

## The steps of discipleship

Step 1. We answer the call of salvation through **faith** in Jesus.

Step 2. We accept the invitation to follow Christ.

Step 3. We are directed to count the cost of following Jesus.

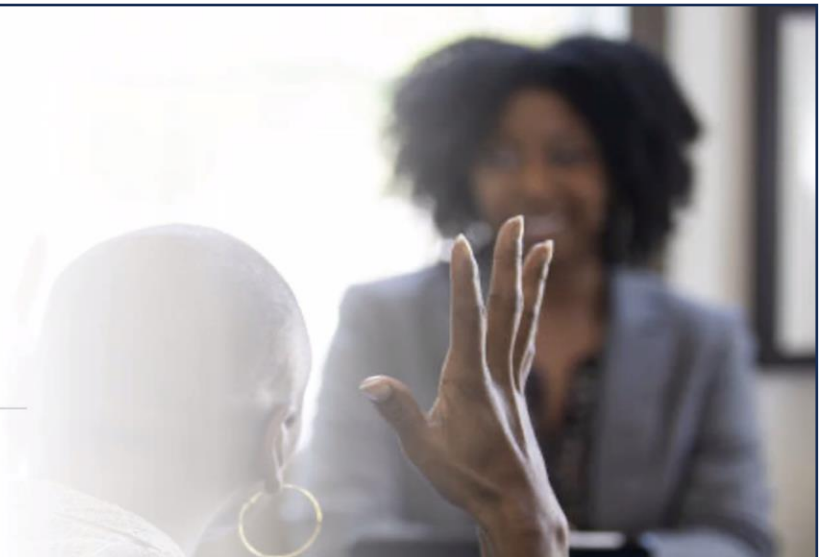
Step 4. We begin following Christ as He leads, teach and model for us, how to operate in **love**. (It's not emotional it's devotional)

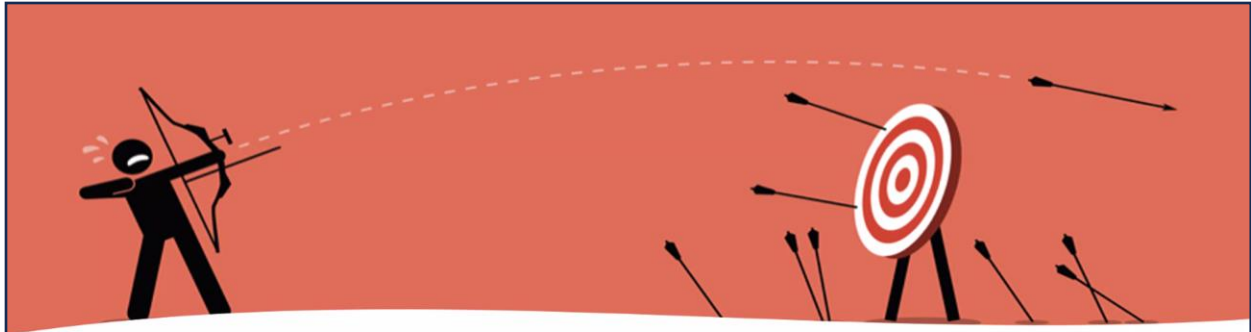
Step 5. We begin to walk according to His Word.

CONSIST  
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As an employer,  
what would you  
do with an  
inconsistent  
employee?

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**How consistent are you as a believer?**

## Scripture References:

- 1 Peter 1:13-16
- Acts 2:42-47
- Ephesians 4:11-13
- Hebrews 10:23-25

## Homework:

- Homework: Find scriptures that speaks to God's consistency. (Example - Malachi 3:6)

## What does it mean to follow?

To follow means to take an interest in something and keep informed about what happens.

To follow someone or something means to move along behind them in the same direction or path.



How would the world look if God was inconsistent?

## God's Unchanging Faithfulness



"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8

**God's nature is characterized by consistency. Because of God's consistency, His purposes and plans stand firm forever. His Word is always true, trustworthy, and eternal. God's plan of redemption remains constant throughout the Old and New Testament, and His faithful love endures forever.**

**Psalm 102:25-27**

**James 1:16,17**

God is consistent, reliable, and dependable in everything, and He calls His followers (Disciples) to demonstrate consistency in their faith, service, and witness. The apostle Paul urged believers to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received" and "whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ".

**Ephesians 4:1-4**

**Philippians 1:27-30**

## Homework:

- Read Philippians 1:27-30.

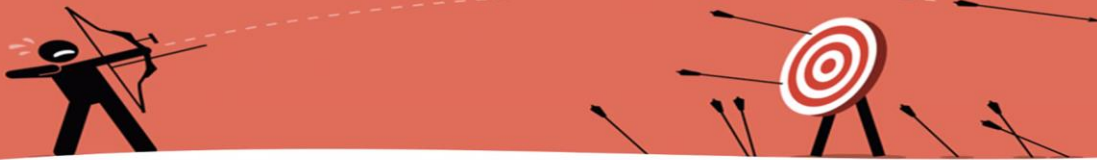
Are you staying consistent in this area where God is calling you?



### **Philippians 3:12 -16 (MSG)**

"I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it."



### **How to improve hitting the mark**

- Pray
- Practice
- Focus
- Move closer
- Be confident
- Get an instructor
- Stand straight
- Study
- Line up sights
- Change your attitude
- Get a firm grip
- Team up with someone
- Take time to aim

**What are some common things that people typically give up on quickly?**

**What are some common reasons for giving up on these things quickly?**

## Galatians 5 : 7 - 8

“Like good runners, you were doing very well! You should not have let anyone turn you away from God's true message.

It is not God who has caused you to change what you believe. No! God is the one who has chosen you to serve him.”

**God is consistent, reliable, and dependable in everything, and He calls His followers (Disciples) to demonstrate consistency in their faith, service, and witness. The apostle Paul urged believers to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received” and “whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ”.**

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- ❖ What does consistency in the Christian life look like in the day-to-day application?
  - ❖ How can it be achieved?

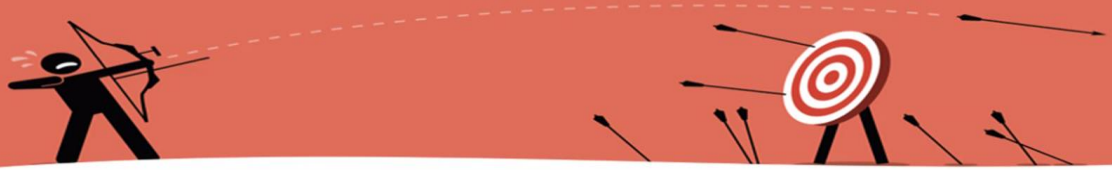


**Consistency  
is the key.**

# A. P. T. A. T.

A. Admit – John 15:5  
P. Pray – Psalm 50:15  
T. Trust – 2 Chronicles 20:20  
A. Act – Philippians 2:12-13  
T. Thank – Psalm 106:1

YOUTUBE VIDEO - Practical Steps To Walk By Faith: John 15:5



### How to improve hitting the mark

- Pray – *1 Tim 2:1*
- Practice – *Phil. 4:9*
- Focus – *Psalms 101:3*
- Move closer – *James 4:8*
- Be confident – *Hebrews 10:35,36*
- Get an instructor - *Luke 2:46*
- Stand straight – *1 Corinthians 15:58*
- Study – *Joshua 1:8*
- Line up sights - *Matt. 7:13,14*
- Change your attitude – *Romans 12:2*
- Get a firm grip – *Ps. 33:11*
- Team up with someone – *Luke 10:1*
- Take time to aim – *Philippians 3:14*

What does consistency in the Christian life look like in the day-to-day application?

A consistent walk of faith flows from a deeply committed love relationship with God. We devote ourselves wholly to Him and seek His kingdom above everything else

What is *God's* love language? How does He prefer to receive love?

God's love language is CONSTANT OBEDIENCE. John 14:15

It's loving *obedience*. It's the constant, most consistent theme running through the Bible.

Genesis 2:15–17, 3:6

John 14:21

1 John 5:3-5

James 1:5-8

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Genesis 2:15–17, 3:6

**Matthew** 6:24, 33

John 14:21

6:19-24

1 John 5:3-5

6:33

James 1:5-8

**“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”**

**Acts 2:42**



## What is the behavior of a devoted person?

### General

Being devoted to something means being focused on that particular thing almost exclusively. When you are devoted to a cause, you work to achieve its goals. When you are devoted to a person, you place their needs above your own. Being devoted doesn't have to refer only to personal relationships.

## What is the behavior of a devoted person?

### Spiritually

When you are devoted to God, your life is transformed. You begin orienting your activities toward what The Lord wants.

Doubt and confusion diminish, as you always have a benchmark to refer to.

People and circumstances that no longer fit fall away.

This type of devotion takes a surrender of your personal wants and desires into something that holds greater meaning for you.

Psalms 42:1, 73:25

### Sins of Omission & Commission

*We miss the mark when we sin.*

*There are two basic ways we sin: either by omission or commission.*

Sins of omission are those in which we knew we should have done something good, but refused.

Sins of commission is a sin we take action to commit, whether in thought, word, or deed. A sin of commission can be intentional or unintentional. Foreknowledge is not the issue.



# THE SIN OF *Omission*



**James 4:17**

**"So you know the right thing that you ought to do. But if you know that and you do not do the right thing, then you have done a wrong thing."**

**Romans 13: 1,2**

**"Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished."**

**Luke 10:30**

# Sin of Commission

## THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

- |                                                             |                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 You shall have no other gods before Me.                   | 6 You shall not murder.                                   |
| 2 You shall not make idols.                                 | 7 You shall not commit adultery.                          |
| 3 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain. | 8 You shall not steal.                                    |
| 4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.                | 9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. |
| 5 Honor your father and your mother.                        | 10 You shall not covet.                                   |

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## WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR KEEPING THE LAW OF GOD?

**It should not be for the sake of righteousness**

“And the result of God’s **gracious gift** is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s **free gift** leads to our being made right with God, even though we are **guilty** of many sins.

For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful **grace** and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, **Jesus Christ.**”

Roman 5:16,17

## WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR KEEPING THE LAW OF GOD?

**It’s not for the sake of righteousness**

“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the **offering for our sin**, so that we could be made **right with God** through Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For **Everyone** who **calls** on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:13



## WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR KEEPING THE LAW OF GOD?

### It's not for the sake of righteousness

"Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ

and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous **through faith in Christ**. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death,"

Philippians 3: 8-10

## WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR KEEPING THE LAW OF GOD?

### It should be for the sake of Love

"Jesus then said, 'If you love me, do what I have told you to do.'  
John 14:15

"Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome."  
1 John 5:3

### Matthew 15:17-19

Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.

### Matthew 18: 21,22

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"†

### Matthew 25:34-46

## Practice, Consistency & Examination

### 2 Corinthians 13:5,6

"Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith. As you test yourselves, I hope you will recognize that we have not failed the test of apostolic authority."

### 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

"So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself." 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

### 1 John 1:8-10 NLT

"If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts."

I can't confess a sin to God if I can't confess a sin to myself

### Matthew 5:23-24 EASY

"Maybe you go to the temple to give your gift to God. You take it to the altar. But then you remember that your brother is angry with you. You must leave your gift there in front of God's altar. First you must go and find your brother. Tell him that you are sorry. Then you can both become friends with each other again. After that, you can return to the altar and give your gift to God.

Not being able to apologize to someone you have wronged is a sin.

What does consistency in the Christian life look like in the day-to-day application?

We dedicate ourselves to the Word of God,  
A mature consistency of doctrine grounds us in the truth.

Luke 2:42-49



**Consistent reading and studying positions you to be an ever-learning agent.**

No matter how long you've been saved, there's always revelations in the word to learn and glean. The process of discipleship through the word of God invites us to be continual learners. We should be teachable and open to God exposing us to new insights and revelations. This is the power of being disciplined through the word. You're illuminated to put off some things, and to put on some things. You're always on a journey of growth with God and personal maturation.

Do I consistently read the Bible daily?

**“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”**

**Acts 2:42**

**We consistently meet with other believers to encourage one another**

**Hebrews 10: 23-25**

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

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



**Scripture also calls us to consistency in our testimony of faith**

**Consistency in faith strengthens our relationship with God.**

Just as in human relationships, consistency builds trust and deepens intimacy. When we are constant in our faith—steadfast in prayer, devoted to studying God's word, and committed to living according to His will—we draw closer to Him and experience the joy of His presence in our lives.

**Hebrews 13:8**

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

**Scripture also calls us to consistency in our testimony of faith**

**Jesus never changes.** He is the best example of living a life of consistency. He never moved away from the word of God. He never departed from what God said to say and do. Never, not once. His life was a life of consistency. If we desire to walk like Jesus walked, we too must endeavor to live a life of consistency. Therein lies the key. The key to a successful life.

**Scripture also calls us to consistency in our testimony of faith**

**Philippians 2:14,15**

"Whatever you are doing, do not complain. And do not argue. Then you will not be guilty of anything that is wrong. You will be clean inside yourselves. You will be living in a completely good way, as God's children should. In this world, you are living among bad people who have turned away from what is good. But you must bring light into this dark place, like stars that shine in the night."

Scripture also calls us to consistency in our testimony of faith

1 Corinthians 15:58

"So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless"

Galatians 6:8,9

"Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

Scripture also calls us to consistency in our testimony of faith

James 1:1-8

*Consistency*

Results

Rewards





## Consistency

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**A consistent walk with God answers the question; Are we just Church folk or followers of Christ.**



**“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”**

**Acts 2:42**

**Acts 11:26**

**“When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)”**

## **REGIMENT**

**The principles and/or practices one submits to regularly for an intended outcome**

## **REPETITION**

**The regiment has to be intently rehearsed for it to become natural to one's mind, spirit, and being**

## **RESTRICTION**

**The regiment essentially requires one to live within it & does not permit for one to embrace much of anything outside of it; because anything outside of it threatens the short-term and long-term impact of the regiment.**

## **RESULTS/REWARDS**

**Faithfulness to the regiment  
will yield the intended results  
&/or rewards**

Philippians 3:15-21

**The early church was consistent in and devoted to...**

- ✓ The Word of God
- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Fellowship
- ✓ Serving The Lord





To serve God is to follow the example of Jesus' life and earthly ministry to serve others. It is through service that we can truly express our love for God, for His creation and for one another.

Serving God is not limited to serving at church.

Serving God is us being the church, no matter where we are.

#### Christ our Teacher / Model

The greatest example of serving the Lord comes from the life of Jesus, who was the manifestation of God's saving love in the world. Jesus spent his life in service to others, but most especially those in need — including the poor, the sick, the ostracized and anyone who would be neglected by society.

John 17:4 NLT

"I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."

#### Christian service is a life of service

Philippians 2:1-4

"I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."

**God calls Christians to consistently serve Him by doing good works  
Serving is an essential part of our faith that touches our lives and others.**

Don't take for granted the areas of your influence, your family, community, job and church. These are platforms that provide opportunities to serve. Serving is selflessly giving of yourself according to a task, cause or purpose.

Our serving is a deposit to humanity that expresses God's heart in and through us. We are to mimic the Lord and be great at serving. Serving according to God's purposes is the only thing that brings true fulfillment to our lives. And it glorifies God as our architect and creator.

**Note to self: Practice daily personal reflections, examination, and evaluation.**

Your answers...

- Walking by Faith / Trusting God always
- Accepting Him
- Sharing the gospel
- Doing what God commands
- Using your gifts and talents for The Lord
- loving others as Jesus did
- Serving others as Jesus did
- Following the example of Jesus Christ
- Submitting to the Holy Spirit





To serve God is to follow the example of Jesus' life and earthly ministry to serve others. It is through service that we can truly express our love for God, for His creation and for one another.

Serving God is not limited to serving at church.

Serving God is us being the church, no matter where we are.

Serving God is when believers are imitating their master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God."

Ephesians 5:1,2 NLT

**Ephesians 2:10**

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them".



What does God consider as good works?

**One aspect of serving The Lord is to meet the physical, earthly needs of others. To be active within the world and treat each person with love and respect.**

- ✓ Feed the hungry
- ✓ Give drink to the thirsty
- ✓ Shelter the homeless
- ✓ Visit the sick and shut in
- ✓ Visit the prisoners
- ✓ Give alms to the poor

**Mark 10:43-45**

**Luke 7:20-23**

**It is not just the marginalized and downtrodden that we should extend our hand to, but to our enemies as well.**

**Matthew 5:43-48**

You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy.

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

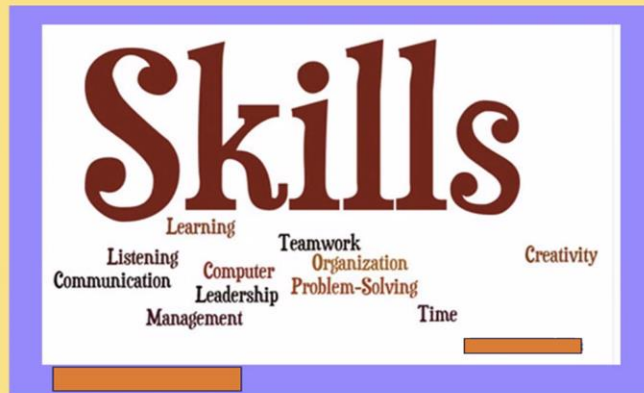
If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.

If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- **We may also find inspiration within our own talents to serve others.**

- Different people have different gifts, and we are called to share our own gifts as part of a community. Together, this sharing of gifts not only enriches the lives of others, it gives us the fullness of life.



**Peter 4:10-11**

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**We should also be consistent in supporting the spiritual well-being both for ourselves and for others.**

- ✓ Counsel the doubtful
- ✓ Instruct the ignorant
- ✓ Admonish the sinner without judgment
- ✓ Comfort the sorrowful
- ✓ Forgive injuries
- ✓ Bear wrongs patiently



What are my  
gifts, talents,  
abilities?

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We all have  
been given  
gifts and  
talents by  
our creator.

Romans 12:6-8  
1 Peter 4:10,11



**How did the Magi  
honor The Lord  
with their gifts?**

**1<sup>st</sup>** They recognized  
where and who  
their gifts & talents  
were from.



James 1:16,17

So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow."



**How did the Magi honor The Lord with their gifts?**

They recognized and Identified the gifts and talents that were given to them individually.

Matthew 2:11  
There they found Mary and the baby Jesus and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



**How did the Magi honor The Lord with their gifts?**

They worshipped The Lord by returning His gifts back to Him.

Matthew 2:11  
“They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts



**How did the Magi honor The Lord with their gifts?**

The use of their gifts and talents brought them in to the presence of The Lord.

Matthew 2:2  
““Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”





**How did the Magi honor The Lord with their gifts?**

The use of their gifts and talents brought them into the presence of The Lord.

Matthew 2:1

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,"



Matthew 2:7

"Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared."

Stop Wasting Your Talents! How to Use What God Has Given You | Jonathan Evans

**HONOR  
GOD WITH  
YOUR  
TALENTS**

Watch on YouTube JONATHAN EVANS



Matthew 25:14-29



# What are my gifts, talents, abilities?

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."  
Ephesians 2:10



## Negative actions related to gifts and talents.

### **Not recognizing your personal gifts and talents.**

"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. (Romans 12:6)

### **Glamorizing certain gifts and talents.**

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." (Romans 12:4,5)

### **Using our gifts for personal use only.**

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Ephesians 4:11,12)

	Personal Gifts	Occupational Gifts	Ministry Gifts
Peter	Spokesman Leadership skills	Fisherman	Filled with The Spirit Healing / Revelation Writer
John	Passionate	Fisherman	Filled with The Spirit Healing / Revelation Writer
James son of Zebedee	Loyalty	Fisherman	Filled with The Spirit Healing / Revelation
Andrew	Truth seeker	Fisherman	Filled with The Spirit Healing
Philip	Independent		
Thomas	Courageous	Tradesman	
Bartholomew	Honest, Researcher	Scholar of law	
Matthew	Resolute Individual	Tax Collector	Writer
James son of Alphaeus	Dependable		
Thaddeus	Tender hearted		
Simon the Zealot	Resolute	Political Involvement	
Judas	Knowledgeable		Treasure

**wcabell2@gmail.com**

Create a list of your gifts, talents, and skills, and send it to Pastor Cabell at the email address provided above.



Disciples  
are  
Contributor's



### **Contributing to the kingdom**

Contributing to the kingdom, means **actively participating in** and **promoting the values and principles of God's kingdom** by living a life that reflects love, compassion, justice, and **service towards others**, essentially **putting God's priorities first in all aspects of your life**, including your actions, thoughts, and words; this can be achieved **through acts** like sharing the Gospel, serving others in need, demonstrating Christian character, and **actively participating** in your church community.

### *Key aspects for contributing to the kingdom*

**Sharing the Gospel:** Talking to others about Jesus Christ and the good news of salvation.

**Developing Christ-like character:** Cultivating qualities like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**Supporting Christian ministries:** Contributing financially or through volunteer work to organizations that spread the Gospel and serve others.

**Living with integrity:** Maintaining high moral standards and being honest in all interactions.

### **Scripture that supports the contribution of disciples**

Acts 4:32-34

**"All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.**

The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.

There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need."

Hebrews 13:16

**"And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God."**

Matthew 10:8

**"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!"**



**Ephesians 4:16**

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

**Ephesians 4:11,12**

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Ephesians 4:11,12)

We are designed to need God and each other. No one has all the skills, gifts, or wisdom necessary for a successful life. We are exhorted to use the gifts we receive—the talents and uniqueness of our created nature, as well as our spiritual gifts—to serve one another with kindness, respect, and appreciation.

**Genesis 1:1-3**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

**Genesis 1:26**

“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

Genesis 2:18

“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

**God will use your gifts and talents to support you during difficult times**

- Genesis 37:5-8, Joseph discovers his gift.
- Genesis 39:1-4, His gift helped him to find his place / way / occupation.
- Genesis 39:19,20, Joseph was incarcerated accused of a sexual assault.
- Genesis 39:21-23, Joseph gift of \_\_\_\_\_ supported him in prison.
- Genesis 41:16, 39-44, Joseph gift of \_\_\_\_\_ frees him from prison.

**Always remember this**

The key thing to remember is that we are not working / serving to please people – not the pastor, not the leaders, not even your parents or friends – everything we do is for the glory of the Master, the one whom we have freely chosen to serve.

As children of God we ought to serve Him with whatever gifts He has blessed us with and, we should be determined to excel in every area that we may be placed in. This will require serious commitment, time and consistent work.

Galatians 1:10

“Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.”

Colossians 3:17

“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.”

### **Serving God Grows Us**

**We need to serve because it helps us to grow in Christlikeness.**

God knows where we need to grow, and **serving isn't always easy**. It often means working with personalities that are unlike our own, and doing things that stretch our abilities. Though not an exhaustive list, we learn **humility**, patience, meekness, self-awareness, leadership, discernment, and wisdom when we serve. God knows that we will grow to look more like Christ through serving His church.

### **The Humility of Jesus Christ**

#### **He became flesh**

Jesus' humility on earth comes in the form of not taking advantage of the pleasures and luxuries He had in heaven as the Son of Man. Instead, He took it upon Himself to be amongst the sinners and the poverty that His people had to endure.

**John 1:24**

**Philippians 2:3-4**

**Colossians 1:15**

**Are there other examples?**



### The Humility of Jesus Christ

- He was born in a manger – Luke 2:7
- He supped with sinners – Matthew 9:10-17
- He washed the disciple's feet – John 13:2-17
- He met the woman at the well – John 4
- He met with lepers – Luke 17
- He pardoned a woman caught in adultery – John 8
- He welcomed everyone. Matthew 11:28,29
- He was dependent on His Father – John 5:19
- He was willing to die an innocent man – John 10:17,18    Matthew 20:28
- He was crucified in public – Mark 15:24

HUMILITY  
IS NOT THINKING  
LESS OF YOURSELF,  
IT IS THINKING  
OF YOURSELF LESS.  
-C.S. Lewis

### HUMILITY –

*Humility is being free from **pride** and not thinking of yourself **first**. It is realizing your talents and gifts are from **God**, putting your worth in **Him**, **admitting** you can never live up to His holiness and perfection, seeing how much you **need** Him and **asking for His help**.*

*Have the Attitude of Christ (Principle)*  
**Philippians 2:1-11**

1. The mind of Christ (v1-4)
2. Do nothing out of selfish ambition (v3)
3. Value others above yourselves (v4)
4. Expressed concern for others interest (v4)

*The mindset of a humble Christ (Application)*  
**Philippians 2:1-11**

1. Sacrifice (v6)
2. Servant (v7)
3. Submission (v8)
4. Suffering (v8)
5. Blessing (v9)



## The Sin of Pride

PRIDE

## The Sin of Pride

Pride is considered the first sin as it is believed that Satan's original sin was an act of pride, refusing to submit to God and wanting to be equal to Him, thus making pride the root of all other sins.

Ezekiel 28:14,15  
Isaiah 14:12-15

### *10 Ways to Detect Pride in your Life (Smoke Detector)*

- Do you struggle to receive constructive criticism?
- Do you have a problem admitting when you are wrong?
- Do you see yourself as above doing certain task?
- Do you assume you already know something when someone is trying to teach you something?
- Do you always feel the need to show or tell someone else how to do something?
- Do you think that you are better than other people?



### *10 Ways to Detect Pride in your Life (Smoke Detector)*

- Are you consistently critical of other people?
- Do you try to justify your sin rather than confessing it?
- Are you unwilling to submit to authority?
- Do you consistently talk about yourself?
- Do you consistently flaunt things in front of people?

Proverbs 16:18

"If you are proud, you will soon come to an end. Anyone who boasts will soon fall down."

James 4:6

"And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

### *Do as I have done*

#### **John 13:1-17**

*Jesus washing the feet of the disciples occurred in the upper room during the Last Supper and has significance in three ways.*

1. For Jesus, it was the display of His humility and servanthood in forgiving sinners.
2. For the disciples, the washing of their feet displayed a mindset in direct contrast to their heart attitude at that time.
3. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ.

**Luke 22:24-27**

“Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.”

“Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men Lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’

But among you it will **be different**. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.

Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. **But not here!** For I am among you as one who serves.”

**No Place For Arrogance**

Jesus taught and modeled humility, and his disciples exemplified this by prioritizing service, embracing simplicity, and placing others before themselves.

Here's how Jesus' disciples demonstrated humility, as gleaned from biblical narratives:



**Service and Lowering Oneself:**

Jesus himself washed his disciples' feet, a task typically done for slaves, demonstrating humility through service. His disciples followed suit by also serving others and doing what they were told without seeking attention.



**Simplicity and Humility:**

Jesus and his disciples traveled lightly, only taking what was necessary and accepting hospitality where it was offered. This reflects a humble attitude of contentment and reliance on God rather than material possessions

**Luke 9:2-4**

“Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

“Take nothing for your journey,” he instructed them. “Don’t take a walking stick, a traveler’s bag, food, money, or even a change of clothes.

Wherever you go, stay in the same house until you leave town.”

**Prioritizing Others:**

Jesus taught that the greatest among them would be the one who served others, and his disciples emulated this by caring for the sick, the poor, and the marginalized. They placed the needs of others before their own desires and ambitions.

Acts 3:1-11



### **Example of Obedience:**

Jesus' humility extended to his obedience, even to death, and his disciples also showed obedience to God's will and to the authority of Jesus, recognizing their dependence on Him.

Philippians 2:5-9

Acts 4:16-20

““What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. “We can’t deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it.

But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.”

So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him?

We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”



*What aspect of humility do you struggle with?*



**Seeking to Serve, Not to be Served:**

Jesus taught that the greatest among them would be the one who serves others, and his disciples followed this teaching by actively seeking opportunities to serve and minister to the needs of others.

Matthew 18:1-5

**Recognition of their own Weakness:**

The disciples, though followers of Jesus, also recognized their own shortcomings and limitations, humbly seeking guidance and forgiveness from him

1 Timothy 1:12-17

***Living to please Jesus and not only ourselves***

Matthew 5:38-48

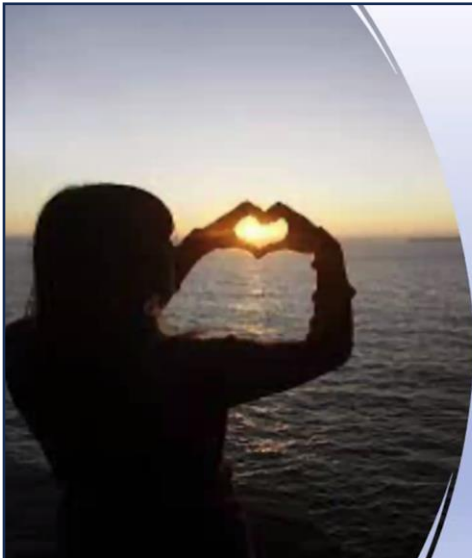


## **Humility is at the foundation of who God is and what He does.**

As we take a good look at what it really meant for the King of Kings to be born in a humble manger, live a humble life, and die a selfless death for us. He pursued meekness and stooped so low for each of us. May the reality of the humility of Jesus change our lives forever. Let's learn to walk in humility and daily cloth ourselves with the beauty of lowliness.

### **James 4:6**

**"And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."**



**Serving God grows us in humility and**  
**demonstrates who your heart belongs to.**

### **Psalm 100**

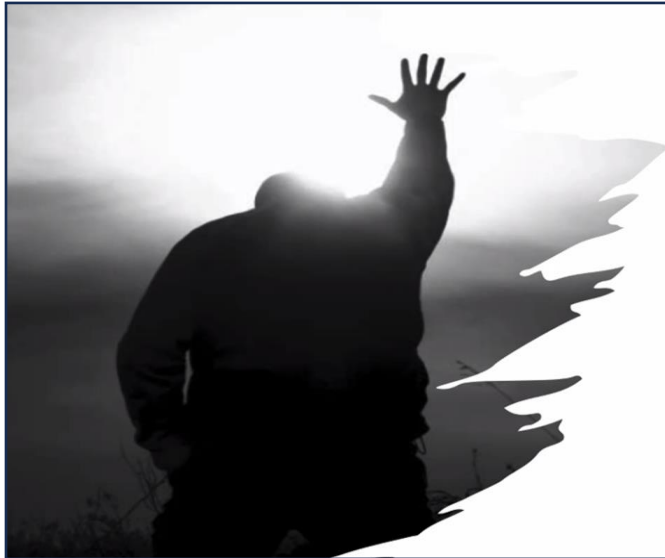
1. "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
2. Serve (Worship) the LORD with gladness: Come before his presence with singing.
3. Know ye that the LORD he is God: It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, And into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him and bless his name.
5. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; And his truth endureth to all generations."



## Deuteronomy 10:12,13

12. "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.

13. And you must always obey the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good."



"**Fear of the Lord**" is a term in the Bible that refers to a **respectful awe of God**, and a resulting obedience to God. It's a virtue that can lead to a humble, loving relationship with God.

## Serving God with Gladness:

**Gratitude:** It's a way of expressing gratitude for God's blessings and goodness.

**Joyful Service:** It involves approaching service to God with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.

**Living out faith:** It is an active way of living out one's faith and demonstrating love for God.



### Examples of Serving God with Gladness:

**Worship:** Participating in worship services, singing praises, and praying with joy.

**Acts of Kindness:** Serving others, helping those in need, and showing compassion.

**Using Gifts:** Using one's talents and abilities to glorify God.

**Living a life that pleases God:** Striving to live a life that reflects God's character and values.

## In·ten·tion·al

**Adjective:** *Done on purpose; deliberate*

**The life of a disciple is not accidental or coincidental; it's intentional.**



Is Intentionality  
the same as  
determination?

While related, "being *intentional*" and "being *determined*" aren't exactly the same.

**Intentionality** focuses on making deliberate and purposeful choices,

while **determination** emphasizes unwavering resolve to achieve a goal.

**Here are some examples of Jesus' intentionality:**

**Prayer and Seeking God's Will:** Jesus **frequently** retreated to spend time in prayer, seeking guidance and aligning his actions with the Father's will.

**Deliberate Choices in Ministry:** Jesus **intentionally** chose who he would teach and serve, focusing on the marginalized and those in need, rather than the powerful or influential.

**Unwavering Commitment to His Mission:** Jesus knew his purpose and **stayed focused** on it, even in the face of opposition and suffering. He willingly faced the cross, knowing it was part of God's plan.

**Cont.**

**Teaching and Sharing the Gospel:** Jesus **intentionally** shared the good news of the Kingdom of God with anyone who would listen, using parables, miracles, and his own life as examples.

**Forgiveness and Compassion:** Jesus showed **intentional** compassion and forgiveness, even towards those who persecuted him.

**Serving Others:** Jesus **consistently** served others, demonstrating humility and love, even washing his disciples' feet.

**Discipling Others:** Jesus **intentionally** trained and equipped his disciples to continue his mission after his ascension.



### **Scripture reference of the intentionality of Jesus**

- Luke 5:16
- Matthew 4:18,19
- John 9:4
- Mark 9:30, 31
- John 4:1-4
- Luke 23:34
- Romans 8:34

### **Scripture reference of the intentionality of Jesus disciples**

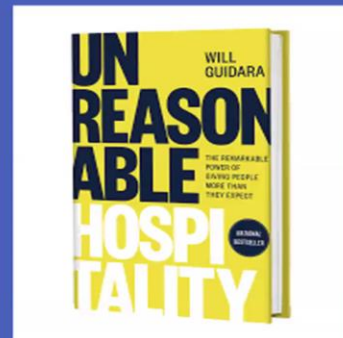
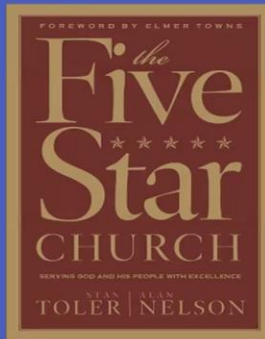
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Colossians 3:17
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Matthew 4:20
- Romans 12:2
- Philippians 3:14



*Intentional Hospitality*

## Hebrews 13:1,2 NLT

“Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don’t forget to show **hospitality** to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!”



### **Unreasonable Hospitality**

*The guiding principle*

- Taking ordinary transactions and turning them into extraordinary experiences.
- Providing a service beyond what people are expecting.

**JESUS**



In Matthew 5:41  
Jesus instructs,

**"If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two,"**

which is the origin of the phrase "going the extra mile,"  
meaning to do more than is expected or required.

This verse, part of the Sermon on the Mount, encourages  
going beyond obligation and demonstrates a spirit of  
service and generosity.

### **What is Christian hospitality?**

Christian hospitality, also referred to as Biblical  
hospitality, is a concept rooted in the teachings of the  
Bible and is considered an important practice for  
Christians.

**It involves welcoming, hosting, and caring for others,  
especially strangers, with warmth, generosity, and love.**





## **Why is Christian hospitality Important?**

**#1 Because of Who and what it represents.**

**Christ-ian**

### **Obedience to scripture**

The Bible explicitly commands Christians to practice hospitality, making it a matter of obedience to God's Word.

### **Witness and Evangelism**

By practicing hospitality, Christians create opportunities to share their faith, demonstrate God's love, and invite others into a relationship with Christ.

### **Unity and community**

Hospitality helps build strong bonds within the Christian community, fostering a sense of unity, support, and shared purpose.

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Hospitality helps build strong bonds within the Christian community, fostering a sense of unity, support, and shared purpose.

### **Cultivating Christ-like characters**

Engaging in hospitality allows Christians to cultivate virtues such as love, humility, and compassion, which are central to the teachings of Jesus.

### **Blessing others**

By offering hospitality, Christians have the privilege of blessing and positively impacting the lives of others, both materially and spiritually. Christian hospitality is indeed a way for believers to live out their faith, follow the example of Christ, and contribute to the well-being of others while glorifying God.



## **Christian hospitality examples in the New Testament**

### **Jesus and the Woman at the Well (John 4:4-26)**

In this account, Jesus demonstrated hospitality by engaging in a conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well. Despite cultural barriers and prejudices, Jesus showed kindness, respect, and genuine interest in her life, ultimately revealing his identity as the Messiah.

### **The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23)**

Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples, which is now known as the Last Supper or the Passover meal. This act of hospitality was a deeply significant moment where Jesus demonstrated his love and fellowship with his closest followers.

### **The Early Church (Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-37)**

The early Christian community in Jerusalem practiced a form of communal hospitality, sharing their possessions and resources with one another. They provided for the needs of those in their community, ensuring that no one was in lack of any need.

## **Homework:**

### **Biblical examples of Christian hospitality and how to practice it**

Christian hospitality has a bigger purpose – to proclaim the gospel of Christ. The Bible provides numerous examples of hospitality and its practice.

#### ***Examples***

- Abraham and the Three Visitors (Genesis 18:1-15)
- Rahab and the Spies (Joshua 2:1-21)
- The Widow's Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)