



30 Days in Grace

A Journey into God's Amazing Grace

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This 30-Day Guide is for people excited about a relationship with Jesus. Some who read this will already know how to travel the road with Jesus Christ, while others are just exploring the trail. No matter where you are in your relationship with God, no matter where you have been – you can refresh your love for Christ as you experience *30 Days in Grace*. This guide is meant to keep us connected to the One who offers grace to the world.

When I accepted Christ, I spent the next 30 days meeting with my youth leader each morning at his house with 3 other guys. We went through a daily devotional guide together. He encouraged us to do this on our own, even though we were with one another in the same house. We each spent time with God, developing a habit of growth, study and prayer.

Looking back, this was one of the most important things I did in my relationship with Christ. I got into the habit of spending every day with Jesus.

I encourage you to do this same thing. Use this guide, along with a Bible and a journal, as a means by which you explore your relationship with Jesus Christ. I pray that God will use this to propel you to become the person God has created you to be.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rusty Freeman".

Rev. Dr. Rusty Freeman

The Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church | Reachingyouth.org/30days.html



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Day 1: Created for a Relationship

“The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” Genesis 2.7 (NIV)

“Welcome home child. It’s been too long. I’ve wondered where you’ve been. I’m anxious for you to get started and rekindle our relationship. I’ve been watching you, encouraging you, longing for you to turn back to me. It’s been far too long but I haven’t been far away. I’m closer than you could ever hope for or imagine. I’m near you now, inside your body – invited in, no doubt. And I’m eager to begin again, anew, a love relationship with you my child. Welcome Home.” ~ God

Day 1 begins with you and God. It begins with a reminder that you are created for a relationship with Him. The emptiness you feel, the vacancy in your heart, the separation in your soul reminds us daily we are to be filled by one being - God Almighty. One person, Jesus Christ, who died for you. And now God wants you to remember that you were designed for a purpose – you were crafted and created to know Him. God. The One and only. The God in three-persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) made you for His own purpose and pleasure. And today He says to you, “Welcome Home.”

Maybe today you are toying with the idea of giving your life to Christ, or perhaps you already have and are wondering what happens next. Realizing the very reason for our creation helps a lot. To know we were made to know God and to love God helps us recognize our purpose.

You were not created on accident but for a purpose. And the first step in your own realization is to believe that God made you and called you forth out of the dust, breathing life into your body. You weren’t made just for the fun of it but for an intimate and honest relationship with the God of the Universe. You were made so that you might have life and have it abundantly (John 10.10.)

Questions to consider:

1. Why did God make me?
2. What does God want for me?
3. What does God want from me?
4. What does it mean for me to be “created for a relationship” with God?

Response & prayer:

Take a moment to respond in prayer to God. Prayer may be foreign to you or as natural as breathing. It doesn’t really matter what you pray, but offer your prayers to God. Ask Him to reveal to you the purpose for creating you and what He wants you to do next.



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Day 2: Called to respond

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1.17

When Jesus first entered the scene in the Gospels, the first thing he does in almost all of them is begin to call people to himself. He finds several fisherman on the banks of the Sea of Galilee and he calls them to himself. He says, "come and follow me." The very nature of the request seems to suggest a response. It's almost as if Jesus is saying, "I want you to come follow me, I really do. But will you?"

The call of Christ upon your life elicits a response. It's easy to be in the middle of life, fishing or working or going to school, and to be approached by Jesus and not respond. But the very fact that you are reading this implies you are already responding. You have said yes to God's prevenient grace in your life. Grace that goes before, grace that seeks you out.

The call of Christ is a call to a relationship. It's not complicated. God sent Jesus to die for you upon the Cross to be a sacrifice your for sin. To be the unblemished Lamb of God dying for the sins of the world, so we might be saved. So we might be made right before God. For the covering of Christ's sacrifice was required for our souls to be healed, our sins to be covered.

Jesus is calling forth – he is speaking your name, he is signaling for you to follow. Will you? Are you? Can you? What seems to be blocking your view of the Cross? What sins are just too good to let go?

Take a moment to listen to what God is saying. Turn off the TV, cell phone or computer. Find a quiet place and read Ephesians 2.1-10 in your Bible. After reading, reflect on these questions:

1. What is keeping me from God?
2. What is keeping me from being in a relationship with God?
3. What is God's plan for my life?
4. How can I respond in a pleasing way to Jesus Christ?

Spend some time in prayer.



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Day 3: Committing to a Savior

On the third day Jesus rose from the dead. On your third day, you get an opportunity to receive fully God's grace, love and power in your life. To commit to the Savior isn't just a head decision but is also one of the heart. It isn't one to take lightly but to offer willingly to the God who made, called and created you to be in a relationship with Him. Today is all about committing to the Savior.

So how do I commit? You pray a prayer not unlike this. Or you could use this prayer, but what you are doing is saying you can't save yourself. You need Jesus to be your Messiah, God to save you, the Holy Spirit to cleanse you. By praying this prayer you give up control of your life and place it in God's hands and at the foot of the Cross. You are being delivered out of spiritual darkness into the wonderful light of God's love. If this is you, where you are today, or where you want to be. Pray something like this:

"Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. I know I have lived by my own standards and not by yours. I ask you now to forgive me, to wash away my sin, to fill my life with the Holy Spirit of God so I might be the person you have made and created me to be. Come now Jesus into my heart, be my best friend, and God – be my Savior!"

The Bible says in Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

And my friends, if you prayed that prayer you indeed have been rescued out of your sin and darkness and have been brought into the wonderful light of God's love. The Holy Spirit now lives inside your body as you have become a dwelling place for Him. (Ephesians 2.22)

"Oh God, I thank you that I have you in my life. I pray that I might live for you and begin anew my journey with your son Jesus Christ. Thank you for washing away my sin and now help me to live according to your Word and Holy Spirit in my life." Amen



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Day 4: Confirming God's love

If you prayed the prayer on Day 3, you have just entered into a saving relationship with God through Christ Jesus. Your sins have been forgiven, your heart renewed, and now you belong to God. You have made the most important decision of your life. You have been reconciled, made new, and brought back into the fold of Christ our Shepherd and Savior.

Today is a day for you to confirm your love for God. To state clearly that you want to live according to God's desires. Not a day should go by that you don't tell Jesus that you love him, that you need him, that you are fully responding to his grace in your life.

To confirm God's love for yourself simply means you make him the most important part of your day, every day. The Bible says when you trust in Christ, you become a new creation (2 Cor. 5.17). The old person is gone and the new person has arrived. With this new person comes a fulfillment of the Covenant of Christ's sacrifice and love for you. You have signed on the dotted line by praying the Day 3 prayer and now you belong to God.

You have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1.13-14 says, "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

The sealing of your soul with the Holy Spirit is a confirmation of God's love in you. Now your response is to love him, serve him, seek him and give thanks for the love of God through Jesus Christ.

The next natural step is to confirm your new relationship through baptism. This sign of the fulfillment of the covenant made between God and His people indicates the new birth and life we now have in Jesus. If you haven't been baptized consider doing so. If you have been baptized, you can renew those vows through your pastor in your local church.

Next steps to take:

1. Be baptized or reaffirm your baptism at your church.
2. Continue to read the Bible and seek God.
3. Begin to put spending time with Jesus at the top of your priority list.
4. Say "no" to things that distract or pull you away from God.



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Day 5: Connecting to the Body

“Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12.27

The connection of Christians comes through the building up of the Body of Christ. Jesus talked a lot about the Body of Christ, the Church, as his Bride. Paul tells about “one body, but with many parts” in 1 Corinthians 12. The body of Christ is essential for the growth of a new person beginning a journey with Jesus.

I have friends who don't attend Church. Although these friends say they are followers of Jesus, they do so on their own, without the connection of a local congregation. Jesus refers to this in John 15 as a branch disconnected from the vine. A branch all by itself will wither and die – but a branch connected to the vine (Jesus and the Church) will indeed flourish.

Now I don't know what type of Church you attend, or used to attend, or even want to attend. But what I do know is that you do not want to become a lone branch dying by itself because no nutrients are coming to you from the Vine.

Just as it is essential for the new Christian to read and pray and stay connected to Jesus, so too is the connection to the Body of Christ – a local church of your choosing.

If you read 1 Corinthians 12 you will begin to discover your own role in the Body. The longer you grow in grace, the more useful you will be to the Body. You may serve, preach, encourage or teach other members of the Body. You may give, connect or lead worship for the Body of Christ of which you are connected. Regardless of whether you become an eye, an ear, or a foot in the Body – you must connect to the Body.

For without connection comes spiritual defeat. Just as an African antelope becomes easy prey when weak and alone on the rolling grasslands, so too the new Christian is susceptible to spiritual attacks if left alone. 1 Peter 5.8 says, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

Connecting to the Body means spiritual protection, health, and increased purpose. The devil (Satan) wants nothing more than to steal your joy of knowing Christ and make you doubt your decisions.

Read the entire chapter of 1 Peter 5. Pray and ask God to guide you, protect you, and fill you with His Holy Spirit and love as you learn now to journey with the Master.



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Day 6: Caring for the Soul

It's hard to believe that it has only been 6 days since you began your 30 Days in Grace. And only 3 days since many of you reaffirmed your relationship to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The biggest trap of young Christians happens from neglect of the soul. We meet Christ, are living on a spiritual mountaintop, and then we come crashing down when the emotion tapers off and our heart warming experience becomes a distant memory. As human beings it is so easy for us to emotionalize the decision to follow Jesus. We used head knowledge to explain it and heart knowledge to affirm it. But why not balance the emotions out with facts as well as feelings?

Part of the process includes what we call "spiritual formation." This is a development of habits and behaviors that help a person care for their soul. Spiritual formation is just that – a formative process by which you grow in grace, realization of God's Spirit, and live according to Scripture. It helps us realize and reawaken to the importance of self-care and God's love.

I could easily mention 6 Habits such as worship, prayer, study, service, fasting and celebration, as a quick fix to soul-tending, but there is much more involved here. Those disciplines are crucial but so is making simple decisions to grow towards Christ.

Do you worship on a regular basis with or without the Body? Do you pray? Do you find a book of the Bible to read and study? How about service? Are you helping the homeless or your neighborhood or school in knowing Christ? Do you ever take a fast from food, the internet or your cell phone? And what is it that you celebrate? Rejoicing in the Lord is wonderful and required!

Even the very suggestion that you are to help care for your soul is a reawakening for many believers. They soon realize that a life with God takes work, renewed focus, and special attention.

Questions to consider:

1. How can you care for your soul today?
2. Apply one of the 6 Habits to each day of the week.
3. Find a friend with which to practice these habits.
4. Ask God what He wants you to do to care for your own soul.

Spend time in prayer and quiet meditation using Scripture to guide you.



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Day 7: Casting Away Old Habits

Yesterday you read about the 6 Habits that help us grow in grace and make us aware of the need for spiritual formation and discipline in our lives. As a new follow of Christ, you cannot do it on your own. You will shrivel and die if you do not connect to the Body of Christ, find someone to hold you accountable and cast away the old habits you knew (and enjoyed) before finding Jesus.

Paul, who use to be Saul, was once a person who hated Christians and tried to arrest, hurt, and kill them. He succeeded in this until Jesus came to him in a blinding light on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Saul then became Paul who then became a radical Jesus follower. He wrote a lot of the letters in the New Testament and took the Gospel message to the Gentiles (non-Jews).

In Philippians 3:7-8, Paul writes, “But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

From Paul’s past experience, he knew what he needed to give up – his old habits and old ways of doing things. The early church was scared of him at first because they knew what a terror he had been. But when he met Jesus, his life changed, his actions transformed, and his life conformed to what Jesus wanted him to do.

In the same way, when we accept Jesus the old is gone and the new has come. So it’s time to examine your life and the old habits that need to be replaced with Godly behavior. Is it gossip, pride, lust or envy that has guided you in the past and consumed your time? Is it bad language, evil thoughts, or poor behavior that distracted you from being like Jesus? Now is the time to not just sweep those under the carpet, but to throw them out with the trash. Jesus came and died to rid us of our addictions, evil behaviors and wicked ways. He also died to destroy the apathy and mediocrity of our mundane lives.

Now is the time to make a list of the old habits. Number them 1-10 on a piece of paper. Now include a second Top 10 list of positive things God wants you to do to replace and redirect that old behavior.

Questions to consider:

1. How could your life be different with good habits overriding the bad?
2. What does God want you to do?
3. How does God want you to live?

Spend some time in the *A.C.T.S. Prayer* at the back of this guide.



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Day 8: Calling forth God's Power

A Letter from God

I'm not sure you realize the power that now lies within you, my child. The power that resides in your soul is the same power that lived in Jesus, the same power that parted the Seas for Moses, the same power that brought light and life to the earth. The same power that lives in you is My power. It is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of My Son, and the Spirit of Me.

I'm not sure you realize the impact of this in your life. You know that I love you, and that I sent my Son Jesus to die for you. But do you realize that by giving you the Power of my Self, I have offered a love that you were willing to accept? A grace that you were willing to receive, a life you were willing to leave.

I'm not sure you are aware of the magnitude of this power. What you can do with it, now that I have sent it to you as a Helper and a Guide. For with this Power, my Power, you can say to the mountain "throw yourself into the sea" and it will be done. With this Power you can raise the dead, give sight to the blind, and cause the lame to walk.

It is my Power that is coursing through your bones, allowing you to take your new breath, and put life within your body. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life – and now that you have accepted me, you realize that from long before you were even born, I had chosen you. I have chosen you for a purpose – that you might manifest my Power to the World. That you might show them my Power is love, is grace, is kind, is gentle, and is right. That you might show them my Power is free to you and yet it cost me everything to bring it to you.

No, my child, I am not sure you realize the power that resides within your soul. The power to transform the world with the Gospel of my grace and love. A power to feed the hungry, release the captives, and move hearts to peace and not war. It is my power – but I offer it to you, that you might use it to let the world know that I Am who I say I Am... the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. The Word became Flesh... God Almighty.

Today just spend time in God's presence. Find rest in knowing He has saved you. Find peace in knowing He has forgiven you. Find hope in knowing that He is who He said He will be.

Give thanks to the Lord as you read Psalm 118.



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Day 9: Covered in Grace

Today your journey continues as you learn to walk with Jesus. Your days are not lived in isolation but with the God of grace who has saved you and who calls you his own.

Salvation doesn't just happen because we show up. It doesn't just come upon us in the pew of a Church. Some folks believe we have been saved by osmosis by just "being" in, near or around God. I believe it requires a commitment, a decision, and action on our part to unwrap the gift God has given to us.

Ephesians 2.8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Did you hear those words? "It is by grace you have been saved *through* faith..." That to me means salvation is offered to us because of grace – but the acceptance of that grace comes through our faith, our belief, our response to a God who loves us deeply. It doesn't just come upon me when I step into a sanctuary or even when I am dipped in the water for baptism. The only thing that saves is Jesus and my response to him, through my belief in him, brings salvation to my soul.

And because of this, we are covered by grace in our daily lives. We walk in it, live in it, find strength in it. We believe not only did God seek us out through Prevenient Grace (grace that comes before we know Christ), but also His grace explodes in our hearts when we understand and accept God's Justifying Grace (the grace that allows for righteousness, holiness, justification to occur in the souls of people.)

From the beginning, our origins as humans are filled with stories of God's grace surrounding us, filling us, and finding us. Not a moment goes by, either good or bad, that God isn't offering us grace. He wants us to know we are loved and that nothing we can do – no sin that we can fathom, no action that we perform – will remove His grace and love from our daily lives.

An important part of beginning a journey with Christ is to know where you have been and where you are going. Have you become aware of Christ's actions in your lives? Do you sense Christ drawing, wooing, and calling you to himself? Take a moment to consider the magnitude of what God is doing in order to reach your heart.

Read Romans 6.1-14 and make the following observations as you read:

1. How many times is the word "grace" mentioned in this Scripture?
2. What does it mean to die with Christ?
3. How do we become alive in Christ?
4. What does it mean for us to be "under grace" (v. 14)?



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Day 10: Counting the Cost

Today is day 10 and it is the end of Part 1 of this *30 Days in Grace* and the first 10 days of your renewed relationship with Jesus. It is a day to celebrate, to recognize, to take note. It is a day the Lord has made so that you might know Life in full.

And so on this special day, it is time to count the cost, to reflect upon what you have done, how you are living, and what is next in your travels with God.

To count the cost implies sacrifice. To be transformed to the image of Jesus is your goal and to live out your life for God is your purpose. The will of God for your life is nothing more or nothing less than to know Him. After you know Him, loving, serving and living flourishes as an extension of Christ in your life.

You begin to act differently, treat others with more respect, speak more kindly. When you realize the immense sacrifice that Jesus endured for your sins, you not only have a rejuvenated purpose but now you have a reason for living. You have the honor and privilege of becoming a suffering servant like Jesus. The privilege of putting your self last, others first, and of ultimately “considering your life nothing to your self” (Phil 3.8).

You have the task of having an “attitude” that is the very same as Christ Jesus, “who being the very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, and being made in human likeness” (Phil 2).

This is your model, your example, and your life. You are now to adopt the “I’m Third” principle – God first, others’ second, I’m Third. Today is the beginning of becoming more like Jesus in humility, justice, and love for others. And once you are willing to “count the cost” then you will find yourselves being used repeatedly by God to do the very work of Christ in the world. You will become His hands and feet, His voice and ears, His heart and soul.

“O God, it’s hard to believe Day 10 is upon us. A day in which we give it all up for you. I have failed you already since I started this journey. I have sinned. I have doubted. I have lustful thoughts and prideful moments. I am still broken and still need mending by your power. I know that you are with me and today I seek you above all others. Help me to walk with you in these *30 Days in Grace* so that I might establish a love relationship with You that does not fade away. Fill me with your Presence, O God, and reward me with the honor of your Holy Presence. I love you this day above all others.”

Read Psalm 4 out loud to yourself.



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Day 11: Transforming power

It is quite a mystery, to say the least, for us to even begin to understand that God the Holy Spirit is willing to invade our bodies, willing to change us from the inside out. But this is exactly the case.

I liken accepting Christ as putting on a pair of 3D glasses and watching the same movie you've seen several times. The focus, your vision, the special effects are dazzling. People and things jump off the screen right before your eyes. Everything looks new, feels like a brand new experience.

The same thing occurs when the Holy Spirit enters the body. The effects are much greater because we have been looking at the world through one particular lens. Yet when the Spirit of God comes in, His desires become ours, His agendas become our agendas, His purposes eventually become our own.

When a new believer reads the Bible, it is as if 3D images pop off the page. The same old scriptures now come alive with purpose. The Word of God now matches the Truth of God and becomes alive in the person that God is creating and filling.

It's not only our spiritual eyes that change, but also the way we think, reason, consider, dream and vision. We no longer wish only to pursue our own interests, but we begin to seek God in every aspect of our lives. We echo the words of Christ, "To live is Christ, but to die is gain!" We believe in Philippians 4.13 that "all things are possible through Christ."

Our worldview has just shifted from human-centered to God-centered. We are given compassion where there was none before. Insight, wisdom and discernment where before there was foolishness and stupidity. We put on the "mind of Christ." Sometimes this happens quickly, other times the transformation is a slow tedious process. But the promise of God is true – by accepting Christ, and inviting the Spirit into your life – you will be forever changed.

Acts 2:32-33 says, "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear."

Questions to consider:

1. What does this verse say about the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?
2. How can you allow the Holy Spirit to infiltrate your life today?



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Day 12: Tested by Fire

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.” Mark 1.9-13

Ok, so you are on day 12 of this journey, a journey towards growing in God’s remarkable grace. Maybe you recently renewed your baptism vows and rededicated your life to Christ. And now, according to Scripture, you are going to be under major spiritual attack.

Just look at the life of Jesus for example. He had a high moment when he was baptized. A voice came from Heaven confirming him to be the son of God and the Messiah. And now, right after this “mountain top” experience, he is sent by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted. And this wasn’t just a casual tempting, this was being tested by fire.

Look at his circumstances. Jesus had no food (another Gospel account says he fasted for 40 days), he had no friends (except the wild animals) and he had a nagging dark enemy hounding him about following the devil rather than God. How hard it must have been for Jesus to leave the refreshing baptismal waters of the Jordan to enter the parched earth of the desert. From a spiritual banquet to a barren wasteland of temptation.

I can only guess that if you haven’t walked in the desert, you soon will. Your mountain top experience will come tumbling down around you and you will begin to question your experience, doubt your memory, and wonder just what in the heck you got yourself into.

But take heart! The suffering of our soul is not common among Christians, it is to be expected. The struggling and wrestling with the spirit-nature is guaranteed. Jesus discovered through prayer and Scripture that defeating the devil’s schemes was more than possible. It was do-able.

And in the same way, you who are now walking with Christ, do not lose heart. “Though outwardly you are wasting away, inwardly you are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (2 Corinthians 4.16-17)

Take heart. Jesus is with you. He knows. He cares. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able to bear. Read Psalm 23.



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Day 13: Temple living

As you are now living, learning, and understanding – the Christian life isn't all peaches and cream. It isn't all dandelions and roses. It is sometimes full of thorns and briars and rocky soil. The sinful habits you thought you left behind are haunting you still. The sins you confessed are forgiven but your guilty conscience just won't let them go. And perhaps you are wondering if this Jesus thing is really working.

Rest assured, my friend. The Christian life is a journey, not a sprint. It is a 100-mile endurance run through jungles and forests, over mountains and through valleys. It crosses oceans and rivers, fields and meadows. It is not to be taken lightly nor is the journey a quick one. What you are feeling now is what I call "temple living." It is learning to live within the new spiritual body Christ has given you when he rescued you from your sin.

When Jesus gave us new life, he gave us a new identity – "Child of God." We are now adopted sons and daughters, have been grafted into God's family tree, and the Holy Spirit lives within us. However, the battle of our fleshly desires continues to conflict with our spirit desires. And yet, Christ lives inside of us. His Spirit mixes with our spirit and our body becomes His Temple. He does not possess us (an act that is in opposition to our will) rather He fulfills us.

In Galatians 5.16-17 Paul writes, "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with one another..." Temple living means we live according to what Jesus wants rather than to what we want.

In Romans 6.22 Paul tell us that "now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life." Temple living implies being set free from sin and becoming a slave to holiness and righteous living.

However, this does not happen overnight – but it does happen. The longer we live in the Spirit, and shun the sinful nature, the more we are free to find freedom in temple living – empowered by the Holy Spirit and guided by Jesus.

Read Romans 7.7-25 and consider these questions:

1. What is Paul's main struggle?
2. What does it mean to die to our sin?
3. What two laws are at work in your body today?
4. Who will rescue us from this "body of death" called the flesh? (V 24-25)



Day 14: Truth realized

The truth of the matter is although your sin is washed away, the residue of its effects still linger. The habits you established to ignore God are not gone. The desire to serve God might be stronger than ever and now you have the assurance that Christ lives in you. Realizing that Truth lives in you is a wonderful gift.

Although we were once a slave to the sinful nature (Romans 7.25), we are now a slave (a willing servant) to God's law. A God who loves us, calls us, and redeems us. God sent Jesus to us so that "what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering" (Romans 8.8) Christ died for our sin so we wouldn't have to. Now the challenge for us is to believe, accept and live in that truth.

Part of the life of a Christian is letting go of the past and moving towards the future. We are no longer controlled by the "sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you." To be a slave to God actually results in freedom, joy and peace – because, God sets us free from sin and empowers us to live as holy and righteous people.

The Bible is very clear about the nature of the Spirit living inside a person who trusts in Christ. Acts 2.38 says, "Repent and be baptized, everyone one of you, and you will receive the Holy Spirit." When we repent, when we believe, when we show God that we are serious about knowing him – the Holy Spirit is sent.

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." To know Jesus means to know the truth and to live in the Spirit. To cast aside the residue of the sinful nature and allow Truth and freedom to rule in our hearts.

Read John 14 and answer these questions:

1. How do we come to the Father? (v 6)
2. What does it mean to know Christ?
3. How has knowing Christ changed your life, given you joy?
4. Is it frustrating when the old "self" creeps back upon you?
5. Why would God allow this journey to be a long distance race rather than a sprint?
6. What are three things you are going to do today to live in the fullness of God's Spirit?



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Day 15: Telling others

The greatest salesmen in the world are consumers who have bought products they absolutely love. It's impossible not to talk about certain items that have impacted your life greatly. You want to tell everyone about it and think everyone should buy one just because you did!

This is me when it comes to Apple computers. I love them. I am typing on mine right now. I favor typing in the dark because the keyboard is back lit! (Really, you should buy one!) But I could talk all day about how cool Apple computers (and iPads too) and never get tired. (Although you may get tired of listening.)

As one who is now serious about a relationship with Christ, the shift needs to begin to focus. I know, it hasn't even been a month since you renewed your heart for Christ, and now you are being asked to talk about it?

Exactly. The Gospel doesn't spread by unenthusiastic people sitting in church pews waiting for the clock to strike 12 PM so they can find a good table at the restaurant. The Gospel is spread by passionate followers who realize how great it is to know Jesus. It is spread not by the disinterested but by the life that's been transformed from death to life.

But you might be thinking, I don't even know what to say! I don't know how to talk about my experience. What if I offend folks? What if I scare them away with my passion, my love, and my devotion to Christ? All these questions are fair but the charge of Jesus followers to tell the world about a Savior who cares supersedes our inexperience to clearly communicate the Gospel story.

There is no doubt the final words of Jesus (both in Matthew 28.18-20, and before he ascended in Acts 1) equally emphasize the importance of "telling." "Go and make disciples..." "And you will be my witnesses to the very ends of the earth..."

Our call now that we've discovered Jesus is to share him. You don't have to use fancy words, common speech will do. Tell your own story of how you found Christ. How he changed your life. Direct your friends to the book of John to read about the life of Jesus.

None of us are qualified to tell, to preach or to proclaim. But all of us who claim Christ are called to share the Good News of the Gospel of God's amazing grace. Read John 3.16, and 10.10, and 14.6. Jesus died for the sins of all human-kind and life can be found in him alone. Who needs to hear this "good news" message today?



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Day 16: Talking it up

From an outsider's perspective the members of the early church, recorded in the Book of Acts, look like a bunch of crazy people! (Actually, the community thought they were drunk on the day the Holy Spirit came upon the believers.) They look like a bunch of nutcases about to crack. They are speaking in all kinds of languages, (tongues) they are healing people, raising people from the dead, breaking out of prison with no weapons, and praising God in the midst of heavy abuse and persecution.

But what the early church did, and knew to do, was to talk up who Jesus was. They were so incredibly convinced that Jesus died, rose from the dead, returned to hang out for a month, and then went back into heaven – that they just couldn't keep quiet about it.

Even Peter, in Acts 4.19-20, when facing being stoned by rocks, beaten with clubs, locked in prison and flogged says this to his accusers when they tell him to shut up, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we can not help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

The Word of God was so alive in them that they couldn't help but proclaim the Gospel message – that Christ has died, he is risen, and he will come again. They didn't follow some silly Church agenda – a building campaign, or discuss what Sunday School material to purchase – they got to the heart of the matter. They actually spoke to people about following Jesus. They shouted it out everywhere they went until they were killed for what they believed (historians believe most of the disciples of Jesus, save John, were killed by persecution for preaching the Gospel.)

In the same way, we aren't great theologians, we aren't Bishops or professors – but the Gospel message is true, pure and simple. And we have a commission to preach it with urgency. To proclaim it with our lives. Not just with actions but with words.

Have you told people about what happened to you? How would you lead someone to Christ? The *Roman Road* is a trusted series of verses intended to help lead someone into a relationship with Jesus (Romans 3.23, 6.23, 5.8. 10.9-10.13, John 3.16, 10.10, 14.6, Acts 2.38)

Pray about who you might share your story with today? Remember to offer grace when you share and not condemnation. Being able to share and lead someone into a personal relationship to Christ is the most amazing experience you could ever imagine.



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Day 17: The Helper

When Jesus went up into heaven, as recorded in Acts 1.9, he made a final reference to a power that would come upon the believers. Since before the beginning of time, God's Holy Spirit has been one with God the Father and God the Son. In Genesis we read how the "Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" of the earth. And we read throughout the Old Testament where the Spirit of God came upon Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Samson, Samuel, David and many other prophets and kings.

However, one difference that comes into play in the New Testament is the selective filling of the Holy Spirit within the hearts of each of God's people – individually. Before Jesus, the Holy Spirit was selective in how and who He filled. It was a selective filling that not everyone enjoyed. God's Spirit came and went. Chose and sometimes, like in the case of King Saul, un-chose.

The remarkable thing that happened when God sent his Son is that God the Father wanted to make things a bit more personal. Instead of just selectively filling the souls of people who follow him, one here...one there... God decided to fill anyone who trusted in Christ as Savior. Anyone who believed and was baptized would receive the Holy Spirit.

God changed the way He operated. Jesus now says, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth."

What is now available to us, and what happened to you when you gave your life to Christ, is that the Holy Spirit of God entered your existence, flooded into your body, filtered into your senses, and made you a new creation.

And so, when Jesus ascended (went up to heaven) he did not leave us without a helper because in a sense – he left us his Spirit (the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father and God the Son).

And now, you have cause to celebrate. You have cause to rejoice. For that which Jesus has promised as come to live within you. You don't have to go through life alone, you don't have to battle sin by yourself. The God of the Universe has come to live inside of you. Isn't that amazing?

Take some time to pray. Write a thank you letter to God telling Him how grateful you are to have received his Holy Spirit. Invite his Spirit to fill your thoughts and flood your heart with His mercy and grace. Read Acts 1-2.



Day 18: The Power

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting....all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages (tongues) as the Spirit enabled them.”

Imagine being hit by a big semi-truck. That would hurt. Or how about being in the middle of a hurricane, a tornado, or a volcanic eruption? Ouch. If any one of these things happened to us we would not be here to talk about it. We would be finished for this life.

However, the power that hit the early disciples, while they were praying in the Upper Room, was a billion times greater than any of these natural disasters. This power is the power to heal, to renew, to make, to fulfill.

Whereas the power of the natural disasters destroys, and in the case of a volcano, rebuilds land, the power of the Holy Spirit rebuilds and mends hearts. The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead lives now in your mortal bodies (Romans 8.11) Consider that for a moment.

That same power will give life to our mortal bodies through his Spirit, that lives in you. The same power. Not a different power. Not a lesser power. Not a distant power. Not a power that comes and goes, visits on the weekends (Sunday mainly) or at church camp. Not a power that only shows up when *you* call Him, not a power that only arrives when we need Him. But the same power that lives. Now this is not a power that dies, or hides, or wanes. It is the power of Christ alive in you and it is alive in me.

The power was given. The switch turned on. The electrical current began to flow when you said, “Lord Jesus, I accept you as Savior and Lord. I give you my heart.” The same power is now flooding your veins and filling your brain. It is the same power that you have access to every single day of your life.

Jesus said, “And you will receive the power...” And from our reception of that power, there is no turning back. There is no renouncing or removing the power. The power that raised Christ from the dead remains in you giving life to your body, mind, heart, and soul.

Consider that. Consider the power available to you to use for God’s glory and take the message of Christ to the lost and lonely of the world. Read Acts 1:8



Day 19: The Promises - I

Let me tell you how inadequate I feel when trying to tell you about God's promises. It's Day 19 and you have been faithful to establish a 30-day habit of meeting with God. It's nothing to take lightly. It will take work, discipline and devotion. The 30-day habit is something that will change you forever because it is a part of God's plan for you to meet with him.

The easy answer in relaying God's promises for you is that God promises you Life. Not just eternal life in heaven, that's a very real promise (Check out the book entitled *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn), but its also abundant life today.

In simple terms, God promises to fulfill your every need. By giving you abundant life today, life with a meaning and purpose; and eternal life to come, life that lasts forever in his presence, God is saying to you – "Your life counts. You matter. I died just for you so that you might have life."

Jesus says the words in John 10.10, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest." In John 11.25-26, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus is referring to the greatest promise a mortal person could ever hope for – life without end. To know this existence isn't meaningless. That your school work matters. That your relationships matter. That you matter. Why do you count? Why does your life have significance? Because Jesus, the creator of life, said it does.

God's very best promise is to give us a life that matters. It is a life spent knowing, loving, and enjoying him. It's a life that fills the emptiness in our souls, the void in our spirits, the hole in our heart.

Because Jesus said it, you can count on it. Count on the fact that "he is the resurrection and the life." He is life. And through him, your life has purpose.

Questions to consider:

1. What is the world's attitude about life, living, and material gain?
2. What was your perspective before you met Jesus?
3. What does it mean for Jesus to say in John 14.6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life"?
4. Why does your life matter?



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Day 20: The Promises - II

If there was anything else that mattered besides eternal and abundant life, it would be knowing that you are forgiven and redeemed. God doesn't just want to save you, and then have you lead a life separate from Him. He didn't die for you so that you would then live life for your own purposes and desires. God's promises continue in that now that he has saved you, rescued you from your sin, God now promises to walk with you.

When I was a teenager I knew about God. I went to church twice a week, we prayed at the dinner table, I sang in the youth choir, I went on youth mission trips, summer camps, and attended just about every Sunday morning service. However, I was missing something. I was missing love for God. I was missing a daily, personal, relationship with Jesus Christ.

God's plan is to save and redeem the world. He does that through the sacrifice of his son Jesus. But Jesus hasn't left us alone. As we talked about before, the Holy Spirit now walks with us. God's promise is to never leave us nor forsake us.

I knew about God but it wasn't until I went to a non-denominational camp that I was offered the opportunity to invite Christ into my life. To accept him as my personal Lord and Savior. This was really a foreign concept to me. The sermons at Church were about serving others, attending Church, and doing the right thing. But this was a whole new challenge. This was about me letting go – and asking God, through Jesus Christ, to become my Savior, my King, my best friend.

Never before had it become so personal. Never before had I been given a choice of this magnitude that was mine alone to choose. It wasn't my parents decision. It wasn't my preachers choice. It was mine and I took it.

I went out to a mountainside in Colorado where the camp was and right then and there I prayed this prayer – “Lord Jesus, I love you. I want you to come into my life. I want you to forgive me of my sin. I accept you as my Lord and give you control of my life.”

And at the moment, that very hour, Jesus fulfilled his work of salvation in me by entering spiritually – my physical body. He came in to me. Not to possess my soul but to inhabit it with his love and grace.

God's promise is to be with us. Salvation isn't a one and done kind of deal. It is and it isn't. Your name is written immediately in God's Book of Life when you surrender to Jesus, but then the true joy begins – God walks with us. Read Psalm 16.



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Day 21: Redeemed for a purpose (why God saved me for a relationship)

Forgive me if I repeat myself. I think most of this bears repeating but I can't help but try to reiterate the core essentials of why God rescued you. I think it is so very important to understand, let it soak in, and to bask in it.

You were created for a relationship, plain and simple. There are three aspects of this relationship that are especially important. First, you were created for a relationship with God; second, you were created for a relationship with other believers; and three, you were created for a relationship with and for the world.

In *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren writes, "The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose" (Purpose Driven Life, 17).

Which means for us, our purpose is defined by whatever God wants it to be. And his purpose is stated in Ephesians 2.6-7, "and God raised up Jesus Christ...in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus." Our purpose is to receive God's grace and his favor. It is to know him. It's to experience his love and joy, his peace and presence, and eventually, to share that with others.

But we were also created to be in fellowship with others believers. 1 Corinthians 12.27 says, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." To be a part of the body means we are to be in fellowship with the rest of the body. The early Church in the book of Acts 2.42-47 says the Church "shared everything in common and the Lord added daily those who were being saved."

And the final purpose is to be a light to the world. To witness, to share your story, to tell, to speak, to serve the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ so the world might find grace and forgiveness. The three-fold purpose of knowing God, sharing in the community of believers, and making Christ known is essential to who we are in Christ Jesus.

As you begin your spiritual journey it's important to know this 3-fold relationship. You in Christ, seeing Christ in others, and sharing Christ with the world.



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Day 22: Relationship 101: What's a Quiet time?

When I accepted Christ, I spent the next 30 days meeting with my youth leader each morning, at his house with 3 other guys, and we went through a daily devotional guide. He encouraged us to do this on our own, even though we were with one another in the same house. We each spent time with God, developing a habit of growth, study and prayer.

Some people call this a "Quiet Time." Others refer to it as their "devotional" time or "alone time with God." Whatever it is, it implies you and God alone. You are exercising the spiritual disciplines (prayer, study, service, fasting, worship or celebration) in order to grow with God. A Quiet Time can take on a thousand different looks but here are some basics of what I have found to be the most important areas for growth.

Read the Bible daily. I like to read methodically through a book of the Bible. The Gospel of John is my favorite, followed by the Psalms and then the book of Philippians. I read either a half or full chapter a day. Reading the Bible must be a top priority if you wish to grow in your relationship with Jesus. All we know about Christ is found in this book, which is thousands of years old and God inspired. It is the Word of God and a primary means through which God speaks. Find a book you enjoy in the Bible, and read a portion of this every day.

Reflect and Respond on what you read. I like to keep a journal but it's not a diary. It's a place where I write the reference to the verse or passage I just read, and then take time to reflect and respond to this Word. I look at the passage and ask: who, what, when, where, why and how? I ask what is the meaning of this Scripture? What is it saying? What it is about and finally, how does it apply to my life? I've learned some of these techniques in seminary but in essence, you can make up your own questions. The point is to read the Word and ask God to apply it to your life.

Pray and praise. The final section is to spend time in prayer. You might write your prayer or just speak it aloud or silently to God. I will talk about some specific prayers later on, but for now, think of prayer as a two-way conversation with God. You speak and he listens. You listen and he speaks. Don't know what to say? Use the Psalms as an example to get started. And with prayer comes praise. You might sing a song to the Lord, write a poem, paint a picture, or simply express with your heart how deeply you love him.

Developing a daily Quiet Time is not always easy but is going to be crucial to your development as a Christian. In order to grow, bear fruit, and be the person Christ has called you to be – you must spend time alone with God. Read Psalm 3.



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Day 23: Relationship 201: Prayer and Accountability

I have grouped prayer (speaking with God) and accountability (answering to someone for your relationship to God) together because they are two of the spiritual acts most important to your individual growth. I will speak about 5 Purposes of the Church next, but I want you to remain focused for now on your own spiritual development.

Prayer is a natural overflow of a heart to God. It is a means by which humans communicate, express love, confess sins, and meditate, as well as offer praise and thanksgiving to God.

Jesus taught extensively on the subject of prayer. He gave instructions about prayer (Matt 6:5-13; Mark 11:25), spoke about the importance of prayer (Luke 11:9; Mark 11:24), revealed his own vulnerability through prayer (Mark 14:35; Matt. 26:36; Luke 22:44), demonstrated the healing power of prayer (Luke 4:18; Mark 1:29-34), and gave insight into his “prayer” relationship with his heavenly Father (Luke 6:12; Matt. 26:39; John 17:20-26). Jesus emphasized prayer as a means to increase one’s focus on God as well as to become a greater instrument of God’s power and redemptive grace.

There is no magic formula to prayer. The most important thing is simply to come before God and talk to him. Speak it, write it, chant it, or sing it. God doesn’t really care as long as you open up that avenue of communication into the spiritual realm with a very real and loving God. He is not distant but knows and hears your thoughts and at this very moment is standing before you waiting to listen.

Accountability is having a person who helps you stick to what you desire to do for the Lord. An accountability partner can offer you encouragement when you don’t want to pray or read your Bible. That partner can help you remember to have a Quiet Time, can send you messages or texts about what to read or when to do it.

That person can and should also know your secret struggles and sins. They must keep these in confidence and not share them with anyone else except with the Lord through prayer. Your accountability partner can be someone your own age or older. It might be helpful if it is someone who has walked longer than you have with Jesus and showed in their own life the fruits of the Spirit. In other words, find someone who you admire for their own spiritual life. Find a person who is deeply in love with Jesus and willing to encourage you in your own relationship and journey.

Prayer and accountability can go hand in hand as you begin to deepen your love and walk with Jesus Christ. Read Psalm 1.



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Day 24: Relationship 301: The 5 Purposes of the Church

Something that you will want to consider as you grow in grace is the five purposes of the Church. These are essentially the core pillars upon which the church is built and the areas that will help ground your life as a Christian. The 5 purposes are evangelism, worship, fellowship, discipleship, and ministry.

The 5 Purpose of the Church were made famous by the book *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry* by Doug Fields. In this book he writes the five purposes can be found in two primary Scriptures – Matthew 22.37-40 and Matthew 28.19-20. An explanation of these five purposes includes:

1. Worship (Honor): “Love the Lord your God with all your heart.”
 2. Ministry (Discovery): “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
 3. Evangelism (Reach): “Go and make disciples.”
 4. Fellowship (Connect): “Baptizing them”
 5. Discipleship (Grow): “Teaching them to obey.”
- (PDYM, 46, 52)

As a new Christian, knowing the core pillars of the Church will help you understand your own purpose for knowing and serving God. You will discover there is a method to the madness and it might just help you focus on specific areas to grow in God.

For example, by knowing that Church is more than fellowship, you can begin to devise a plan for how you might be in ministry to others. Or, finding salvation in Christ is good – but growing in *discipleship* will help deepen your roots in the faith.

It is important you find a Church which emphasizes all five purposes with a sense of balance. A church that only evangelizes might forget to serve the poor. Likewise, a youth group which spends all it's time in fellowship, lock-in's and going to the movies might result in students un-familiar with connecting to God through worship.

Consider these questions:

1. Of the five purposes, with which do you most resonate?
 2. On which purpose do you spend most of your time?
 3. Take an inventory of your personal life and your Church and notice which purposes they most fulfill.
 4. Why is it important to find a balance in your life with these purposes?
 5. How can each purpose give God glory and help you remain Bible-centered?
- (PDYM 53-54)
6. Read Psalm 77.



Day 25: Relationship 401: Sharing my faith with others

When the early Christians were converted, they didn't sit around gloating in their own glory. They got up and started to tell the world about whom Jesus is and what he did for them. We see many examples in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts about the radical transformation of an individual who before we turn the page, is telling someone else about what Jesus has done for them.

The same can be and should be true with us. There is urgency in telling people about Christ and helping lead them into a relationship with Jesus. If the end result of knowing God is eternity with him, then the opposite result, of not knowing God is eternity separated from him. This should be motivation enough for us to share Christ's saving power with the world. So how do we do this?



I like to use the *Faith Sharing Hand*. This model illustrates sharing Christ with someone by being able to just look at your own hand as a reminder of how to do this. All you have to remember is: Past (thumb), Present (forefinger), Future (middle finger), 4 Steps (ring finger), and Prayer (pinky).

Past: First, tell them what your life was like before you met Jesus Christ. How you felt lost, distant, or just numb to your purpose in life. There may be sin that you did that you no longer commit because Christ is now in your life.

Present: Second, tell them how you met Christ. Where were you, what happened, who told you about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is your own story and is important for you to share.

Future: Third, tell them what your life is like now that you have a relationship with Christ. How is your life better, different, or more joy-filled? Tell them what Jesus has done for you and how it has affected who you are today and who you will be tomorrow.

4 Steps: Fourth, share with the person these steps to accepting Christ. 1) God loves you & has a plan for your life (John 3.16, Jeremiah 29.11), 2) Sin keeps us from God (Romans 3.23, 6.23) 3) Christ died to free us from sin (Romans 5.8), 4) You can find salvation and forgiveness by accepting Jesus as Savior (Romans 10.9-10, 13).

Prayer: Finally, you can pray with them or lead them in this prayer. *"Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner and that you died for me. Please forgive me and come into my heart. I accept you as my Savior and Lord and want you to become my best friend. I love you Jesus and I need you. Amen."*



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Day 26: Reawakening realized: What God wants to do with me now

I recently took a trip to Nicaragua. While I was there, I met a man named John who was from Texas but had given up his life here to help run an orphanage filled with children. He gave up his nice home, his car, a nice paying job, and even his family to be the “papa” to 30 kids who don’t have a dad. On one hand this sounds pretty crazy, but on the other it sounds just like what it means to give your life to Christ. To put his agenda before your own, his will before ours.

John is a godly man. Besides running an orphanage, he also leads teams that go into the neighborhoods telling people about Jesus. Several thousand people have accepted Jesus because of him and as a result, over 40 churches have been planted. He is a person who has been reawakened to what Jesus wants him to do.

Your life doesn’t have to reflect John’s. I mean, you don’t have to go to another country and do the work he does. However, we all have to listen to what God wants us to do and then obey.

In John 15:5 Jesus says, “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

This verse is about obedience. It is about staying connected to Jesus who is the vine. We are the branches. Bearing fruit (being in ministry and helping bring others to Christ) isn’t done on our own. If we remain connected to Christ then we will have a fruitful spiritual life. We will be in ministry, serve Christ, and God will bless our work for him. But if we forget Jesus and do it on our own we will remain stagnant and die.

The Christian life is about deciding every day to live for God and then discerning what it is God wants you to do for him. I know, without a doubt, that God wants you to live a life that serves him. He wants to be in a love relationship with you and for you to trust God in every area of your life.

As people who are “born again” (John 3), we have been reawakened to a new purpose of life with God. How will you live today like Jesus wants you to? How will you strive to be the disciple Christ is calling you to be and serve him with every area of your being?

Read John 15 and consider what is speaking to you today.



Day 27: Rediscovering my gifts: Spiritual gifts Inventory

When you gave your life to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came into your body and became one with your spirit. 1 Corinthians 6.19 says, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” And 2 Corinthians 6.16 echoes this by saying, “For we are the temple of the living God.”

As a result, you are given gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used for the glory of God and the building up of the church. Spiritual gifts can be added and developed over the course of one’s life but many of these are imparted to you when you faithfully follow Christ and accept him into your life.

Many Christians never know their spiritual gifts. They live their entire lives without a deep sense of who they are in the Body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:12 Paul talks about how the body is a unit and is made up of many parts. And it goes on to say about believers, “now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” Therefore, since we have been incorporated into Christ’s Body, wouldn’t it be cool to know just how we fit in?

I was working out of my gifts for years without realizing that what I was doing was what Christ had created me to do. I was preaching, leading worship, leading youth leaders, and serving out of a natural desire to do so. Can you guess what my primary spiritual gifts would be? Preaching, worship, leadership, service. Duh. It would have been nice to know these when I was planning a career in ministry!

You are a member of the Body of Christ and so we have included at the end of this guide a spiritual gifts inventory, which I helped put together. It’s 100 simple questions that will take you all of 20 minutes to complete. When you finish, you score it your self and then discover your primary and secondary gifts. After you write those down, go to the 5 Major Gift Categories and see how you fit into the body of Christ.

The final two steps are straightforward but not always easy – Step one: Tell your pastor, youth minister and family about your gifts, and Step two: begin to use your gifts for God’s purposes in the Church and in the world.

I am so proud of you. God made you perfectly His and I think you will be blessed when you take this spiritual gifts inventory. You can’t fail it! You can only explore who you are in Jesus Christ and how best he can use you for the spreading of his love and grace in this world.

Consider these questions: How am I in the Body of Christ? How can I better serve Jesus once I know his gifts for me? What do I fear in discovering these spiritual gifts? (Pause now and take the ***Spiritual Gifts Inventory*** at the end of this guide.)



30 Days in Grace: *A Journey into God's Amazing Grace* ©

Day 28: Reconnecting with the Body: Find Your Voice

Stretch your wings. Discover your dreams. Find your voice.

Attention all students: Jesus has great things in store for your life! You were not created to remain idle and do nothing. You were made to be a world changer. To partner with God to transform the nations with the love and grace of Jesus Christ in your church.

But how do we do this in a world filled with temptation? A world filled with distraction? A world filled with sin? We do it by being courageous and becoming the person God has called us to be.

Jesus' call is to make disciples of all nations. He gives us power through his Spirit and by clinging on to his hand - we have the power to move mountains (quite literally!)

Do you believe it? Are you willing to find your voice by finding what God's will is for you? My friends, it is simple as well as complex. It's easy as well as hard. So here are "5 Practices to Finding Your Voice."

1. Re|Connect with Jesus {Devotional life} - Spend time reading the Word, talking with God, and seeking times of worship and study with Him. Make time each day to be alone with Jesus seeking His purpose and power. (Read Mark 1.35, 6.46)
2. Re|Define your Character {Spiritual identity} - Every school stereotypes its students. And you are no exception. But you are not necessarily who they say you are. You are who Jesus and the Holy Spirit defines you to be. And that definition is awesome, super cool, and holy. (Read 1 Peter 2.9-10, Ephesians 1.4-5)
3. Re|Align your Purpose {Intentional Actions} – You were crafted by the Creator to bear fruit. Evangelize. Serve. Commit. Worship. Life is short. Remember why you were put on this earth. And don't be afraid to go to work for God's Kingdom. (Read 1. Corinthians 15.58, Acts 20.24, Philippians 2.12-13)
4. Re|Orient your Time {Practical Applications} – Imagine the hours we spend on social media, texting, Facebook or Twitter. Now imagine reorienting your time to give more of it to serving the Lord and telling others about what He has done in you. You are what you do. Do less "status updates" and be more for Jesus. (Acts 5.40-42, Hosea 10.12)
5. Re|Affirm Your Allegiance {Elevated Adoration} – If you are a Christian, you follow Christ. You love Jesus and desire to serve Him. Refresh your adoration for God. Love Jesus more. Allow your times of worship and prayer to be an overflow of your heart-felt commitment to serving Him every day. (Matthew 22.37-40, Revelation 2.4-5)



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Day 29: Reaching out to the World: An 84-mile Journey

It's 84 miles from my house in Marble Falls to the Church Under the Bridge (C.U.B.) in San Antonio. I just head south on Hwy 281, exit McCullough, and stop at Grace Lutheran Church, which currently houses this ministry for the homeless of the city.

It's 84 miles, just an hour and 15 minutes without traffic, for me to leave the comfort of my own home and find someone deeply in need. 84 miles from my life of abundance to a life lived in poverty.

Now I realize there are closer opportunities right near my house, but C.U.B. has been placed upon my heart as a deep seated need in the community and where I believe the Lord would have me serve.

84 miles in the old days was a long trip on horseback, by foot or by stagecoach. But today, 84 miles is really nothing at all. So what keeps me from going every week, from committing to those who need my help, my care, and my support?

Because it's 84 miles! It's not just right around the block or just up the street. It takes a little effort, some gas, and some motivation to get moving that way. It's not like I walk out my door and I am there. It takes some planning, some pre-thought, and some arranging of my schedule.

It's similar to when I would visit the Jr. High schools when I was a youth director, if I just got to the school, and through the door, the rest would take care of itself. I didn't have to dream up conversation, I just stood and smiled and the students would come to me.

That's how it is at C.U.B. If I have the courage to drive there, and park around back, I still need the courage to walk through those doors, stand and smile, and let God do the rest. I never know what my job will be, it could be putting out chairs, handing out clothes, picking up pizza or leading worship. My act of obedience is to make the effort, get in the car, and drive 84 miles to a place of deep need where God hangs out.

And so my question for you today is, "What is your 84-mile drive?" Where is God calling you to be in ministry for the Kingdom? It might literally be around the block or down the street but it seems like 84 miles away for you. Don't hesitate. Don't put it off. Hear God's voice and then go and do.

And just in case you were wondering, the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem was just about 84 miles. Mary and Joseph walked the distance in close to a week in order to give birth to the Messiah. What is keeping us from traveling our own 84 miles to do great things for God?



30 Days in Grace: *A Journey into God's Amazing Grace* ©

Day 30: Realizing the mission: A global mission for evangelism & the social gospel

Congratulations. You have made it. You are on the final day of this *30 Days in Grace* guide to walking with Jesus. I pray that it has impacted your life in big ways but most of all, you have gotten into a habit of hanging out with Jesus.

In doing this study, I pray you have realized your mission and what it means to “follow him.” The disciples learned this after 3 years of following Jesus around the Judean countryside, and now it is your turn.

A part of realizing your mission is to understand what is God’s purpose for you as a Christian. It involves you loving him, learning to walk in Christ’s footsteps, and getting on the path of God Almighty.

Part of your purpose is to look beyond yourself toward a global vision. Evangelism, sharing your faith with others, and the social gospel, helping meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of others is also important. Read Matthew 25 and 28. We are called to help save the soul and heal the body from oppression. We are called to look outward to the needs of other people all around us.

A great question to ask yourself as you conclude this study is – If Jesus was walking around today, where would he go? What would he do? How would he live? What friends would he make? Who would he love?

Our challenge is no less great. We are to be little examples of Jesus Christ walking this earth. People need to hear your voice proclaim the Gospel and see your feet carry the Gospel of food, clothing and shelter to the broken. You have a beautiful opportunity to be world-changers for God’s sake.

May the Lord bless you on this journey. May God’s face be upon you and may you walk in the ways that lead to life eternal. I’m so proud of you and I want you to know that God is as well. He loves you with an everlasting love and will continue to pour His grace upon your life.

I’ll conclude with these words from Isaiah 55:6: “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”

Grace and peace to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Rusty Freeman



A.C.T.S. Prayer

Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. This prayer can be prayed everyday as a simple but directed way of speaking to the Lord.

Adoration: praise Jesus for one or several of His attributes (e.g., sovereign, gracious, holy, perfect, merciful, all knowing, loving, just, powerful, ever present, creative) both generally or as it applies to your circumstances. *"Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies."* - Psalm 36:5

Confession: tell Jesus what you have done wrong and why, apologize to Him, seek forgiveness, and thank Him for it. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* - 1 John 1:9

Thanksgiving: express your gratitude to Jesus for His love, mercy, grace, leading, sustenance, discipline, and blessing. *"Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men"* - Psalm 107:15

Supplication: ask Jesus to guide, heal, protect, comfort, sustain, or provide for you, or intercede for someone else. *"...Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain."* - 1 Chronicles 4:10



20 Questions:

4-Part Bible Study Method

(Explore, Observe, Understand, Apply) © 2005 RH Freeman

Read the Scripture then ask each question. This can be done individually or as a group.

Exploring

1. How might one **summarize** this passage in a single sentence?
2. What immediately **stands out** to you about this passage?
3. What is the **main point**?
4. What are the **minor points**?
5. Are there any **repetitive** words, phrases, or ideas?

Observing

6. Who are the main **characters** in this passage?
7. To whom is this **letter written** (or the story about)?
8. What is the **setting** of the narrative or letter?
9. What do your **five senses** tell you?
10. Where is **God** in this story?

Understanding

11. What is the overall **message** recorded?
12. What does this scripture say about **making disciples**?
13. Is the '**gospel**' (or good news) presented?
14. Is this message consistent with the **modern church**?
15. How does the **context** help us understand the main point?

Applying

16. What does this passage **say to me**?
17. How **will I be different** because of God's Word?
18. How does it make me **feel**?
19. How can this message **apply** specifically to my life?
20. With whom am I going to **share** this message?



Spiritual Gifts Inventory

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An Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

"Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7: New Living Translation.

Spiritual gifts exist within every Christian. They are the ways by which Christ works within the life of believers to edify and strengthen the Church. Through these gifts we bring glory and honor to God and bless believers and non-believers alike.

The spiritual gifts are gifts to be shared. They are not gifts to be hidden or tucked away in a closet, or enclosed within a box. They are given by the Spirit to be used by the Spirit. The origin of these special gifts never begins with humanity but always with the divine. God is the giver of these gifts.

Four main passages in Scripture provide the foundation for spiritual gifts. They include: Romans 12.6-8, 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, Ephesians 4.7-12, and 1 Peter 4.9-11. Yet many of the gifts listed in this inventory come from other places in Scripture not mentioned above.

This inventory is a list of twenty-five spiritual gifts compiled from a number of resources, books, and online inventories. They are not intended to limit the Spirit but rather to enhance and acknowledge the special gifts of grace given by God to Christians. Some spiritual gift inventories have less than twenty gifts mentioned while others exceed thirty. Those listed in this inventory, in my opinion, are those most commonly used and understood.

The purpose of this inventory is for one to discover his or her spiritual gifts and then to prayerfully consider ways to utilize these gifts for the advancement of the Kingdom of God and the making of disciples within the local church. These gifts are meant to be shared about, not stored away. They are meant to honor God, rejuvenate the Church, and reach a lost generation for Christ.

Rusty Freeman

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Survey of Spiritual Gifts

1. I would enjoy directing a vacation Bible school, recreation program or special event in my church.
2. I feel lead to develop and start new churches.
3. I like to make things with my hands which can be used in the church.
4. I have the gift to immediately distinguish good from evil.
5. There is nothing I like to do more than to encourage someone else in their faith.
6. I can tell anyone, anywhere about Jesus and what he did for my life.
7. I often feel I know God's will even when others are not sure.
8. I see myself as a person who is very generous when it comes to giving money to the church.
9. People have told me I have the gift of healing.
10. I am the one who often cleans up after church or youth group is over.
11. Inviting people to my home is one of my favorite things to do.
12. I have interpreted in church when someone has spoken in tongues.
13. I have often expressed truths about God's word that has given insight to others.
14. I believe I know where I am going and other people seem to follow.
15. I often give hope to those who are in need.
16. Many incredible acts of God have happened to others through me.
17. I would like to be a missionary.
18. I am musically inclined and love to sing and play an instrument.
19. I find great satisfaction in caring for the spiritual needs of friends and people I know.
20. I can pray for long periods of time without getting tired, distracted or bored.
21. I have given others important messages that I felt came from God at the perfect time.
22. I could be described as an "others-centered" person.
23. I like to explain biblical truths to people.
24. I believe I have a prayer language which is in a tongue unknown to me.
25. People have told me that I am a wise person.
26. I can give others responsibilities for a task or project and help them accomplish it.
27. I believe I have been called to live a life in which I set an example for other Christians to follow.
28. God has gifted me with creativity and the ability to make things with my hands.
29. If something is from Satan and not God, I know it right away.
30. I believe I have the ability to comfort those who are "off-track" and help them get back with God.
31. When I consider people who don't know Jesus, I have extreme sadness and a heavy heart.
32. I find it easy to trust God even when things seem to go bad for me or others.
33. I have no problem giving my money or other resources to the church or those in need.
34. When I have prayed for a sick person and they have made a miraculous recovery.
35. I don't think twice about doing a job that might not bring me praise.
36. I love to put on parties, cook, decorate, and make people feel good.
37. There was a time someone spoken in an unknown language and I understood them.
38. I greatly want to understand biblical truths.

39. I like to lead, inspire, and motivate others to become involved in God's work.
40. I believe I have the gift of mercy.
41. God has used me to perform miraculous signs and wonders.
42. I feel comfortable when I am around people of a different race, culture or language.
43. I would really love to lead people in worship through my music.
44. I feel God is calling me to be a pastor in a local church.
45. When I pray, I often see immediate and amazing answers to my prayers.
46. I believe I have the ability to reveal God's truth about the future.
47. I enjoy meeting the needs of others.
48. I think I have what it takes to reach a Bible study or lead a small group.
49. I have spoken in tongues.
50. I believe God has given me the ability to make wise decisions.
51. I am able to set goals and plan the most effective way to reach them.
52. I feel called to serve in a leadership role which allows me to encourage many believers.
53. When something is broken, I can fix it.
54. I feel I have the gift to "test the spirits" and know what is good.
55. I have the desire to learn more about counseling so I can help others.
56. I have led others to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
57. I trust in God for supernatural miracles or radical answers to prayer.
58. I am confident that God will take care of me when I give cheerfully and with sacrifice.
59. I have the ability to heal.
60. I don't have to lead, I love to follow and help make things happen from behind the scenes.
61. Nothing brings me more joy than to prepare a dinner or a meals for people in need.
62. I believe I have the gift of interpretation of tongues.
63. I have the ability to learn new insights on my own.
64. People seem to look to me for leadership and to make decisions.
65. I like to visit nursing homes, hospitals, and other places where people need comfort.
66. Others have said that I was used by God to bring about a supernatural change in their lives.
67. I adapt easily to a different change of settings and environments.
68. I believe God has given me a real gift of music to share with the body of Christ.
69. When sitting in church, I am often thinking what I might preach on if I were the pastor.
70. One of my favorite things to do is spend time in prayer.
71. I desire to speak messages from God that challenge people to change.
72. You'll frequently find me volunteering my time to help with the needs of the church.
73. I would like to teach a Bible study in the church or in my school.
74. When I speak in tongues, I feel God's Spirit inside of me.
75. I believe God has given me the gift of wisdom.
76. I enjoy learning about management skills and how organizations function.
77. I feel that I am set a part for a higher calling and desire to strengthen God's people.
78. Nothing would bring me more joy than to build a Cross to go in the church sanctuary.
79. I believe I can tell when someone is really a Christian and when someone is faking it.

80. I have helped others in their struggles and am known for my encouraging words and attitude.
81. I always think of new ways to tell my non-Christian friends about Jesus.
82. My belief in God is very strong and I almost never have doubts about my faith.
83. It makes me happy to give my money and personal items away.
84. I have healed someone physically, spiritually, or emotionally.
85. I will sacrifice my own time and energy in order to assist someone else.
86. I love to entertain people in my home and wait on them while they are there.
87. God has shown me what someone is saying when he or she is speaking in tongues.
88. I do extremely well in school and always make very high grades.
89. When I am in a group I am usually the leader or take the lead if no one else does.
90. I would like to work in a ministry to orphans, the homeless, or the physically handicapped.
91. I believe I have the gift of miracles.
92. I believe I could learn a new language and culture in order to minister in another country.
93. I write songs, lyrics, that I know are from God and that he wants me to share with others.
94. I would really like to nurture and shape people in their ongoing relationship to Jesus Christ.
95. People often tell me that whenever I pray, God always seems to answers my prayers.
96. I believe I have the gift of prophecy.
97. I believe I have the gift of serving and would rather serve than do anything else.
98. Because of my teaching, others have gained a better understanding into who God is.
99. An unknown language comes to me when I am at a loss for words during my prayer times.
100. I usually see clear solutions to complicated problems.

Spiritual Gifts Answer Sheet

In the blanks below, put the number of the answer you feel most fits your response. Then add up the four numbers and put the sum in the "Total" column. **Much = 5, Sometimes = 3, Little = 1, Never = 0.**

<i>Rows</i>	<i>Answers</i>				<i>Total</i>
A	1 ___	26 ___	51 ___	76 ___	_____
B	2 ___	27 ___	52 ___	77 ___	_____
C	3 ___	28 ___	53 ___	78 ___	_____
D	4 ___	29 ___	54 ___	79 ___	_____
E	5 ___	30 ___	55 ___	80 ___	_____
F	6 ___	31 ___	56 ___	81 ___	_____
G	7 ___	32 ___	57 ___	82 ___	_____
H	8 ___	33 ___	58 ___	83 ___	_____
I	9 ___	34 ___	59 ___	84 ___	_____
J	10 ___	35 ___	60 ___	85 ___	_____
K	11 ___	36 ___	61 ___	86 ___	_____
L	12 ___	37 ___	62 ___	87 ___	_____
M	13 ___	38 ___	63 ___	88 ___	_____
N	14 ___	39 ___	64 ___	89 ___	_____
O	15 ___	40 ___	65 ___	90 ___	_____
P	16 ___	41 ___	66 ___	91 ___	_____
Q	17 ___	42 ___	67 ___	92 ___	_____
R	18 ___	43 ___	68 ___	93 ___	_____
S	19 ___	44 ___	69 ___	94 ___	_____
T	20 ___	45 ___	70 ___	95 ___	_____
U	21 ___	46 ___	71 ___	96 ___	_____
V	22 ___	47 ___	72 ___	97 ___	_____
W	23 ___	48 ___	73 ___	98 ___	_____
X	24 ___	49 ___	74 ___	99 ___	_____
Y	25 ___	50 ___	75 ___	100 ___	_____

Summary of Spiritual Gifts:

Totals

A	Administration	_____
B	Apostle	_____
C	Craftsmanship	_____
D	Discernment	_____
E	Encouragement	_____
F	Evangelism	_____
G	Faith	_____
H	Giving	_____
I	Healing	_____
J	Helping	_____
K	Hospitality	_____
L	Interpretation of Tongues	_____
M	Knowledge	_____
N	Leadership	_____
O	Mercy	_____
P	Miracles	_____
Q	Missions	_____
R	Music	_____
S	Pastoring	_____
T	Prayer	_____
U	Prophecy	_____
V	Serving	_____
W	Teaching	_____
X	Tongues	_____
Y	Wisdom	_____

Primary Gifts

(The two gifts with the first and second highest totals)

Secondary Gifts

(The two gifts with the third and fourth highest totals)

Top 25 - List of Spiritual Gifts

1. Administration – 1 Cor 12.28, Acts 6.2-4, Ex 18.13-27
The gift to clearly understand the present and future goals of the Church and to plan workable and manageable ways to reach these goals.
2. Apostle – 1 Cor 12.28-29, Eph 1.1, 4.11, Acts 14.21-23
The gift to inspire and develop the church and people of God through the proclamation and teaching of God's word and truth.
3. Craftsmanship – Exodus 28.3-4, 31.1-5, Acts 18.3, 2 Kings 12.12
The gift to use hands, minds and skill to build up the Kingdom through artistic and creative means for the glory and honor of God.
4. Discernment – 1 John 4.1, 1 Kings 3.9, Ro 12.2, 1 Cor 2.14, Heb 5.14, Acts 5.3-6
The gift to know and to test whether something is spiritually good or evil, from God or from Satan.
5. Encouragement – Romans 12.8, Acts 4.36, 11.23-24, 1 Thess 4.18
The gift to offer words and actions of encouragement to others in need of comfort, counsel and care.
6. Evangelism – Eph 4.11-12, 2 Timothy 4.5, Acts 21.8
The gift to share the Gospel with unbelievers with the hope that the unbeliever will become a disciple of Jesus Christ. To bring good tidings of salvation.
7. Faith – 1 Cor 12.9, Heb 11.1,6, Philippians 3.9, Luke 17.5, Romans 10.17
The gift to believe with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power and presence in order to honor God, inspire others, and build up the Church.
8. Giving – Romans 12.6,8, Mark 12.43-44, 2 Cor 8.2-3, 9.7
The gift to offer material blessings with exceptional willingness, cheerfulness and generosity to the mission of the Church and people in need.
9. Healing – 1 Cor 12.9,30, Matthew 10.1, Luke 4.40, Acts 3.6-9
The gift by which the Holy Spirit enables certain individuals to restore health to those who are sick.
10. Helping – 1 Cor 12.28, Acts 6.2-4, Ps 40.17, Heb 13.6, 1 Tim 5.10
The gift to willingly assist others by enabling them to do their Kingdom tasks more effectively and to help bear the burdens of others.
11. Hospitality – 1 Peter 4.9-10, 1 Tim 3.2, 5.10, Rom 12.13, Titus 1.8
The gift to offer food, lodging or fellowship to people in a cheerful manner either in their homes, work, school or church.
12. Interpretation of tongues – 1 Cor 12.10-11, 30, 14.5,
The gift of understanding and interpreting that which is spoken in a tongue, a spirit language or a foreign language.

13. Knowledge – 1 Cor 12.8, Eph 3.18-19, John 7.16-17, 17.3
The gift to understand great truths about God's word and to make them relevant to specific situations. Such as truth that is unknown by merely natural means.
14. Leadership – Romans 12.8, 1 Timothy 4.12, Heb 13.7,
The gift to set goals from God and then lead others to work together to carry out these goals for the glory of God.
15. Mercy – Romans 12.8, Deut 4.31, Matthew 5.7, Titus 3.5, Luke 6.36,
The gift of showing kindness and compassion in the name of Jesus to those who suffer, and to meet the needs of those who hurt.
16. Miracles – 1 Cor 12.10, John 20.30-31, Acts 19.11, Psalm 77.14, Acts 2.22
The gift of performing supernatural acts through the power of the Holy Spirit to further the Kingdom, give glory to God, and to convert unbelievers.
17. Missions – Matthew 28.18-20, Acts 1.8, 22.21, 1 Cor 9.19-23, Mark 13.10, 16.15
The gift of being 'sent forth' to minister in another culture, people group or nation, while utilizing a wide range of spiritual gifts.
18. Music – 1 Cor 14.15,26, Mark 14.26, Eph 5.19, 1 Chronicles 9.33, James 5.13
The gift of bringing praise to God and leading the body of Christ in worship through various forms of music, singing, instruments and choirs.
19. Pastoring – Eph 4.11-12, 1 Peter 5.1-4, Jer 23.4, Heb 13.17, 1 Tim 3.2, Jn 10.11
The gift to guide, oversee, shepherd and spiritually build-up a specific group of believers in matters concerning Christ and the Church.
20. Prayer – 1 Thess 3.10-13, 5.17, 1 Tim 2.1-2, 5.5, Luke 18.1, Jn 16.24, Eph 6.18
The gift to pray (intercede) for extended periods of time and regularity with great positive effects and results for building up the Kingdom.
21. Prophecy – 1 Cor 12.10, 29, 14.1-3, 30-33, Eph 4.11-12, Joel 2.28, Rom 12.6
The gift to "speak forth" and interpret messages from God regarding future events, revelations or truths pertaining to a given situation or everyday life.
22. Serving – Romans 12.7, Eph 3.7, 4.12, 6.7, Galatians 6.2, Phil 2.7, Deut 10.12
The gift to serve God and the Church with great joy, blessing, and selflessness. One who desires to meet physical, spiritual & emotional needs of others.
23. Teaching - Eph 4.11-12, 1 Cor 12.29, Ro 12.7, Acts 11.25-26, 13.1, 15.35, John 7.16
The gift to communicate God's word to God's people in order that they might understand spiritual truths and insights and thus learn, grow, and mature in Jesus Christ.
24. Tongues – 1 Cor 12.10-11, 28-31, 1 Cor 14.1-5, 13-22, Acts 2.1-13, 10.44-46
The gift to speak in an unknown language, derived from the Holy Spirit, for the sole purpose of witnessing for salvation, building up of the Church, and prayer.
25. Wisdom – 1 Cor 12.8, James 3.13-18, Proverbs 3.13, Romans 11.33, 2 Tim 3.15
The gift to offer good advice, solid counsel, and special insight as it relates to God's purpose and will and work as it pertains in living life and making disciples.

The 5 Gift Categories

1. Gifts for **SHEPHERDING**.
Administration, apostle, leadership, pastoring, teaching.
2. Gifts for **SERVING**.
Craftsmanship, giving, helping, hospitality, serving.
3. Gifts for **STRENGTHENING**.
Encouragement, healing, mercy, music, prophecy.
4. Gifts for **SALVATION**.
Evangelism, faith, miracles, missions, tongues.
5. Gifts for **SPIRITUAL INSIGHT**.
Discernment, interpretation of tongues, knowledge, prayer, wisdom.

Identification of Spiritual Gifts

1. It helps you determine God's will for your vocation. A knowledge of your gifts will provide a context for making career and ministry decisions regarding what not to attempt as well as what to enter into with confidence.
2. Mobilizes the entire church for mission. Since a small percentage of the church consists of clergy and more than ninety percent of the church is laity, the church obviously must equip and encourage every Christian to minister in his or her area of influence, home, school or work place.
3. Assists you in setting priorities for study, growth, and ministry. Since each of us has a limited amount of time to develop our potential, it seems clear that we should develop ourselves in the areas of our spiritual gifts.
4. Gives each Christian a sense of dignity and self-worth. Every Christian is an important part of the total church. There are no "second class" citizens in the Christian community because each person is a vitally important member of the body of Christ.
5. Enables you to receive the gift ministries of others. When Christians become more knowledgeable of their own spiritual gifts and those of other Christians, they can more easily function in harmony as the body of Christ, both giving and receiving ministries.

"Id of Spiritual Gifts" From Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts by Dr. Kenneth Kinghorn, Zondervan Publishing House.

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