



JOURNEY

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

//salvation

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing "WHY?" They exist year after year with no idea of God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, "What is the meaning of my life?"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- Some look for happiness through friendships
- Some look for happiness through "pleasure" experiments
- Some look for happiness through popularity & power

But real happiness comes from understanding my **PURPOSE IN LIFE**.

the problem

Humanity has a natural desire to **BE THE BOSS** and to ignore God's principles for living.

This ignorance to God's way of living is communicated in our words and lifestyle:

- "Look out for #1."
- "I want what I want, when I want it."
- "Do your own thing."
- "It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

The Bible calls this attitude: **sin**. Sin is a biblical word that means, "to miss the mark."

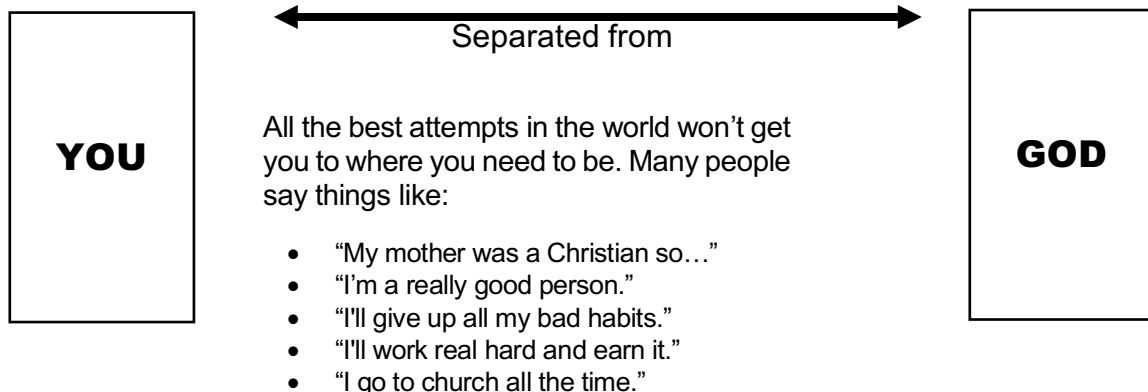
All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way. Isa. 53:6

If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth. 1 John 1:8

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. Sin separates us from God and causes us to live our lives outside of his will.

All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal. Rom. 3:23

It looks like this...



The result of these attempts is worthless. The Bible teaches us that our attempts lead to DEATH. A relationship with God is NOT based on anything you DO.

There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death. Pro. 16:25

the solution

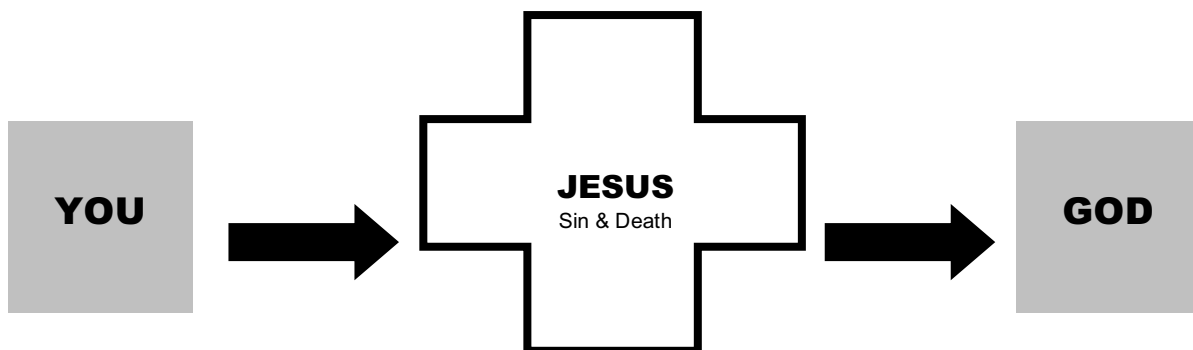
Jesus said, 'I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except *THROUGH ME!*' John 14:6

God came to earth as a human being [in Jesus] to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus would not have had to come. "The Way" is through the person of Jesus!

The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23

JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS!

God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus, Himself man, is between to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind. 1 Tim. 2:5



WHY DID GOD SEND JESUS TO DIE IN YOUR PLACE? God did this for YOU because he loves YOU and wants YOU to know him.

God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God, by sin, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE. NOW HE WAITS FOR EACH OF US to individually ACCEPT what He has done for us.

What does God want me to do?

1. **Admit** that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong. 1 John 1:9

2. **Believe** that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again, and is alive today.

If you confess that Jesus is your lord, and you believe in your heart that god raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

3. **Accept** God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

For it is by grace you are saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph. 2:8-9

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4. **Invite** Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director "Lord" of your life.

To all who receive him, he gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn! ... Not a physical rebirth ... But from the will of God. John 1:12-13

"Jesus says, 'listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ...'" Rev. 3:20

Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Rom. 10:13

If you believe you **belong!**

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God. It might be something like this...

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored You and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

//baptism

After you make a commitment to trust Jesus, you enter into a life-long relationship with God as a Christian. A Christian (Christ's-one) then attempts to learn more about God, His character, and His desires for your life and lifestyle.

Many of the actions mentioned in the Bible will be discussed in CLASS 201, but two specific actions we will discuss in this class are BAPTISM and THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Christ.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ commanded it.

Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" Matt. 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer.

... Many of the people who heard him believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands. 1 John 2:3

What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Jesus' burial and resurrection.

Christ died for our sin ...He was buried ... and He rose again. 1 Cor. 15:3-4

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. Col. 2:12

2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ...so also we may live a new life. Rom. 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it demonstrates that you already believe. It's important to understand that baptism does not "save" you. You are "saved" only by your faith in Jesus.

Baptism is like a wedding ring -- it's the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

Baptism Is An Outward Sign of an Inward Commitment.

Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Because **Jesus** was baptized that way.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. Matt. 3:16

2. Every baptism in the **Bible** was by immersion.

(Example) ... then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water... Acts 8:38-39

3. The word "baptize" actually means "to **dip under** water."

4. Immersion best symbolizes a **burial** and resurrection!

When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun! 2 Cor. 5:17

//discovering spiritual maturity

During this class we will focus on five basic habits Christians need to develop in their movement towards spiritual maturity. This class will help you better understand and develop these four habits:

- Bible
- Prayer
- Tithing
- Fellowship

What Is "Spiritual Maturity"?

In the unity of our faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity - the measure of development which is meant by 'the fullness of Christ'. Eph. 4:13 (Ph)

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him ... should become like his Son Rom. 8:29 (LB)

Based on these two verses, we might define spiritual maturity as: **BEING LIKE CHRIST**

The Four Habits of a Disciple

How Can I Become A Disciple? By Developing Daily "Disciple-Like" Habits

If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new! 2 Cor. 5:17 (NCV)

*You have **put off the old self** with its **HABITS**, and have put on the new self ... which God is continually renewing in His own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of Himself. Col. 3:9-10*

1. A DISCIPLE SPENDS TIME IN GOD'S WORD.

*If you **continue in my Word**, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. John 8:31-32*

2. A DISCIPLE SPENDS TIME IN PRAYER.

*If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, then you will **ask for anything you wish**, and you shall have it ... in this way you become My disciples. John 14:7-8 (GN)*

3. A DISCIPLE SPENDS TIME IN FELLOWSHIP.

*Love each other just as much as I love you. Your **strong love for each other** will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35 (LB)*

4. A DISCIPLE TITHES.

*None of you can be my disciple unless **he gives up all of his possessions**. Luke 14:33 (JB)*

*The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always **put God first** in your lives. Deut. 14:23 (LB)*

//habit one: bible reading

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 (LB)

Even though we titled this section “the habit of Bible reading”, there’s more to it than just reading the Bible. Lots of people read the Bible; you’ll find that people that don’t believe in God read the Bible for great literature. Even Satan knows the Scriptures. In this section we want to help you understand God’s Word and the disciplines needed to apply God’s love-letter to us. We will look at five ways to get a grasp on your Bible: **Hear it, Read it, Study it, Memorize it, and Apply it.**

Hearing God’s Word

*Faith comes from **hearing** the Word of God. Rom. 10:17*

Be ready and EAGER to hear God.

Be quick to listen .. James 1:19

Confess any SIN in your life.

***Get rid of** all moral filth and humbly accept the Word ... James 1:21*

Take NOTES on what you hear.

*We must pay more **careful attention** to what we’ve heard, so that we do not drift away! Heb. 2:1*

Act on what you HEAR!

*Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says!** James 1:22*

*Whoever ... does not simply listen and then forget, **but puts it into practice**, that person will be blessed in what he does. James 1:25*

Suggestions for Reading the Bible
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Start in the Gospel of John▪ Read the Bible in an understandable translation.▪ Read it in different translations. For easier reading: Good News, Living Bible, Phillips, New Century Version, The Message▪ Read it aloud to yourself.▪ Underline key verses.▪ Be realistic with your reading goals. (Better to be victorious in small amounts and continue, than to be defeated and give up)▪ Write down what you’re learning and any questions you might have.

Studying God's Word

*They accepted the message eagerly and **studied the Scriptures** everyday ... Acts 17:11 (Ph)*

*Be a good workman... **Know what His Word says and means.** 2 Tim. 2:15*

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you **TAKE NOTES** when you study. And the secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to **ASK QUESTIONS**

Six Basic Questions to Ask:

1. WHO are the people involved with this passage?
2. WHAT are the events which take place?
3. WHERE is this passage located within the Bible? (Context: surrounding passages)
4. WHY did God put this in the Bible for me to read?
5. WHEN (in history) did this passage take place?
6. HOW did God work in this passage?

Memorizing God's Word

Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart. Pro. 7:2-3 (LB)

1. Knowing God's word helps me **RESIST** temptation.

I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Ps. 119:11

2. Knowing God's word helps me make **WISE** decisions.

Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path. Ps. 119:105

3. Knowing God's word strengthens me when I'm under **STRESS**.

Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me! Ps. 119:49 (LB)

4. Knowing God's word **COMFORTS** me when I'm sad.

*Your words are what sustain me ... They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me.
Jer. 15:16 (LB)*

5. Knowing God's word helps me **WITNESS** to unbelievers.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Pet. 3:15

How To Memorize A Verse

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.
2. Read the verse aloud many times. (You might even record it on tape!)
3. Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
4. Write out the verse on a flash card.
5. Carry some cards with you at all times for review.
6. Display your verses in prominent places.
7. Find a partner who can help you.

Suggested beginning rate: **3-4** new verses a month

THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING: **REVIEW**, **REVIEW**, **REVIEW**.

Suggested Memory Verses

The following verses suggest a "balance" in Scripture Memory. The verses selected are key verses in understanding the foundations of the Christian Life and Christian Growth.

Live the New Life:

Obedience to Christ	Rom. 12:1;
John 14:21	
The Word	II Tim. 3:16;
Josh. 1:8	
Fellowship	Matt. 18:20;
Heb. 10:24	

Proclaim Christ:

All have sinned	Rom. 3:23;
Isa. 53:6	
Sin's penalty	Rom. 6:23;
Heb. 9:27	
Christ paid the penalty	Rom. 5:8; I
Pet. 3:18	
Salvation not by works	Eph. 2:8-9;
Titus 3:5	
Must receive Christ	John 1:12;
Rev. 3:20	

Rely on God's Resources:

His Spirit	I Cor. 3:16; I
Cor. 2:12	
His faithfulness	Lam. 3:22;
Num. 23:19	
His peace	Isa. 26:3; I
Pet. 5:7	
His provision	Rom. 8:32;
Phil 4:19	
His help in temptation	Heb. 2:18; Ps.
119:9, 11	

Be Christ's Disciple:

Put Christ first	Matt. 6:33;
Luke 9:23	
Separate from the world	I Jn. 2:15-16;
Rom. 12:2	
Serve others	Mark 10:45; II
Cor. 4:5	
Give generously	Prov. 3:9-10; II
Cor. 9:6-7	
Develop world vision	Acts 1:8; Matt.
28:19-20	

Grow in Christ's likeness:

Love	John 13:34-
35; I Jn. 3:18	
Humility	Phil. 2:3-4; I
Pet. 5:5-6	
Purity	Eph. 5:3; I Pet.
2:11	
Honesty	Lev. 19:11;
Acts 24:16	
Faith	Heb. 11:6;
Rom. 4:20-21	
Good works	Gal. 6:9-10;
Matt. 5:16	

Applying God's Word

Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice. James 1:22

Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:19

4 Steps to Applying God's Word:

1. Ask: What did it mean to the original hearers?
2. Ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?
3. Ask: Where or how could I practice that principle?
4. Write out a sentence that describes a project or action you will take to apply the truth.

*Now that you know these things, **do them!** That is the path of blessing! John 13:17 (LB)*

//habit two: prayer & quiet time

Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain THE HABIT OF PRAYER. Rom. 12:12 (Ph)

Approach Prayer with the Right Attitude. Matt. 6:5-8

1. BE REAL

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love praying standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. (vs. 5)

Don't try to impress GOD or OTHERS

2. GET RELAXED

But when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (vs. 6)

3. BE REVEALING

Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need before you ask Him! (vs. 7-8 LB)

Use the ACT UP Model

A – ADORATION

I praise you God because...

Give thanks to the Lord and pray to Him. Tell the nations what He has done. Sing to Him. Sing praises to Him. Tell about all the wonderful things He has done. Be glad that you are His. 1 Chr. 16:8-9

C – CONFESSION

I ask for forgiveness for...

But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done. 1 John 1:9

T – THANKSGIVING

I'm thankful for...

Oh, how grateful and thankful I am to the Lord because He is so good. Ps. 7:17

U – UPLIFTING

Today I'm going to encourage...

But encourage each other every day. Do this while it is 'today'. Heb. 3:13

P – PRAYER REQUEST

I ask you for...

Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need. And when you pray, always give thanks. And God's peace will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The peace that God gives is so great that we cannot understand it. Phil. 4:6-7

Developing a Quiet Time

DEFINITION: A quiet time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him better.

Why A Quiet Time?

1. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

*Jesus **often** withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Mark 1:35; Luke 22:39; Luke 5:16*

2. Every person who has been effective in SERVICE for God developed the habit of spending time with God. (Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc)

Keys For A Successful Quiet Time

1. Select a time and place that can become REGULAR.

*Jesus left the city and went, **as He usually did**, to the Mount of Olives ... to pray. Luke 22:39*

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a **solitary place**, where He prayed. Mark 1:35*

2. Emphasize QUALITY, not QUANTITY.

3. Get the right tools.

- A Bible with an understandable translation.
- A Notebook - to write down what the Lord speaks to you about, and to keep a prayer list.

Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up. Gal. 6:9 (LB)

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death on the cross. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen.

//habit three: tithing

On the **first day of every week**, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.

1 Cor. 16:2

Just as you excel in everything else ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness ... see that you also **excel in the grace of giving**. 2 Cor. 8:7

KEY BIBLE WORDS

Believe: used **272** times in the Bible

Pray: used **371** times in the Bible

Love: used **714** times in the Bible

Give: used **2162** times in the Bible

Another word used for giving is **TITHE**. What is tithing? "Tithe" means "a **TENTH** part."

Why Should I Tithe? 7 Reasons From God's Word

1. Because God & Jesus **COMMAND IT**.

A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy. Lev. 27:30

Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either. Matt. 23:23

2. Tithing demonstrates that God has **FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE**.

The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first place in your life. Deut. 14:23 (LB)

3. Tithing reminds me that **EVERYTHING** was given to me by God!

Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth. Deut. 8:18

4. Tithing expresses my **GRATITUDE**.

How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? Ps. 116:12

Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you. Deut. 16:17

5. God says that refusing to tithe is **STEALING** from Him!

*"God says 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says 'In tithes and offerings ... Bring your **whole** tithe to My house'."*
Mal. 3:8-10

7. Tithing proves that I **LOVE GOD**.

(Jesus) If you really love Me, do what I command. John 14:15

I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving ... This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words. 2 Cor. 8:7b- 8(LB)

//habit four: fellowship

Let us not give up **the habit of meeting together**, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other. Heb. 10:25 (GN)

1. BELONG IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

Let us do good to all people, especially to those who **belong to the family of believers**. Gal. 6:10

You are a member of God's very own family ... and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian. Eph. 2:19 (LB)

The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord.
- Dr. Ray Ortlund

2. I NEED ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds. Heb. 10:24

Two are better off than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can reach out and help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him ... Eccl. 4:9-10,12

3. I NEED HELP TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron. Pro. 27:17 (GN)

4. FELLOWSHIP IS A WITNESS TO THE WORLD.

(Jesus) "My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind ... so the world will believe You sent Me." John 17:21 (LB)

"By your love for one another, people will know that you are My followers." John 13:35

5. I AM AN IMPORTANT PART OF OTHER CHRISTIAN'S GROWTH!

God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other. 1 Pet. 4:10

There are different kinds of service to God ... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a **necessary part of it**. 1 Cor. 12:5, 27 (LB)

The "One Another's" of Fellowship		
	Serve one another	Gal.
5:13	Accept one another	Rom
15:7	Forgive one another	Col.
3:13	Greet one another	Rom.
16:16	Bear one another's burdens	Gal. 6:2
12:10	Be devoted to one another	Rom.

12:10	Honor one another	Rom.
15:14	Teach one another	Rom
5:21	Submit to one another	Eph.
5:11	Encourage one another	1 Thes.

//maintaining these habits

STEP ONE: DESIRE

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations don't last. If you start only half-heartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO: DECISION

Begin right now! Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. You don't slide into a new habit. "One of these days" never arrives. You must have a starting point. It's easier to break a bad habit today than it will be tomorrow!

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done. Eccl. 11:4 (LB)

STEP THREE: DECLARATION

Announce your intentions publicly. The power of a vow is awesome. It is particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing and tell others about it.

Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them. Ps. 76:11

STEP FOUR: DETERMINATION

Never allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse will be fatal. Continuity, at the start, is essential of a habit. Don't allow yourself the "just this once." The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes 3 weeks to become comfortable with a new habit and it takes another 3 to 4 weeks (doing it daily) for it to become a part of your life.

STEP SIX: DOUBLE UP

Get a partner who will support you and encourage you. Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you, especially in the early days, before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

Let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over each other, studying how we may stir up and stimulate each other to ... helpful deeds and noble activities. Heb. 1:25 (Amp)

Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. Eccl. 4:9-10 (GN)

STEP SEVEN: DEPEND ON GOD

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit. Remember, Satan does not want you to develop habits that help you grow spiritually and make you like Christ. Therefore, Satan will do all he can to tempt you, cause you to slip, or discourage you. Pray!

*For the Spirit of God has given us ... power, love, and **self-control**. 2 Tim. 1:7 (GN)*

*For it is God who is at work within you, giving you **the will and the power** to achieve his purpose. Phil. 2:13 (Ph)*