

Grace in Grace OUT.

Like in the beginning of computer days, Garbage in, garbage out.
For us, we should dispense God's love and grace the same way we have received it, but this is not always the case. In fact, it is almost never the case. We sometimes express grace in, garbage out.

Tonight, msg in 2 parts. First is the source and use of grace. Part 2 is how grace should be integral to our ministry to others, starting at home, then work, church, ministry to saved persons, and lost. My objective is that when we close this meeting tonight, your heart will be full to overflowing at the realization and application of the matchless grace of God.

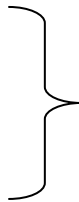
WHAT IS GRACE

TO understand Grace, don't try to dissect it as a "frog which dies in the process and the innards are discouraging to any but the pure scientific mind. " Just smell it, taste it, glimpse it.

108 times in NT. Charis. Only 4 in gospels.
Gospels=**manifestation** of Grace. Epistles=**Education** of Grace.
Root = I rejoice. I am glad.

Grace Glimpsed:

Say grace before meals
Grateful for receiving kindness
Gratified by good news
Congratulated when successful
Gracious in hospitality
Leave a gratuity for good service



Childlike delight
in the
undeserved.

Music = grace notes. Not essential but add a momentary delight, a surprise, a seasoning like savory spices. (curry)

British address royalty as Your Grace
Act of grace to free a criminal

Publishers gracing – few extra copies of a magazine before they pull the plug.
If you have a VISA card, there is a grace period.

OPPOSITE

Disgrace
Ungrateful
No saving grace.

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Parable of Grace Matt 20:1-16 Read v1,-2, then third hour same, sixth hour same, 11th hour same. At evening, pay the last first. First ones grumbled, “you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.” The landowner said, “I am not unfair. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money?

Observations.

God is fair on a different level

We think we have to earn God’s grace. He is reckless. Giving to those who do not deserve it.

What does Grace do for us?

Eph 2:5, 8-10 Saves us.

Also Acts 15:11, Acts 20.24, Romans 3:24

We are saved by Grace.

Titus 3:7 *so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.* Justified which is part of salvation.

Heb 4:16 help in time of need

So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need. L

Titus 2:11-12. *For the grace of God that brings salvation...*Teaches us to say no but we must say it. Sanctification

1 Cor 15:10.

<i>But by the grace of God I am what I am,</i>	God’s kindness
<i>and his grace toward me was not in vain.</i>	Not received empty. God puts his best gifts into empty hands.
<i>On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them,</i>	
<i>though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me.</i>	<i>God’s power to enable our work</i>

Here Grace is an enabling power that motivates toward what is good and godly and then gives the ability to get there.

2 Cor 12:7-10 Strengthen us for enduring hardship.

God's Promise:

My grace is sufficient, enough
My power is made perfect in weakness

Paul's response:

1. I will boast of weakness

Where does this grace and power work?

1. weaknesses, (infirmities)
2. insults
3. hardships
4. persecution
5. difficulties

Fairest Lord Jesus who Makes the woeful heart to sing. My eyes and soul got stuck on those words as the other 800 people moved on in the song. My voice is singing, but my heart is not. I am woeful. In fact, I would rather be woeful. But Jesus wants to minister to me this way, to make the woeful heart to sing. Let Jesus minister to me the way he wants. Began to sing immediately and have been so ever since. Then noticed that Jesus does not make the woeful heart to be unwoeful, but to sing. As is. Woeful.

Later I was talking to a friend going through huge calamities. She is a musician so I shared this story about singing. It dawned on me that the woeful song might be in a minor key. Much of the best music is composed in a minor key.

SUMMARY

Grace is motivated by God's love. It is a position of privilege, it is an enabling, **it gets us started** on the Christian life (Salvation) and keeps us growing (Sanctification) and keeps us going (power for doing God's will, ministering to others).

Great model of Grace is John 13: He showed them the full extent of his love. He washed their feet. He knew that one would betray, one would deny, 10 would abandon. Yet he loved them.

How do we get grace?

1. Realize it is a gift

Grace is a **gift** that cost everything for the giver and nothing for the recipient.

John 1:14 and 17 MSG *The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding – all this came through Jesus, the Messiah.*

2. Receive the gift in full. Do not receive the Grace of God in vain.

He exhorted the Corinthians to not. 2 Cor 6:1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. Vain = empty.

Paul did not receive the grace of God in vain. 1 Cor 15:10 OPEN and READ.

3. Help one another to live in grace. Hebrews 12:15. *See to it that no one misses the GRACE of GOD. It is part of my job to see that you do not miss the Grace of God. We help one another.*

Why does God give us grace? Is he too reckless with his grace?

He gives grace because of his love, not because of our works.

Grace means there is Nothing we can do to make God love us more.

And **Grace means there is Nothing we can do to make God love us less—no amount of racism or pride or pornography or adultery or even murder.** If God could love Paul who was a murderer in the name of God, maybe he can love you despite all your weaknesses. *Amazing Grace P.70*

Are you getting the taste? The feel? The smell? Grace is like a gentle wind on a spring day. You can't trap it, but you can't miss it.

C.S.Lewis Christianity's unique contribution is grace. [Read excerpt from AG.]

Grace OUT

Let's move to looking at ministry in an environment of grace. How can we portray God as gracious in our ministry work?

Parable of unmerciful servant. Matt 18:21-35

1. How much was US forgiven? Probably several million dollars
2. What did US promise? That he and family would work to pay it off. Would take 150,000 years. Not very likely. King forgave the entire debt. Poof. Just like that.
3. How much was US owed from the Fellow Servant? A few dollars. One says a den is \$.16
4. What is the ratio? About 1,000,000 to 1. The king forgave a million and the US would not forgive \$1. The parable is teaching that the forgiveness we grant should be in proportion to the forgiveness we have received..

How much has God forgiven you? Micah 7:19, "hurl our iniquities into the depths. Of the

sea.” As Gene Warr told me, he threw all my sins into the deepest part of the ocean and then put up a sign that says, “NO FISHIN.” Psa 103:12 as far as East is from West...

5. What did King expect of US? V33 have mercy as I had on you?
6. What did King do to US? Turned him over to the torturers until he paid back all. Never happened.

Take a minute and think over the things God has forgiven you. Larry Glabe’s tray of sins.

Principles of Ministry based on dispensing Grace in proportion to what we have received. This does not come natural. In some cases, we Navigators are more performance oriented. We make it harder to come into the Kingdom and its service than it really should be.

Acts 15:19 “*It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.*”

Let’s look at a positive list. If I want to tell you about grace in ministry, I could just recount the ministry of Gene Warr to me.

1. **Forgiveness**. What he has done.
Why should we forgive?

Eph 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*” AS God has forgiven.

In NT most common word for forgive is to HURL away, release. Resentment is opposite of forgive. Re Sentiment is to “feel” again.

Solzhenitsyn said we differ from all animals not in our capacity to think, but our capacity to repent and to forgive. Only humans can perform that most unnatural act, which transcends the relentless law of nature.

The danger:

- Doesn’t he need to learn a lesson?
- I don’t want to encourage irresponsible behavior.
- I’ll let him stew for a while; it will do him good.
- She needs to learn that actions have consequences.
- I was the wronged party—it’s not up to me to make the first move.
- How can I forgive if he’s not even sorry?

What is forgiveness? It is NOT forgetting. Can’t do that. It is agreeing to not bring up the offense repeatedly. Gene was confessing a sin he had already confessed. Now about this sin, Gene said. God said, “What sin?” TO keep an old resentment fresh and powerful, we must take it out of the basement of our heart every once in a while and feed it and stroke it.

Are you holding to an old grudge? Let it go.

Are you lining up your friends to help you resolve an injustice? Let it go.

2. **Acceptance**. What he is.
Genesis 32: 6, 7-8, prayer 9-12.
Gen 33:10 The meeting. Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God. You have accepted me. That is what God does. So when we accept another, we are accurately portraying God to them.

What if they seize this loophole to sin more. Romans 6:1-2. God is doing a grand experiment. We know in advance that we will be forgiven. Does that make us sin all the more?

Sid revealed Adultery. I bore down on him. The next day he phoned me. I had my blast ready to fire when he said, "The one person in the world whom I thought would be gracious and you were not. There is no hope left." S I L E N C E

Not condoning the sin, but accepting the man.

3. **Long term commitment** to people. One discipler seemed to have a revolving door approach. He kept working on his ministry to upgrade the men. Like a poker hand. Like a baseball team. Can you say A-Rod. Can you say Darn Yankees?
The Biblical model for discipling is parenting. Dawson Trotman would be the last man to give up on someone. I've noticed this is the pattern of John Crawford. Same for Jim White. John Repass, Gene Warr, and many others.

1 Cor 4:15 *For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*
Me to TERRY KRAMER. You have a permanent position here.

4. **Time**. Available. Gene always took my calls.
5. AS God gives, we **give** expecting nothing in return. 2 Cor 12:15 *So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you.*

Luke 17:10

6. **FRIENDS**, not my project, my object, my man. John 15:15 *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*
Someone asked me, "Jim are you making disciples or are you making friends?"
Gene called me his friend. Introduced me like he was proud of me

7. **Believing** in people. “God can use you for doing great things.” When is the last time you dreamed of greatness for God for one of your friends.

See what the man can be and will be instead of just what he is now.

Don't try to forge him into your mold, as good as it is. Let the Holy Spirit be as original with him as He has been with you.

Give room to fail. Gene to me at Banquet. 25 minute testimony.

8. **Help** the man, do not use him. We might be tempted to brag about what has happened in ministry as if we did it. How much can you accomplish with God working against you? 1 Peter 5:5-6

1Pet 5:5-6

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

9. **No strings** attached. Authentic Love. This is a subset of acceptance.
John Ranson.

God's love is unmerited (because), unconditional (if), unending (until) commitment.

10. Model discipline. **Don't demand** it. Don't put big barriers around access to your friendship, fellowship, and spiritual help. Let these develop naturally over time as he sees the fruit in your own life. Don't create a spiritual obstacle course like Indiana Jones getting to the treasure to be acceptable. You can foster a false discipline built upon a desire to be part of the in-crowd.

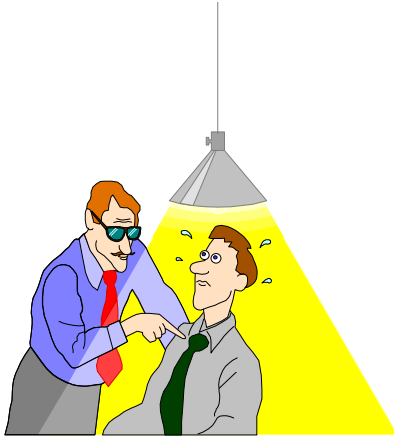
Looking back, the men I have helped who have done best at Scripture memory are ones who embraced it on their own. Like Dave with about 500 verses and Mark with more. Even myself with Gene Warr. I begged him to get me some of those little navigator cards, but he resisted.

Col 2:23 I know these regulations look wise with their self-inspired efforts at worship, their policy of self-humbling, and their studied neglect of the body. But in actual practice they do honor, not to God, but to man's own pride. P

Fence vs Feed.

Questions we can ask about our ministry:

Do friends in our ministry feel loved? Feel safe? Feel confident? Forgiven? Accepted? Song” Grace God's grace, grace that is greater than all my sin.



ACCOUNTABILITY

One of the great weaknesses of the church today is affirmation without accountability. H.Hendricks

A. What is accountability?

Dictionary: subject to the obligation to report, explain or justify something; being responsible or answerable to someone.

1. The ACCOUNTER is the one desiring and requesting accountability in various areas of his life (character, morals, spiritual growth and ministry, family, business, etc.)
 - Accountable
 - Liable to be called to account
 - Answerable
 - Capable of being accounted for
 - Responsible for explanation of reasons, causes, grounds for, facts, motives, actions in events
2. The ACCOUNTANT is the one holding the accounter responsible for adequate and permissible results. Definitions:
 - He assigns projects
 - He determines value and estimates
 - His opinion is foundational
 - He states the terms of his findings
 - He is accountable to some else (or to a body) for the integrity of his evaluations and conclusions
 - He is an analyst who unlooses, dissects, breaks down, divides a complex whole into its components, calculates, resolves
 - He is a reckoner who calculates, computes, regards, considers, concludes after an enumerating of chances, determines settlement, assesses and calculates position.
 - Makes a statement and explanation of his conclusions
 - He evaluates causes and effects
 - Concludes ones discharge of responsibility
 - He is liable to render account and is skilled in accounting.

You can see this is MUCH MORE than sitting back giving opinions and making off hand judgments.

SUMMARY: Accountability is the voluntary acceptance of a personal responsibility to report, explain, or justify the progress or status of something* to another. The counter and accountant are both responsible. (*The something can be almost anything: a fruit, quality, duty, discipline, responsibility, sin, goal, achievement, etc.)

- Accountability is asking someone to help enhance your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- It is having someone who knows me for who I really am, and will listen, advise and challenge me to live an upright, godly life.
- It is having someone to help me follow through with my commitments.
- Accountability means I am liable to be called to account for my life; held responsible for whom I am and what I do.
- Accountability is something I receive from others and give to others.
- Accountability is love in action as we seek to challenge one another into growing toward wholeness.
- Accountability is the body caring for each member.
- Accountability is not having all the answers, taking responsibility for his decisions, a license to be obnoxious, open hunting season on any and everything.

B. Biblical examples

- Abraham and servant
- Moses and Joshua; Moses and his family (Jethro, Aaron)
- Naomi and Ruth
- Gideon and his chosen men
- David and Jonathan
- Nehemiah and workers
- Elijah and Elisha
- Jeremiah (carrying out God's instructions)
- Jesus and John; Jesus sending out the disciples
- Mary and Joseph
- Paul and Timothy. (also with John Mark, Barnabas)

C: Why is it needed? (discussion)

C. Two purposes for accountability :

1. Deterrent. Prevent others from having similar problems.
2. Detergent. Clean up those who need it.

D. Who is qualified to hold another accountable?

1. Spiritually mature
2. Same gender
3. Someone who cares for me
4. Someone who has access to my life and me. Probably should be in same town as me.
5. Family
6. Other sources of accountability:
 - spiritual leaders
 - government (police)
 - employer or supervisor
 - stockholders / investors
 - systems
 - measurable visible results

E. Areas of accountability :

(discussion: finances, morality, use of time, spiritual disciplines, etc.)

F. How should we do this?

1. Voluntary
2. Mutual
3. His list, not mine.
4. Loving leadership, not judgmental tyranny
5. Advice and counsel, not abdication of all decisions. Don't take over his life.
6. Overt Vs covert. Sometimes we use very obvious structures with regulated and specific questions. This is overt. Everyone knows just exactly what is happening. Other times, we are gentle and careful. We learn what the other person is doing without direct examination. He or she is not totally aware that we are gathering information that we can use to love the person with truth and encouragement.

I. Stumbling blocks.

1. Strong personality. The intimidating type. "You don't understand." "Yes, but..."
2. Success. I can handle it alone. Everyone assumes this guy has it all together.
3. Secrecy. He likes to keep a low profile.
4. Structure. It is difficult to get a regular time with him. Good golfers have a standing game to get the consistency they need.
5. Specimen. He has not seen a model of this process.
6. Security. He just does not feel comfortable doing this. He may have been burned before.

Discussion:

1. Think of a time when accountability helped you or would have helped you if you had it. Don't tell the details, but think what principle was revealed.
2. Why do you personally resist accountability? (Oh, yes you do!) Why do you personally resist offering accountability?
3. At what point do we discuss accountability?
4. How do I explain what it is?
5. How do I ask if he wants this? Or should I ask?
6. How do we agree on the degree of accountability?



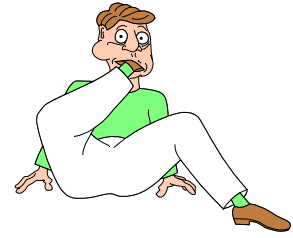
Taking Advice



1. Don't require more than truth of your advisor. A man in financial trouble may be advised by a rich man and resent it. "That is easy for you to say because you don't have to make these tough choices. You are loaded." If what he told you is true and right, you should accept it even if he has never suffered like you or has experienced the same difficulties and decisions you face. Can a cardiologist who has never had heart trouble help me? Of course. (But I don't like it as much. I may think he is not sympathetic enough. I must understand whether I need sympathy most, or truth).
2. Don't expect him to be non-biased. The advice will definitely be slanted to his own experience. For example, asking someone about the necessity of Seminary education for ministry, or asking which seminary.
3. Don't hide behind your advisor. This is especially likely if you are **paying** your advisor like a CPA, lawyer, and therapist. You alone must decide. You are looking for an advisor, not a decider.
4. Don't try to get others to do all your work for you. Deciding takes much hard work in getting the facts and analyzing and then praying. Do this for yourself, relying on others to answer your questions, but not to take over your responsibilities in these areas.
5. Don't argue with your advisor on every statement, being the "devil's advocate", or he may tire of you and quit talking to you.
6. Traits of an excellent advisor: wise, mature in spiritual matters, mature in years (in some cases), Bible knowledge, loves you, has no hidden agenda.

GIVING ADVICE

Everyone enjoys giving good advice, and how wonderful it is to be able to say the right thing at the right time! Proverbs 15:23 LB



1. Ask, "Who else have you talked to?" or "Who else are you talking to?"
2. Listen first. Proverbs 18:13, *If one gives answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.* "More lives have been changed by a great listener, than by a great speaker." (Tim Hansel) In general, don't give advice unless you have been asked, especially to FAMILY MEMBERS.
3. Help him decide rather than GIVE a decision. In James 1:5, even God promises to give us wisdom to make decisions, not necessarily and in all cases to give us a decision.
4. Base your advice on Biblical principles. Do a study on the issue before wading in.
5. Give an assignment where possible. Ask her to gather facts, talk to someone more in the natural line (like spouse or parents), do a Bible study, make lists, etc.
6. Advise with gentleness. Gal 6:1-2, 2Timothy 2:24-25
7. When necessary to rebuke,
 - Make multiple observations. 2 Cor 13:1-2
 - Do a Bible Study on the topic. Make sure your rebuke is not based on opinion or prejudice, but on scripture.
 - Pray whether you should approach the man and how and when.
 - Start with, "It seems to me..."
8. Don't make your relationship dependent on him taking your advice. Don't assume you are disgraced if your advice is not taken. In 2 Samuel 17:23, Ahithopel hanged himself when his advice to Absalom was refused. Remember Jesus had many reject his advice.

Accountability Questions

Ask each other directly periodically - perhaps monthly:

1. Are you involved sexually with anyone other than your wife?
2. Are you using pornography?
3. Are you masturbating? (*This is certainly a controversial issue. I suggest you examine the chapter on sexual morality in Honesty, Morality and Conscience. Many believe that masturbation is not a serious issue. I tend to view it differently.*)
4. Are you watching "R" or "X" rated movies or videos?
5. Are you indulging in sexual fantasies about other women?

Preventatives

1. Daily time with God in His Word and a commitment to spiritual growth.
2. A commitment to the battle for winning the lost.
3. A committed accountability relationship with one or two other men.
4. A deepening marriage relationship with your wife.
5. Setting up a constant guard in your thought life and actions.
6. Determined and continually renewed commitment that you will not enter into sexual sin.
7. Pray defensively.
8. Disciplined control over what your eyes see.
9. Highly cautious about counseling women in any way whatsoever.
10. Do not touch another man's wife.

Principles:

1. Sexual sin is always generated in the mind before it is acted out in the body. Thus, to guard one's thoughts is absolutely indispensable.
2. A struggling marriage is never an excuse for sexual sin.
3. A widower, divorced person or sexually experienced man will likely have more temptation, mainly due to knowledge.
4. In cases I have seen, some common threads emerge and seem characteristic of men who have fallen into sexual impurity:
 - a. The macho image and a sense of dominance.
 - b. A perceived failure in one's job or a blow to one's ego or pride.
 - c. A feeling of being "above the rules."
 - d. Going easy on one's self... in many areas like diet or exercise.
 - e. Carelessly allowing one's self to be in places or situations that boost temptation.
 - f. Roving and undisciplined eyes.
5. Accountability is a major key to prevention, though not the only answer.
6. Even with accountability, one who wants to sin sexually will find a way to lie and deceive others and himself to avoid the truth. Thus, we must uphold one another with prayer.
7. Regardless of spiritual maturity or chronological age or the best of marriages, everyone is vulnerable to sexual sin.

From Jerry White's letter of September 28, 1987

Sexques:BP Materials

Principles in Follow-up

1. God does not reward according to fruit, but according to labor. 1 Cor 3:8
2. Recruit the person to Christ, not so much to the organization.
3. Pray often and much.
4. Realize that Satan has an information network on new believers.
5. Provide access to much teaching concerning the person and work of Christ. Lay a foundation of Christ.
6. Know him/her in such a way as to make sure that he/she is making practical application of God's word in daily life. Be willing to ask specific questions, especially in your personal time together. *People do what you inspect, not what you expect.*
7. Bring him into vital contact with other believers. Get him/her plugged into the church. Communicate with his/her Sunday School teacher.
8. Follow up beyond the 5 or 13 weeks. Keep in touch monthly for the first year. Is this reasonable?
9. Take upon yourself the responsibility of a parent, but treat him/her as a brother/sister. 1 Thess 2:7-12
10. Teach by example. "Example is not a method of teaching, it is the only method."
11. Relate broadly, not just on spiritual matters. Be concerned with the whole life and be willing to help wherever help is needed.
12. Know your people. Take the time to become acquainted. People love to be known. Let him/her get to know you, be transparent.
13. Get someone to help you help him/her.
14. Reading plan. Start in the book of John or Luke. Ask yourself two questions:
 1. Who are you, Lord?
 2. What do you want me to do, Lord?

January 2004

December 2003

Live life, then with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning of life, but as those who do. This is Paul's advice to the church at Ephesus. If anyone ever demonstrated sober intentionality in accomplishment, it was Paul. He is the one who wrote the Corinthians

So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I'm not just shadow-boxing or playing around. 1 Cor. 9:26 (Living)



This is a good time to set goals for the year. We make so much preparation for Christmas, but very little preparation for New Year's Day. Probably the reason that so many "resolutions" fail so quickly is that very little thought and conviction and prayer was used to arrive at them.

In 1977, Eric Wilson shared with me a format for making goals. It is just one page. It covers goals that are short term, intermediate and long term. It covers goals in every relevant area of life. I like this format because it is only one page (I don't attempt writing a novel). It helps me focus on critical areas of development for the year. A copy of the form is the [last page of this document](#). Some folks really like using forms, and others run for the hills. No matter what is your type, please consider spending valuable time seeking to know how God is directing you into the future.

Proverbs 16:9 (Living)

We should make plans--counting on God to direct us.

Start by rewriting your [mission in life](#). Reinforce it with scripture. A mission statement covers what is to be done and how it is to be accomplished. It should be very brief, memorable, powerful, and understandable. It should be unique to you, not generic for just about every believer.

LIFE VERSE is a scripture portion that is your "all time favorite" which encompasses who you are and what you want to be. Don't go ransacking the Bible for this, but allow the Spirit of God to influence you and guide you to a verse that is so precious and meaningful that you want to follow it and embrace it all your life.

Then take inventory of last year, praising Him for what He has done in your life so far. Then prayerfully set goals for next year and finally get a good friend to review them with you and pray with you over them. *Put this on your schedule now.*

1. Mission

Discovering God's Mission. What has he called me to do? "*The Lord will fulfill HIS purpose for me.*" Psalm 138:8

a. My mission in life should be scripturally based.

Examples: Acts 20:24 Col 1:28-29 1 Cor 10:31

b. Worthy of giving my life to.

c. My mission should affect my life in an observable way.

d. My mission should be unique to me, as far as I can discern at the present time. God is incredibly creative.

(See also Rick Warren, [Purpose Driven Life](#))

2. First take INVENTORY of my current status:

- a. Am I bolder with sin now than this time last year?
- b. Do sins which once seemed great now seem insignificant?
- c. Is Jesus not as familiar as at the beginning of the year?
- d. Do I now spend more time talking to men than to God, and more time reading books other than the Bible? When a first class problem appears, do I run to friends, or to the Lord?
- e. Am I more interested now than a year ago in what God knows, or in what men think?
- f. Have I picked a favorite doctrine or group or fashionable discipline that I defend more than Jesus?
- g. Am I more tender or harsher toward those who disagree with me? Am I more like the elder brother (Pharisee type) in the Prodigal Son story?
- h. Is there one who has made steps toward faith in Christ this year because of my ministry?
- i. Have I had a significant impact in the life of one believer this year?
- j. Where am I? Stagnating, growing colder, unstable, enthusiastic, going backwards, bitter, tired?
- k. Where do I want to be? Helping others, effective in prayer, vital witness, example for others, equipped with the WORD, wise and effective, mature.



3. YEAR VERSE

Select a verse that can form the basis of my goals. This is a verse or passage that comprises the main needs in my life now.

Examples:

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. [2] Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In some cases, using a paraphrase or recent translation will yield nuances of the text that make application and meditation increasingly rich. For example, Hebrews 12:1-2 in *The Message* is *Do you see what this means--all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running--and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. 2 Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed--that exhilarating finish*

in and with God--he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Col. 2:6-7 (Living)

And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. [7] Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done.

Philip. 1:9-11 (Living)

My prayer for you is that you will overflow more and more with love for others, and at the same time keep on growing in spiritual knowledge and insight, [10] for I want you always to see clearly the difference between right and wrong, and to be inwardly clean, no one being able to criticize you from now until our Lord returns. [11] May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God, for this will bring much praise and glory to the Lord.

Eph 5:15-17 The Message *So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.*

Ephes. 5:15-17 (NIV)

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

OTHERS:

1 Tim 4:16, Isa 50:7, Prov 3:5-6, Psa 1:2-3, Matt 6:33-34, Prov 31:11-12, 2Chron 12:14, Ezra 7:10, Col 1:9-10, 1 Tim 4:7-8

Memorize it and tie to your goals. Meditate on it each DAY!

4. WHAT GOALS to set?

Luke 2:52, *Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, favor with God and man.* Likewise, I should develop four ways:

- a. Physical (weight, exercise, grooming)
- b. Mental (books, study, writing, business)
- c. Social (friends, hospitality, family)



If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time.

d. Spiritual.

Divide into Intake and output. Some persons will stuff themselves with spiritual knowledge and never get around to sharing with anyone. Others will burn out and never receive any significant input. *If your OUTPUT exceeds your INTAKE, your UPKEEP will be your DOWNFALL!*

1) INTAKE: Quiet Time, Scripture memory, Bible study and reading, Church, Christian books & tapes

2) OUTPUT: witnessing, testimony, church responsibilities, establishing new Christians, fellowship, teaching, committees (try to avoid serving in more than one).

5. HOW to set goals

- a. Write LIFE GOALS in each of the four areas, answering “What would I like said of me at the end of life?”
- b. Then write goals for next year in each of the areas. Particularly write goals where you need to accomplish a project, achieve a milestone, and break or make a habit. Avoid listing activities you are already accomplishing.
- c. Make your goals **B I G**. *Make a small demand and you get a small sacrifice; make a big demand and get a big sacrifice.* BUT keep them realistic.
- d. Use Intermediate Goals to record what can not be accomplished in the next 12 months.
- e. Write my goals down and have a friend check it out.

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:
If one falls down, his friend can help him up.*

But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Eccles. 4:9-10 (NIV)



6. EVALUATE the quality of your goals.

- a. Do all my goals fit into the context of my written, stated purpose for my life?
- b. Have I been honest enough to set goals in every area of life, believing God is interested in the total "me": spiritual? recreational? professional? social? educational and intellectual? family relationships? financial?
- c. Have I developed long-range, short-range, and immediate goals? Have I developed them in that order so that the long-range goal will pre-determine my other goals?
- d. Can my goals glorify God or are they selfish?
- e. Did I ask God for his wisdom and guidance before I attempted to establish these goals?
- f. Would Jesus Christ be willing to be Lord of my life and preside over the reaching these goals?
- g. If I am thoroughly convinced these are God-given goals, then cannot I expect his power to work in the achievement of these goals?
- h. Will they pass the three tests (courtesy of T. B. Maston)

- (1) **SECRECY**: is it all right if others know my goals?
- (2) **UNIVERSALITY**: OK for everyone to have these goals?
- (3) **PRAYER**: were my goals born in prayer?

Principles to Maintain Balance

1. Realize you have a unique contribution to the world.

Don't do what others can do and will do when there are so many things that others cannot do and will not do. – Dawson Trotman

2. Keep time for God, your first and vital necessity.
3. Realize that serving God and His people will cost you something.
So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? 2 Cor. 12:15 (NIV)
4. Learn to say NO and accept criticism for doing so.
5. There will NEVER be a time when you will get it ALL done - when you will have enough time to pray as much as you think you should, witness as much, study as much...
6. Do not confuse opportunity with responsibility. You will nearly always receive more invitations and suggestions than you can possible accomplish.

Don't forget to get a partner to help you reach your goals, or to help you shrink your intentions to something that can be accomplished. In some cases, a husband-wife combination works well, but not in all cases. Return to your written goals several times a year. Give God praise and thanks when you see Him enable and empower you for doing his work.

GOAL IDEAS

Use these ideas to help set a FEW goals in each of the areas. Do not attempt to set massive goals in every area. Bite off a small chunk and then chew it. These items are idea starters for you.



Favor with God:

Intake:

Bible Reading. I will read the _____ NT _____ OT _____ Entire Bible using the _____ version following the _____ plan. My reading will be done at _____ .

Bible study. I will spend _____ hours per week in study on the _____ program.

Study Group for fellowship and my own development: _____

Scripture Memory. I will attempt to memorize _____ verses this year. Source of verses: _____ (TMS, Quiet time, sermons, a verse from each book of the Bible, etc.)

Prayer. I will spend _____ minutes daily at _____ am/pm. Prayer format is _____...

Worship: Church _____ Other _____ Day or HalfDay of prayer scheduled dates: _____

Output

Bible study group for ministry to others: _____

Witnessing: My Most Wanted List (up to 10 names)

Service projects

Person(s) I seek to establish in their faith:

Favor with Man: (Social, Accountability, and Character development)

My primary accountability partner is _____ . We will meet or talk once a _____ .

We have _____ do not have _____ a list of questions to ask one another.

Hospitality plan. _____ of times per month with _____ (persons)

Create a guest list

Other social involvement:

Character development:

My main strengths from God are:

Project to develop strengths:

My main weaknesses that God wants to work with this year:

Projects to strengthen these weaknesses:

Conference(s) to promote my spiritual growth:

Family

Book to read on Marriage: _____

Conference or other activity to deepen our marriage:

Weekly Date night:

House projects needed: repair, maintenance, replacement, furniture, appliances, decorating

Schedule of maintenance, cleaning, car attention, bill paying, correspondence,

Budget

Spiritual needs of each child, and development plans for them

Daily / weekly / monthly focused time with children

Educational needs of each child:

Recreational needs of each child:

Relatives: Dates for visiting them. Relationship issues. Evangelism issues.

Vacation: time, cost, location, purpose

Prayer time: _____

Stature

Diet, exercise, personal appearance, sleep, recreation, physical checkup, weight goal _____

Mind

Career:

Daily prayer needs (purity, use of time, attitude, professionalism, faithfulness, integrity)

Progress. Promotion possibilities,

Development needed. Education, reading program, mentor, networking

Financial goals.

Reading: Type and number of books (Christian, career, artistic, imagination, history/biography)

Education. Learn to _____ ...

Television: Limit to _____ hours per week. Type of programs:

Courtesy of The Navigators Business and Professional Ministries

17950 Preston Road STE 750

Dallas, Texas 75252

972-931-8656

Email jkennedy@bnavs.org

Name: _____ Date: _____

Life Verse

Year Verse:

My Mission in Life:

Period	Mental	Social	Physical	(in)	Spiritual	(out)
LIFE: What do I want to accomplish over my lifetime? How would I want to be known? "Epitaph"						
INTERMEDIATE What can I do over the next 3-5 years toward life Goals? These are goals that are too big to accomplish in the next 6-12 months.						
SHORT TERM: What must I do over the next 12 months toward lifetime goals?						

Jim Kennedy 2003