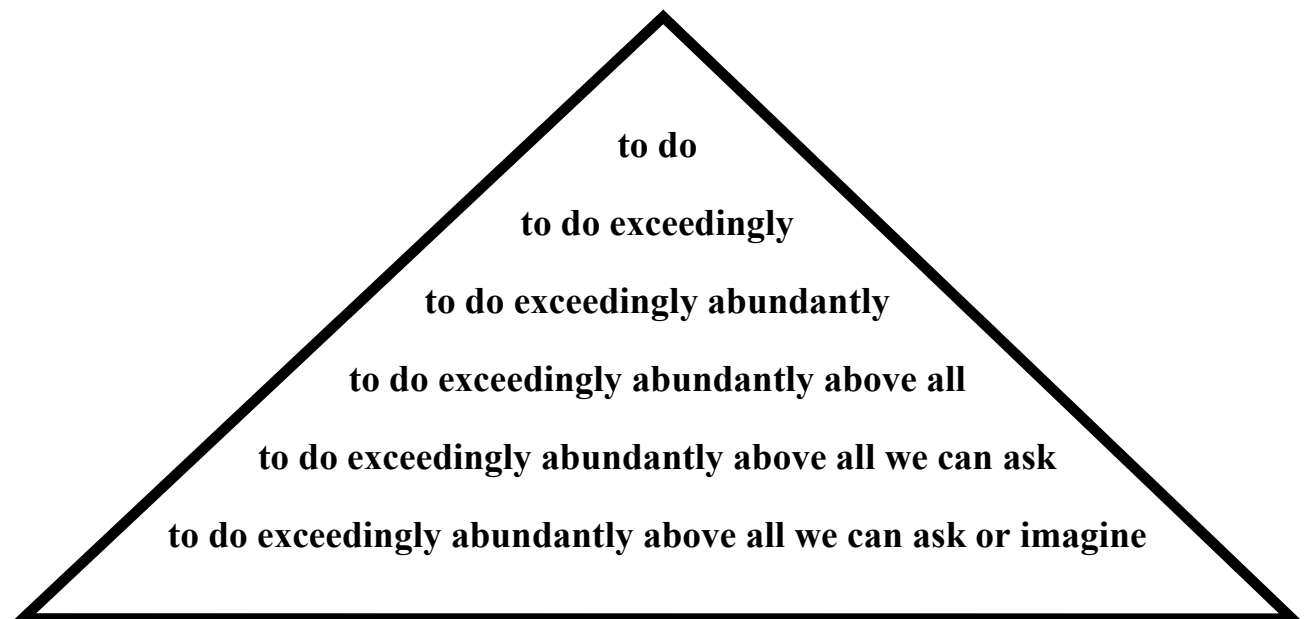
“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”

Help leaders realize God will use them more than they can imagine

Ephesians 3:20-21

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

God is Able:



Questions to ask myself about helping the group move toward multiplication

1. Questions about selecting potential leaders

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of the importance of selecting potential leaders through prayer?
- b. Am I growing in my understanding of the importance of selecting potential leaders on the basis of godly character and not human abilities?
- c. Am I growing in my abilities to focus on inner attitudes and not outward personality?

2. Questions about helping potential leaders grow to maturity

- a. Am I growing in my understanding of the various levels of spiritual maturity?
- b. Am I growing in my understanding of how to help people grow to the next level of maturity?
- c. Am I continuing to focus on my own spiritual growth?

3. Questions about training potential leaders

- a. Am I clear about my priorities for sharing leadership with others?
- b. Am I training potential leaders by on-the-job training?
- c. Am I helping potential leaders become spiritual parents to others?

4. Questions about giving increasing levels of leadership to others

- a. Do I encourage others to get involved in outreach ministries of their own?
- b. Do I encourage others to share what God is doing through their lives?
- c. Do I give potential leaders increasing responsibility?

5. Questions about helping leaders develop new ministries

- a. Am I helping leaders focus on what God wants to do in the world?
- b. Am I encouraging leaders to pray for laborers for the multitudes?
- c. Am I encouraging leaders to pray about how God can use them?
- d. Am I helping leaders to realize what God wants to do through them?