



A threefold cord!

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone. And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him.

A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

- King Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes

**Christ-followers are supposed to grow up and mature.
We are destined to become Kingdom builders.**

LISTEN TO THE [RELATIONAL FARMING VIDEO](#) HERE.

Relational Farming

<i>Those who need Christ.</i>	<i>In-Common Christ-followers.</i>
<i>Friends and Companions.</i>	<i>Older, Wiser Christ-followers.</i>

Kingdom builders make associations with those who desire to know God!

People were made to thrive in relationships but interpersonal isolation is more common in the world in which we live.

If the Kingdom is going to grow in our lives we need to invest significant time in each of the quadrants outlined above!

Relational farming is a term to describe the life of a Kingdom builder in cultivating relationships which will benefit God's plan for His Kingdom. By using this four-quadrant approach we can easily assess what God is doing in and around our lives. What are the connections He is bringing about through me to build His Kingdom?

WHO IS IN AND AROUND MY LIFE WHO DOES NOT KNOW GOD?

_____	_____
_____	_____

HOW AND IN WHOM IS THE KINGDOM GROWING AMONG MY FRIENDS?

_____	_____
_____	_____

WITH WHOM DO I SHARE AN IN-COMMON KINGDOM VISION?

_____	_____
_____	_____

WHO DO I KNOW WHO IS MORE EXPERIENCED IN BUILDING THE KINGDOM?

_____	_____
_____	_____

Our Life With One Another: Romans 12:5; 14:19

BASED UPON THESE PASSAGES, WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL
EXAMPLES OF HOW WE CAN ACCOMPLISH DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS!?

CONSIDER One Another (Hebrews 10:24)

BUILD UP One Another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Be DEVOTED to One Another (Romans 12:10)

LOVE One Another (1 Peter 1:22; 4:8)

Be ACCEPTING of One Another (Romans 15:7)

ADMONISH One Another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)

WAIT FOR One Another (1 Corinthians 11:33)

CARE FOR One Another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

SERVE One Another (Galatians 5:13)

BEAR WITH One Another (Ephesians 4:2)

COMFORT One Another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

BE KIND to One Another (Ephesians 4:32)

SPEAK AND SUBMIT to One Another (Ephesians 5:19, 20)

REGARD One Another (Philippians 2:3)

BE AT PEACE with One Another (1 Thessalonians 5:13)

CONFESS to One Another (James 5:16)

PRAY FOR One Another (James 5:16)

ENCOURAGE One Another (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13)

A key to this kind of commitment is found in 2 John 1:5!

In what ways do you feel prepared to live this way?

In what ways do you feel unprepared or non-committal?

LISTEN TO THE KINGDOM SEED VIDEO HERE.

You are familiar with the *visible church* in history and in our world today. Jesus is preparing His followers as a Bride for a future wedding day. He is choosing her out of every century and decade, every country, and every race. *She is being prepared as a beautiful bride for her Husband.*

Jesus placed high priority on keeping the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40). He encourages us to devote our lives to the work of the Gospel on this earth (John 4:34-38; Matthew 9:37,38). *To Christ this meant to move beyond followers to active workers - and on to co-workers with each another.*

Even Jesus did not choose to go it alone. He selected, trained, and walked with partners in mission. Though each one had different gifting all of His *laborers* were to recognize Who accomplished the true work of the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). Christ also told us that these fellow-workers would be few, and that together we were to pray to the Lord of the Harvest for additional workers (John 4).

We are not meant to merely "GO" to church, but we are to "BE" the Church. I am the King's ambassador in the world, helping others to be reconciled to God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:11-19).

Chosen Lady

**2 TIMOTHY 2:2
KEEPING THE GREAT
COMMANDMENT FOR THOSE
YET TO COME:**

♦
**WE FULFILL THE GREAT
COMMANDMENT IN OUR OWN LIVES &
BECOME WORKERS IN THE KINGDOM**

♦
**WE LIVE A LIFESTYLE
THAT SERVES OTHERS**

♦
**WE HELP OTHERS TO
DO THE SAME FOR OTHERS**

Matthew 22:36-40

Matthew 9:37,38

John 4:34-38

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Key Questions to ask concerning your personal vision as a part of the King's Kingdom:

1. How strongly do you feel about being devoted to the Great Commandment and *how is this being evidenced* in your home? Your work? Your relationships?

2. In what ways do you feel you are a *worker within the Harvest*? A *fellow-worker* with others?

3. What *gifts* and *abilities* have you been given to *equip others*? (Ephesians 4)
How is your household *engaging in the kingdom Gospel*?

4. How would you define **your part** in *planting* and *watering*? (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

5. Who are the *faithful men and women* in your life?

6. How does a man or woman become an *instrument of reconciliation*?

Personal Vision

If we truly care about the fulfillment of the great commandment of Christ we will make ourselves available to the same Kingdom lifestyle that Christ lived.

This diagram distinguishes three areas which make us available for God's Kingdom. *Embracing the vision* refers to a heart that sets itself to know Christ personally. To truly be alive to the Head of the Body energizes a Christ-follower, and consequently the life of other *members*. By embracing Christ's vision we make decisions that focus the *purpose* of our lives and make ourselves directly responsive to the Kingship of Christ. *This allows for a mature view of serving Christ that transcends anything we might accumulate or accomplish during our lives on earth.*

PROVERBS 29:18
**EMBRACE AND APPLY GOD'S
VISION TO MY LIFE**
Alive to Him!
A Labor Lifestyle!
Mature Expectations!

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27
MAKING CHOICES
Keeping Priorities
Expending Resources
Taking Initiative

ROMANS 12:10-16
MAKING KEY CONNECTIONS
Reaching Out
Functioning as a Team
Putting People Together

Then we can *make Kingdom choices* which allow us to fulfill God's vision for our lives. This involves taking *personal initiative*, putting our *resources* to good use, and making and keeping *priorities* which truly allow us to be available to this vision!

The heart to *make connections* with people becomes the proving ground of our faith, and our commitment to make our life pleasing to God. A desire to *reach others* in our own personal spheres necessitates prayer and reliance upon God to *impact those around us*. We benefit from knowing others who share the same vision.

Here are some helpful questions for embracing the vision, making connections, and making choices:

- 1) Is your **personal** relationship with the Head of the Body enough of a motivation to drive you to be an engaged believer? Why or why not?

- 2) Do you feel you have embraced a **Kingdom-effective lifestyle**? In what ways?

- 3) How do you see yourself as a Christ-follower who sets and keeps **priorities**?

- 4) What effective *strategies* and *resources* are you appropriating to **strengthen** your faith?

- 5) In what areas are you *taking* **initiative** to be a Kingdom worker?

- 6) In what ways are you **connecting** into the world around you?

- 7) How have you learned to **work together** with other believers in making *connections* with others?

It falls to every believer in every age to align himself/herself with distinctives which will focus the Kingdom in the midst of our current culture. More than ever before, the following distinctives need to be kept. Our changing world must see a truthful and powerful representation of the Living God. Here are three distinctives which paint a clear picture of a *heart* that is biblically centered and culturally focused.

A LOVING ACCURACY

From Job we learn that those who speak *accurately* about God are a minority (Job 1:8-12, 20-22; 42:1-9). Those who are faithful to this *accuracy* are rewarded with uniqueness, purpose, and spiritual blessing. Comprehending and achieving this *accuracy* involves an active commitment to search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). *It originates from a love and concern to see the heart of God embrace the hearts of people* (Psalm 119:97-104).

A STRONG HOUSEHOLD

Immediately after the giving of the Law and stating the great commandment God saw fit to explain *the foundation through which He would honor Himself*. This foundational strategy was *the family* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Many talk about family life. A spiritual family, however, requires devoted leadership and the heart of every member to make it work. In Psalm 128:1-6 we find an accurate picture of a truly spiritual household. Becoming this kind of a *heart-family is a deep spiritual need* in our culture. By becoming experienced men and women in Christ and a devoting ourselves to teaching younger men and women in Christ we can *focus the depth and longevity of our spiritual impact* in our part of God's world.

IMPACT CONTACT

To reach our world for the Gospel takes personal dedication. To sow seeds and water plants with the goal of bearing fruit one must accomplish the *work of a cultivating farmer*. Few farmers who ignore basic farming principles find success. We must faithfully engage the work of preparing, planting, and watering. It is up to God to provide the rain!

1 Peter 3:8-16 talks about the attitudes of faith-farmers. The book of 1 John is filled with this approach to our Kingdom work. Note all of the times the phrase *love one another* is mentioned in the book of 1 John. What do you learn from these two letters about making an impact upon those who are searching?

IN WHAT WAYS DO THESE DISTINCTIVES LINE UP WITH YOUR PERSONAL KINGDOM VISION?



Critical Questions about our Kingdom work:

1) How much do you care about giving an **accurate** representation of God?

2) How **motivated** are you in your learning about God?

3) Do you feel **equipped to explain** God's Word to others?

4) In what ways does your household evidence the **fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5) and 1 Corinthians 13 love?

5) In what ways does Psalm 128:1-6 reflect the **condition** of your household?

6) In what ways are you **best gifted and prepared** to share your faith?

7) Give a description of your **farming** as it relates to sharing the Gospel.

LISTEN TO THE **KINGDOM HARVEST** VIDEO HERE.

PLANTING AND WATERING IN THE FIELD OF OUR LABOR

Read: John 15:1-11 and Psalm 51:10-13

OUTREACH

*“Individually
& Together”*

1 Peter 3:15

Acts 2:46,47

UPREACH

“Knowing God”

Psalm 27:4,8

INREACH

*“Building Up
One Another”*

Colossians 3:15-17

Planting and watering are the life of the Kingdom worker. To truly labor we must devote ourselves to a life-style of sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel. This work includes three often overlapping works of faith.

What do each of the passages listed above teach us about working in God’s field?

UPREACH

The experience of personal devotion to God is critical for a Kingdom worker. This involves the *nourishing relationship* spoken of in John 15:1-11. Here we find guidance which can help make our planting and watering effective. God receives our praise (Psalm 27:4,8) and is honored and responsive to our requests for kingdom success. This is a *cleansing* and *empowering* success that *renews* the heart of a Kingdom worker (Psalm 51:10-13). Christ is the leader of true workers and co-workers!

INREACH

It is critical for a worker to not labor alone. A three-fold cord will succeed (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) and we are to pray for additional harvest laborers (Matthew 9:37,38). An honest day's spiritual labor must include a choice to build others up by using of our gifts and sharing our God experience with others (Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 4:14-16). By laboring together we find *encouragement to persevere!*

OUTREACH

Reaching out to the world around us is critical for the spiritual health of a believer and the welfare of the Church, not to mention the obvious benefit to any souls who receive the Good News. We are to work within our individual sphere of influence (1 Peter 3:15) in a manner that is respectful and connecting. We are also to share in Christian love and personal growth in the Gospel (Acts 2:46, 47).

Some critical questions about working in God's field:

1) What kinds of *seed am I sowing* in my personal relationship with God?

2) In what specific ways is *grateful praise* a part of my life?

3) How does God provide me success and encouragement to *persevere*?

4) Whom do I *consider my "fellow-workers"* in the Gospel and how do we encourage one another?

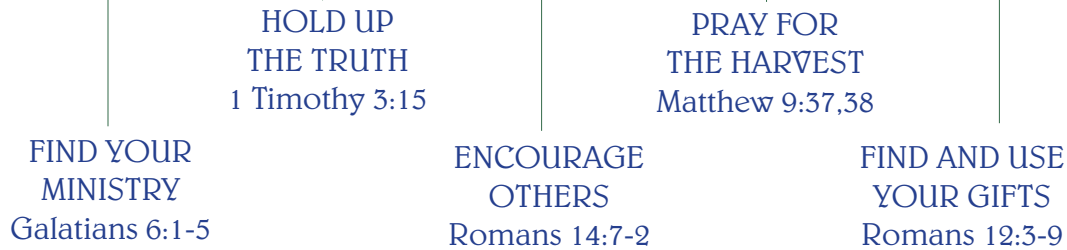
5) What are my most *effective ways* of sharing my faith and bringing the news of the Kingdom to others?

6) How can I make the time to *balance* three such demanding areas of labor?

Write your thoughts on UPREACH, INREACH, & OUTREACH.

Give your conclusions thus far about these three aspects of working in God's field.

THE BODY DISCIPLES HERSELF



Jesus Christ chooses followers. He wants to work in us and through us. The function of a group of followers is to lift up Christ and to be examples in personal devotion. In this way the body of Christ *builds up* itself.

Quality *Follow Me* relationships are crucial in growing the Gospel (2 Timothy 2:2). One important key appears to require associating with *faithful men and women* who will in turn teach others as well. By applying *following principles* in the context of faithful “*brothers and sisters*” the church is built up in the likeness of Christ.

Here are five key areas in which the *body disciplines itself*:

HOLDING UP THE TRUTH

Jesus said, “*If I am lifted up I will draw all men to myself.*” The Church holds up Her Lord and is intended to be the pillar, support and pinnacle of God's redemptive truth (1 Timothy 3:15). When truth is the standard for our relationships we *disciple* one another. Ephesians 4:25-32 cuts to the heart of the *importance of speaking truth to one another in love*. In this way we defeat *speculation* and disarm ungodly *anger* and *untangle* roots of bitterness. Christ-followers cannot afford to succumb to the dangerous trap of *discord*, and are exhorted by Christ in Matthew 18 to discern *the difference between personal preference and truth*, and to speak face to face truth with one another. In this way the body disciplines itself in love.

How do you see *this dynamic* among those with whom you walk your spiritual walk?

PRAYER FOR THE HARVEST

Often the army of God appears to be undermanned. We are exhorted to *pray to the Lord of the Harvest for workers* for the Harvest (Matthew 9:37, 38). In our Harvest work, *discouragement* all too often can become stifling. Elijah experienced this in 1 Kings 19:10,14 when he twice said, “*I alone am left.*” God made it clear that this was not true. In verse 18 He indicates that He will leave 7,000 men who have not bowed to Baal. We need to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to help us not only with workers to join in the work but also to help us *recognize* those whom He has already sent! In this way the body disciples itself through *prayer for growth*.

How do you see this prayer dynamic among those with whom you walk your spiritual walk?

YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Many rely on culturally outdated approaches to sharing Christ. We must return to authentic strategies as we share the Good News with others. *In the first century this centered around the home or the “household” as the launch-point for the Gospel.* Are you focused where your most effective potential for sharing faith truly lies: your own home and your personal sphere of relationships?! Those whom we meet at *work*, in our *neighborhoods*, and within our *chosen interests* are right in the middle of our sphere of influence.

How do you see yourself as an insider among those who are part of your world?

CULTURAL AND RELATIONAL RELEVANCE

Peter (a strong personality and certainly a man of definite conviction) was acutely aware of the need for *sensitivity* in Christ-sharing (1 Peter 3:15). He believed that to impact our own part of the world required the attributes of *gentleness* and *respect*. All approaches to sharing the Good News that are not love-driven are of no use in penetrating the world of our neighbors.

You and I desperately need to move the focus in our generation from “*bring them to church*” evangelism to “*open home and open life*” sharing of the hope that rules my life. In this way, the body disciples itself by assisting new Christ-followers into the Church.

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

It is difficult to find a man or woman who encourages others without motivation for personal gain. Romans 14:7-12 reveals just how accountable we are to God for our relationships with other people. In a world who desperately needs encouragement, we must step up and live to build up those around us!

Hebrews 10:23-25 also considers the importance of gathering together to encourage one another and focus our preparation for the return of Christ. *Can a person develop our skills to be an encourager? Do you feel you have encouraging relationships? In what ways do you find yourself being an encourager to others?* When we set ourselves to encourage one another - the body builds up itself in love!

In what ways do you see yourself as able to encourage?

USE YOUR GIFTS AND STRENGTHS

We are to work together for the combined welfare of the Bride of Christ by using our gifts and abilities for the purpose of love.

1 Peter 4:7-11 makes it clear that *activating our gifts* is critical to *serving one another* which in turn is key to serving Christ. Romans 12:3-9 teaches us the practical aspects of using *diverse* and *complementing* gifts for the good of the Gospel. It is very difficult for a group of believers to grow to maturity without *spiritually alive* and *functioning* members (Ephesians 4:11-16)!

In what ways do you activate your gifts?

In what ways do you see others employing their gifts? When we use our gifts, talents, and abilities for the welfare of other Christ-followers the body disciplines itself in love. When we apply our spiritual gifts in serving those “*who do not know*,” the *opportunity* to love is *magnified* many times!





THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Expressed in local gatherings of believers...

The body of Christ is much more than an organization, it is a [living organism](#). Because She is alive and made up of [living stones](#) (1 Peter 2), Her expressions should also be [vibrating](#) with life. This flows out of the grace measured to each of Her God-ordained members. It is unnecessary to exist merely to design programs that focus on meeting people's *needs*. Rather, we exist as “churches” for the purpose of *honoring God*. Any attempt to organize must be based upon the sound principles of connected Jesus-life reflected in the Scriptures. By understanding and applying these principles we can fulfill our individual roles in the Body of Christ, as well as find fulfillment in Christ's command to [love one another](#).

The Foundation: The Authority of the Son

According to the God-Story there is only one reason that a spiritual Christ-follower exists: to give Christ pre-eminence in all things (Colossians 1:15-20). All things fall under the umbrella of Christ's authority (Philippians 2:9-16). Authority has been given to the Son, and the Son delegates this authority within *principalities* and *powers* (both seen and unseen), *governments*, the *Church*, and the *home*.

It is Christ's purpose to [reconcile all things](#) to Himself by His grace. His Lordship is over our personal rights and how we relate to one another. [There can be only one King](#) - only one Sovereign Lord. The testimony of Scripture and history cry out that *Christ's authority alone brings life to the earth*. When mankind exerts our own authority only pain and oppression result. If the gathered body of Christ desires to please Him, all of our attempts to organize will reflect this basic truth of Christ's Kingship. Even though it is in direct opposition to the intentions of Satan and the personal kingdom-building of men.

The Anatomy of Christ's Body

[Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31](#)

Just as this great Body of Christ has a Head and has many members (12), the church is to be the ultimate in diversity AND oneness. [Comparison](#) with other members is of no value (15,16). Because God has sovereignly placed us as He chooses, it is our recognition of what God has done in us that should be our focus. God made it this way to break the *hold of futility* upon our lives. As each of us connects with our God-ordained placement in the Body (and in the world) we *lose our selves and find our souls* at the same time.

[Pride](#) is the chief tool that Satan uses to *keep us from reconnecting with God* and one another (21,22). We are meant to have equal care and concern for one another and to devote ourselves to being Christ-followers, joyful when God works through any one of us (25,26). This diversity is reflected in the *spiritual gifts* we have been given and is guided by the principle of *excellent love* (28-31). We become “someone” not by our god-like individualism and isolationism, but by surrendering to the Head and giving ourselves to His body. This was Paul's purpose. This was Christ's purpose. *It can bring true purpose to our lives as well.*

The Attainment of Christ's Body

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

God created us to experience **oneness** with Him and with one another. There is “*one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one Faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.*” This oneness is not found in religious organizational attempts and triumphs, but in fulfilling our individual and gathered destinies as we **submit to Christ's authority**. By choosing to love our brother we pursue a path of humility, gentleness, and patience as we show forbearance to one another in love. Grace appears to have been given to each one of us in a specific and personal way (7).

God has blessed the body with those who are meant to **equip** saints for works of service (12) so the body can enjoy the process of being built up. This focus is not pursued by one or two professionals who DO the works of service, but those *gifted* to EQUIP others for serving others so that we can all grow to maturity (15). It is God's goal that the whole body be fitted and held together by that which **every joint supplies as each part works properly** (15-17). This maturity will fulfill the longing of our heart and take the place of *self-centered perspectives* - building our own kingdoms rather than the Kingdom of God.

The Gathering of Christ's Body

Read Colossians 3:12-17; Hebrews 10:24,25

It appears that the body is to **gather** because we belong to God. Not merely for what we can receive but for what we can offer. We are to treat one another the way we have already been treated by God, **forgiving** others because Christ has first forgiven us (13). Rather than **complaining** (as those who have no hope or no understanding of forgiveness) we are to *put on* a heart of compassion, overlooking and accepting the shortcomings of others. This appears to be something we *choose to do* - even though it is not natural for us. *We choose to put on love because it is right. This sets us free* so the peace of Christ may rule in our hearts (15) and gives us the grace to be thankful. The word of Christ is then free to **richly dwell inside our hearts** and gives us the ability to *experience spiritual relationships* with one another. Such active involvement in each other's lives eclipses a Sunday relationship and focuses our responsibility to teach and admonish one another. Expressed in word and action (17) this involves the use of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs...resulting in hearts that *sing with overflowing thankfulness*.

It would be a great disservice to the Scriptures to *limit* gathering together to a building or certain appointed times. *The whole nature of body life is that we make room for one another in our hearts, not merely in our schedules.* **Hebrews 10:23-25 ties gathering together with not wavering**. We are to give careful thought and consideration to *stimulating one another to love and good deeds*, and are warned that a failure to do so will result in negative impact upon our faith. We have been delivered from isolationism and are to be *active* about our faith and *useful* to others. It is very difficult to function as a body without gathering together. God has designed the body so that by supplying love to one another, we are supplied in return. **After all, the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many!**

The Activity of Christ's Body

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

Spiritual gifts are given for the **welfare** of the church and fall into two basic categories: speaking gifts and serving gifts. We are to engage in **serving** one another in whatever way we have been gifted. Apparently this involves **hospitality** (9) and a choice to remain committed in *our love for one another* (8). In so doing we do not squander our gifts for futile purposes, but invest them to **multiply the kingdom of God!**



PRINCIPLED LIVING

Intentionality in my life as a Christ-follower

*"...Therefore be careful how you walk,
not as unwise men, but as wise, making the
most of your time, because the days are evil
So then do not be foolish, but understand
what the will of the Lord is!"*

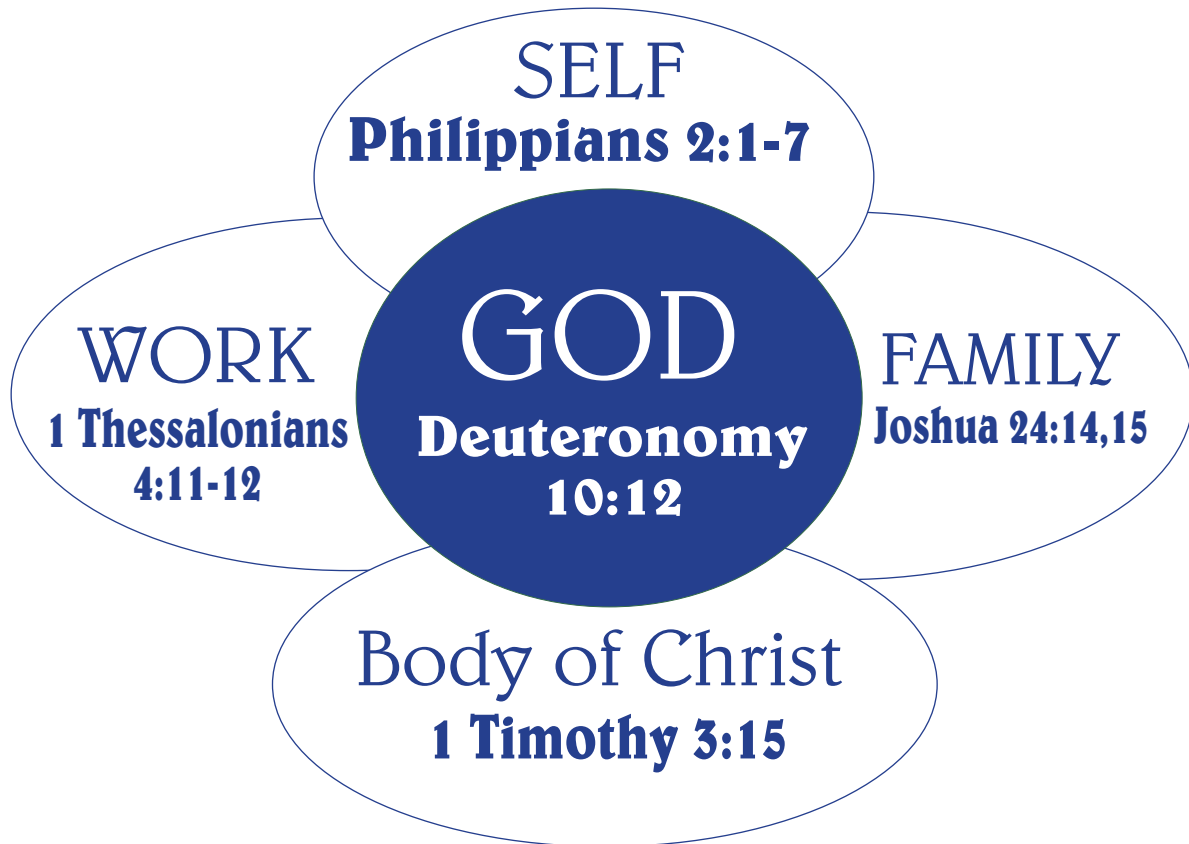
- Ephesians 5:15-17

**If our lives belong to God,
shouldn't this include all of our time,
all our talents, and all our treasures?**

LISTEN TO THE PRINCIPLED LIVING VIDEO HERE.

FOURTH STREAM FINDING HOPE

An integrated view of Life Priorities!



Priorities are often viewed in descending order of importance. God first, family second; etc. A more biblical perspective is reflected above. *God comes first.* He desires to be #1 in our marriage, our family life, our work life, our neighborhood; etc. *Christ has come to have first place in everything.* It is our quest to make what is already true in heaven true in our hearts as well.

Read the *God passage* found in Deuteronomy 10:12.

What does this look like when it happens between a Christ-follower and God?

How do you feel about *your own view of priorities* in light of the diagram above?

PREPARING TO INTENTIONALLY PLAN PRIORITIES

Christian priorities often become hazy within the turmoil and tests of life. We live in a time where planning and its subsequent follow-through are difficult. *We are continually bombarded with “good things” and activities which vie for our time, and seemingly important things that can often become enemies of what is best.*

Throughout Scripture it is apparent God desires that we *redeem our time* despite the challenges to do so. Take this opportunity to reflect upon [Ephesians 5:15-17](#) (below). Our prayer is that through proper planning and execution of priorities each of us will be better able to experience the outcome found in [Matthew 25:21](#).

What is taught from each of the following passages that gives us insight into the importance of preparation, planning, and focusing our lives?

Proverbs 4:20-27 _____

Proverbs 11:14 _____

Proverbs 13:12 _____

Proverbs 16:3,9 _____

Proverbs 20:5 _____

Proverbs 29:18 _____

What does the following passage tell us is key to living a life of godliness?

“...Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is!” - Ephesians 5:15-17

BEING A CHRIST-FOLLOWER

These are some great guiding principles for each area of priority.

What does the Lord desire for us?

Deuteronomy 10:12

Matthew 6:24

2 Corinthians 11:3

John 3:30

Romans 12:1

John 4:23,24; Proverbs 3:1-2

Micah 6:8

Luke 17:10

1 Peter 2:9,10

Leviticus 11:44,45

How should I be considering myself?

Philippians 2:12,13

Hebrews 13:7-19

Luke 9:61,62

Philippians 4:8

Titus 2:14

Proverbs 4:13

James 4:17

1 Timothy 4:14-16

Ephesians 3:16-19

Matthew 10:8

2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16,17

Luke 6:27-38

1 Peter 4:1,2; Hebrews 12:12-15

What are God's desires for my family?

Ephesians 5:15-33

Ephesians 6:4

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Psalms 127

Colossians 3:18-21

1 Timothy 3:4,5

Proverbs 22:6

Philippians 2:3-5

1 Timothy 1:5

Proverbs 5:15-21

Song of Solomon 8:6,7

1 Samuel 8:1-3

What should be my commitment in and to the Church?

2 Corinthians 8:5

Romans 15:5-7

Romans 12:3-8

Romans 12:9-21

Romans 13:8-14

Romans 14:1-23

Acts 2:42-47

Philippians 2:3-5

1 Peter 5:1-11

Ephesians 4:11-16

1 Timothy 3:15

What are my priorities in my vocation (or at school)?

Ephesians 6:5-8

Colossians 3:23-24, 4:1

The entire book of Proverbs!

Luke 6:27-38

Genesis 3:17-19

PLANNING PRIORITIES

What is God saying to me about my priorities?



Goals are overarching things to attain which relate to overall meaning in life. **Objectives** are specific **steps** to get us to our greater goals.

My Current PERSONAL Goals:

Pertinent passages:

GOAL _____

Objectives:

My Current GOD Goals:

Pertinent passages:

GOAL _____

Objectives:

My Current FAMILY Goals:

Pertinent passages:

GOAL _____

Objectives:

My WORK AND SCHOOL Goals:

Pertinent passages:

GOAL _____

Objectives:

My Current KINGDOM-GROWING Goals:

Pertinent passages:

GOAL _____

Objectives:

Things for which to pray regarding my personal goals: (challenges and hopes)



How to Plan & Follow-through in Strength!

CHECK THESE OUT!

What do they teach you about pulling off a principled life?

Strong in Spirit Luke 1:80

Strong in Wisdom Luke 2:40

Strong in Spiritual Character Luke 14:25-35

Strong in Spiritual Insight Romans 4:20

Strong in Spiritual Fruit Romans 15:1-15

Strong in Self-Weakness 2 Corinthians 12:9,10; Hebrews 11:32-34

Strong in Spiritual Warfare Ephesians 6:10

Young men are to be strong and wise!

Older men are to be wise and strong!

1 John 2:12-14

In what do you identify with each analogy below?

The Farmer is Faithful.

He or she is faithful to Christ in Word and prayer.

He is faithful to Christ's people in Word and deed.

He makes himself specifically accountable for the hope within him.

The Athlete is Teachable.

He is willing and ready to learn and respond to truth even at personal cost.

His goal is to become mature in the truth and to teach others how to run to win.

The Soldier is Available.

He prioritizes his life to allow for deep spiritual focus.

He then makes himself available for the kingdom of God through his own household, his neighbors, and his local gathering of believers!



The Holy Spirit!

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

- John 3:5-8

**The Holy Spirit is the breath of God.
He is living inside of us to lead us to true freedom.**

LISTEN TO THE [HOLY SPIRIT VIDEO HERE](#).

Living by the Spirit

When Jesus ascended to the Father after His resurrection from the dead He sent the Holy Spirit to fulfill a very important role in our hearts. There had never been a need for the “Comforter” because the lost world had never known the presence of the Savior before. The Holy Spirit is intimately involved in revealing God to us, as well as guiding us into lives that will honor our Father. He is our companion in designing and living a Kingdom life that will please Jesus and set us free!

Look up each of these references and note them in your Bible. What conclusions do you come to about the Holy Spirit’s role in your spiritual life?!

Romans 8:1-39

Operating by the Spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit

Ephesians 4:30

Do not grieve the Spirit

2 Corinthians 10:3-7

Tearing Down Lofty things

Galatians 5:22-24

The Evidence of the Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Self control

Faithfulness

Gentleness

These indicate spirituality!

The Fruit of Wisdom!

James 3...the gentleness
of wisdom!

Pure, peaceable,
gentle, reasonable,
full of mercy and good fruits,
unwavering,
without hypocrisy.

Disciplines of the Spirit

The Word

Prayer

Fellowship

Worship

Insider living

These indicate maturity!

The Role of the Spirit in my Life

Check out these passages and think about ways you are experiencing transformation!

The Spirit: disclosing God's voice to me:

- It is a familiar voice..... John 10:27-29
- It is a strong, expectant voice..... Hebrews 12:7-11
- It is a gentle, quiet voice..... 1 Kings 19:9-14
- It is a comforting, honest voice..... Matthew 16:17-19; John 21:15-18
- It is a King's voice..... Revelation 1:12-16
- It is a friend's voice..... John 15:12-17

How can I learn to distinguish and listen to my Father's voice?

Through quiet listening, deep understanding of the God-Story, accepting wise counsel, generous giving, and truth-speaking relationships.

The Spirit active and faithful in binding my brokenness and the brokenness of others:

- In dismantling personal strongholds..... 2 Corinthians 10:3-6
- In healing my past hurts..... Psalm 27:7-14
- In teaching me a heart for others..... 1 John 4:19-21
- In supervising my personal growth..... Philippians 1:6

Do I believe that God is able and willing to lovingly go with me where no one else can go?

The Spirit fighting evil with me in the war for my soul:

- Putting on the full armor of God..... Ephesians 6:10-20
- Teaching me Satan's schemes..... 1 Peter 5:6-11
- Equipping me to fight courageously..... 2 Corinthians 6:7
- Giving me spiritual discernment..... James 1:5

Do I believe I am in a life and death battle over my soul and the souls of others?

The Spirit helping me to live wisely and to walk with the wise:

- The companionship of friends..... Proverbs 18:24
- My choices for life input from co-workers, media, etc..... Philippians 4:8
- Leadership of teachers and shepherds..... Hebrews 13:7,17
- Partners in kingdom building..... 1 Corinthians 3:9

Are my companionship choices for media, meditation, and relationships wise ones?

In what ways am I experiencing transformation?

Spiritual gifts are given to each person. They are activated or energized by the Spirit when we choose to be obedient to God and fulfill His commandment to love one another. Then our gifts are applied to our “community” of relationships to build up others in the faith! Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and 1 Peter 4 are central teaching about spiritual gifts.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS THINKSHEET:

Our **field** is where our lives touch others as we choose to place God first and follow His command to “go.” The **threshing floor** is the gathering of believers where our gifts are shared with others and special challenges and needs are addressed. **Co-laboring** is how we join both in the field and at the floor with others to be more than we can be alone! Read John 4:34-45 and Luke 10:1-27. What do you know of your own spiritual gifts as well as of those with whom you walk “in Christ?”

Gift:	In the Field:	At the Floor:	As Co-laborers:
Administration			
Apostleship			
Discerning Spirits			
Evangelist			
Exhortation			
Faith			
Giving			
Healing			
Helps			
Knowledge			
Mercy			
Miracles			
Pastor-Shepherd			
Prophecy			
Ruling-Leadership			
Serving			
Teaching			
Tongues/interpretation			
Wisdom			

ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPIRITUAL GIFTING ISSUES.

The way we relate to God is inseparably linked with how we relate to one another. Knowing and using our gifts and being aware of the gifts of others can make us more effective for the glory of God, inasmuch as God made us to be interdependent before Him. Explore your gifts with those whom you walk through life!



Kingdom Leadership!

“Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

- Matthew 18:3-4

Kingdom leadership comes through servanthood.
In what ways does Jesus want me to engage?

LISTEN TO THE [KINGDOM LEADERSHIP VIDEO HERE.](#)

How do I become useful to the King?

God may tolerate “big shot” egos but He delights in humility of heart.

John 3:30; Micah 6:8; James 4:6

True leadership is true humility.

Is this something you are able to apply as a maturing disciple-maker?

My weaknesses are my greatest assets.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Hebrews 5:7,8

True leadership embraces weakness and encounters God.

Are you able to accept your weaknesses as God’s tool for your usefulness to Him?

The King’s Kingdom is one of shelter.

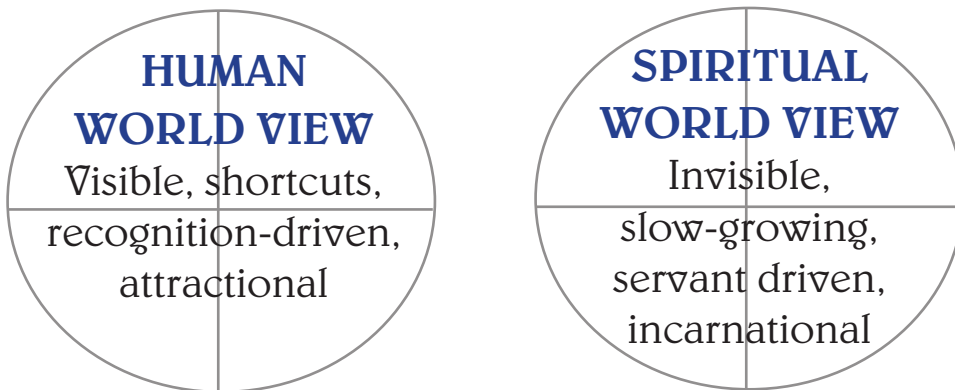
Mark 4:30-32

True leadership serves the sheltered growth of others.

Do you feel you are on the road to building a life that shelters others?

My small world is God’s big world (Matthew 25:21)

Which diagram best reflects your world view?



“Church” is only as effective as our connections to Kingdom DNA (small world).

A Kingdom LEADER is one who humbles himself or herself before God and men, embraces weakness, provides shelter, and understands the King’s heart. He or she rejects the idea of being called a leader: Matthew 23:8-12.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR OWN WORLD VIEW?

What is a Kingdom Leader?

What do you admire in a leader? (character, personality, approach to life, credibility)

WHICH OF THESE PASSAGES INSPIRE YOUR KINGDOM IMAGINATIONS AND WHY?

Matthew 4:17; 5; 7:21; 8:11; 11:11; 13; 16:19; 18:1-3; 18:23; 19:14-23; 20:21; 23:13; 25:1

THE POWER OF STORY IS UNLOCKED WHEN:

- we have belief in a BIGGER story
- we embrace significance and personal worth
- we recognize the VALUE of our personal story
- we see our PLACE in the meta-story (Fourthstream.com can help with this)

WHAT IS A KINGDOM LEADER?

Simply put, a Kingdom leader is a faith leader.

He or she prays, investigates, understands, translates, pursues, and waits for the Kingdom to materialize - and joins in!



THE CHOICE TO ENGAGE

There are four great God-themes of engagement: *Pure Heart, Know God, Do Kindness, and Grow Life*. Each finds root in His call to “*Love the Lord your God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength - and love our neighbor as we love ourself.*”

WHAT IS THE DEPTH OF YOUR DESIRE TO BECOME A SPIRITUAL LEADER?

WHAT MAKES ME A “LEADER” ONCE I HAVE CHOSEN TO ENGAGE?

Learning to listen to as well as whisper to the soul.

- Cultivating a listening heart (vs. isolated living)
- Engaging in relational farming (vs. self-preoccupation)
- Storytelling/story listening (learning/internalizing is superior to accumulating knowledge)
- Embracing our sense of wonder and awe (rather than a submission to the mundane/no supernatural)
- Giving extraordinary love (vs. self-interest love)
- Illuminating how God is connecting and working (vs. a preoccupation with tower building)
- Embracing the centrality and power of Jesus (over and above religion and or philosophy)

WHICH OF THE ABOVE CHARACTERISTICS ARE MOST TRUE OF ME?

What does Jesus want from you?

What are your personal barriers to offer this kind of heart back to Him?

Who are your companions who encourage you to live for higher things?

This book was prepared so that you could have a process to evaluate and encourage yourself in living a Kingdom life. It also gives you a beginning and ending point to prepare someone else for the journey - perhaps a co-worker, neighbor, family-member, or even your own children.

REMEMBER:

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." - John 6:63

"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." - John 8:31,32

Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you, "but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be servant of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many." - Mark 10:42-45

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?" - Matthew 16:24-26



Fourthstream.com

MORE RESOURCES!

TheGodStory.com

Curious Journey (book)

Kingdom (book)

Mentored by God (book)

MyStrongHome.com (workshop)

Streamsbook.com