

# Introductory Guide



## Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship

by  
David L. Dawson

*Equipping The Saints Ministries*

4006 Walnut Street

Greenville, TX 75401

Tel (903) 455-3782 • Fax (903) 454-8524 • [etsusa@aol.com](mailto:etsusa@aol.com)

---

# Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship

Copyright © 2004 by Dave L. Dawson. All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part, in any form. Reproduction or translation of any part of this work beyond that permitted by Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the permission of the copyright owner, is unlawful according to our Lord, and by the government. Requests for permission or further information should be addressed to: David L. Dawson at [etsusa@aol.com](mailto:etsusa@aol.com) or Roger Mc Casland at Great Commission Publishing.

Published by: Great Commission Publishing Ministry

Printed in the United States of America  
June 2004

Scripture quotations in this publication are from The Holy Bible, The New King James Version Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers. Used by permission.

ISBN



[www.christianoutfitters.com](http://www.christianoutfitters.com)



[www.greatcommissionpublishing.com](http://www.greatcommissionpublishing.com)

# Author

DAVE DAWSON, internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and founder of ***Equipping The Saints*** Ministry, has been involved in the training of believers for over forty-five years. As a highly effective communicator, Dave brings the passion of Christ to life and will aid you in your spiritual journey in very practical ways. Visit [www.christianoutfitters.com](http://www.christianoutfitters.com) to learn of Dave's other published works.

## Great Commission Publishing

GREAT COMMISSION PUBLISHING was launched in December 2002 as an autonomous, evangelical, religious publishing division of Great Commission Ministries, Inc. Since 1990, Great Commission Ministries has published a broad spectrum of compelling books with life-changing messages including discipleship, Bible study curriculums, leadership materials, women's and men's ministries, family enrichment, as well as proven evangelical materials. We are committed to life-discipleship resources and products that bring glory to God by equipping believers for the work of the ministry through an intense and Holy Spirit empowered process. In early 2003, Christian Outfitters became one of five major ministry divisions beneath the Great Commission Ministry umbrella.

Our mission is to bring people all over the world into a relationship with Jesus Christ and into membership in His family, as stated in Matthew 28:18-20. Our goal is to guide and teach people to develop a Christ-like maturity, train them to study the Word of God, and equip them for their ministry in the church.

Great Commission Publishing/Christian Outfitters  
2425 Old Dennis Rd.  
Weatherford, TX 76087  
1-800-820-7764

*For additional information, product descriptions, distribution opportunities, or ordering information please visit our web site at [www.christianoutfitters.com](http://www.christianoutfitters.com)*

# Acknowledgments

I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING people who have aided me in the production of this manuscript. Each has made a unique contribution to this project, and I thank each of you from my heart.

**MATTHEW PATTILLO**, my friend, who edited the first draft of the manuscript, and has helped me with other projects in ETS.

**MOLLY RAGAN**, my faithful assistant for over twenty years, who typed this manuscript, and every other manuscript in the ETS library. She also proofreads and edits grammar, adding her professionalism to the final products.

**SHERI SEAWRIGHT**, who has also assisted me for many years, is our main graphics and layout designer. She was responsible for laying out the pages of this book in our desktop publishing system, and helping proof the copy along the way.

**MARY DAWSON**, my wife and companion, who always adds her wonderful “way with words.” Her ability to “turn a phrase” (she is a musical lyricist) helps to give just the right word when we need it. She also proofreads copy and helps in the final stages of production.

**DOUG MORRELL**, who assisted in the writing of the review questions at the end of each chapter. This is an important addition to the learning process for our students.

**GORDON ADAMS**, my co-laborer for over thirty years, is the original designer of the ETS course materials, including the covers. He is our “administrative genius” and he edited the final draft and re-wrote some of the material. He also proofread the manuscript before it went to the publisher.

# Table of Contents

<i>Annotated Contents</i> .....	<i>vii</i>
<i>Preface</i> .....	<i>ix</i>
<i>Introduction: From Duty to Delight</i> .....	<i>xi</i>

## SECTION ①

### ***The Mission: Engaging the Mind*** **THE CALL OF THE FATHER**

Chapter 1: A Journey with a Purpose .....	3
Chapter 2: God's Strategy For The Disciple's Mission .....	17

## SECTION ②

### ***The Man: Engaging the Heart and Emotions*** **THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Chapter 3: God's Triune Restoration of Sinful Man .....	33
Chapter 4: The Spirit-Filled Life and the Lordship of Christ .....	49
Chapter 5: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit .....	65
Chapter 6: The Process of Being Filled with the Spirit .....	77
Chapter 7: Discovering Spiritual Gifts .....	91

## SECTION ③

### ***The Method: Engaging the Will*** **THE WORK OF THE SON**

Chapter 8: Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials .....	101
--	-----



# Annotated Contents

<i>Preface</i> .....	<i>ix</i>
<i>Introduction: From Duty to Delight</i> .....	<i>xi</i>

## SECTION ①

### ***The Mission: Engaging the Mind*** **THE CALL OF THE FATHER**



God has always been speaking; we have not always been listening. He is seeking those who would serve Him. He speaks to our minds, or intellect, so that we may clearly understand His will and purpose for us. This section explores the many facets of God's mission, or purpose for mankind, the Great Commandment and Great Commission, and the strategy God has given us to build His Kingdom. We explore God's World, God's Word, God's Work and God's Ways, understanding, as did Moses (Exodus 3), that it is never about US, but always about GOD.

## SECTION ②

### ***The Man: Engaging the Heart and Emotions*** **THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



If purpose is a theme of Section 1, passion and power are themes of Section 2. God's revelation of His heart for the world demands a response on our part. Our relationship with God is not just cerebral: He gave us hearts to love Him and emotions to respond to His overtures toward us. He does not expect us to live the Christian life in our own strength. He gave us a dynamic Person to dwell in us and empower us to serve Him in response to the clarion call to evangelize and disciple the nations (the mission). Here we explore the Trinity, emphasizing the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit and our utter dependence upon Him for daily living.

## SECTION ③

### ***The Method: Engaging the Will*** **THE WORK OF THE SON**



From purpose to power to programs (or procedures) is the progression of thought in this guidebook. God seems to work from the head to the heart to the feet. In Section 3 we introduce all facets of the course materials, including ETS beginnings, the history, philosophy and basics of the curriculum and the organization and outlines of the course work. Step by step, you will learn how to use the ETS books for your own instruction and how to lead others and start your own ETS groups. By the end of this book, you will be ready to begin your study of the discipleship training materials used around the world by major denominations and mission agencies.





# Preface

I have used *Equipping The Saints* materials since their inception. I believe, as do many leaders in discipleship training movements throughout the world, that these materials are among the finest and most effective available today. Those preparing to lead others must concern themselves with, as my friend Ken Boa succinctly states, “Loving God Completely, Loving Self Correctly, and Loving Others Compassionately.” Dave Dawson, in this introductory volume, has rightly appealed first to understanding who God is, and then to understanding who we are in relation to Him, and what we are to do in response to His commands. In this guidebook, you will encounter the decision making process of the mind, will, and emotions. You will also encounter the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A view of the task of the trainer (trainee), and the tools needed for carrying out the mission (man and methodology) is also presented. Just as in business, mission precedes vision, and values precede objectives and practices.

As you progress through these pages, you must comprehend that the ETS tools are just that, tools! If tools are placed in the hands of unskilled, unprepared and immature vessels, they will prove ineffective. Thus, this book becomes a necessary blueprint to introduce you to the underlying philosophy behind the crafting of the tools, and gives some basic instruction on which tools to employ for areas of need in your life, or the lives of those you are seeking to influence in the Kingdom of God. After all, one needs more than a hammer in his toolkit!

Discipleship, from the Master’s viewpoint, is an “inside-out” process, never an “outside-in” process. ETS cannot simply be imposed as an exterior set of rules overlaid on an unsanctified life. And here is where the trainer comes in. God always starts with a man or a woman—an individual: a Abraham, a Moses, a Joshua, a Paul, or a Timothy. He does an amazing work on the *inside* before He calls that one to do anything on the *outside*. So, in this work, stress has been laid upon the work of God’s Spirit, in response to the Father’s call. God is more concerned with our BEING than our DOING.

You have in your hands a highly effective tool, tested and proven over three decades throughout the world. The question is, “Are you prepared? Are you ready?” May God bless you as you embark on your journey of faith to join the ranks of volunteers who have heeded the Spirit’s call to “Go and Make Disciples of All Nations.”

**Gordon E. Adams**  
**Vision Foundation Inc.**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee**  
**October 2004**



# Introduction: From Duty to Delight

**E***quipping The Saints*, as of this writing, is being used in over sixty countries, and has been translated into more than thirty languages. God has mightily used these training materials to disciple many believers among the nations of the earth. We are seeking constantly to improve our curriculum to make them more “user friendly.” To that end, we have revised this introductory guidebook, seeking to lay a solid foundation in the lives of students before they begin their training in the first course. We have sought also to incorporate many of the suggestions given to us by users of ETS books throughout the world.

Because ETS is “programmatic” (systematic training), it may appear to be simply another classroom academic text to be followed as a cerebral exercise. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have always underscored the need to depend on God’s Spirit; however, in this volume we more intentionally build that foundation by first appealing to the mind, then the heart and emotion, and then the will. When we understand God’s Word and His work, we respond with our hearts—we are empowered by His Spirit, and then challenged to apply our wills to DO something by way of application. It has been said that, “God did not give us the Bible to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives!”

All members of the Trinity are involved: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father **Calls** us, the Spirit **Empowers** us, and we then cooperate with the Son to help fulfill the **Work** of the Great Commission. There are three sections to this book, as outlined in the Contents. This table will perhaps help you understand the flow of thought through this volume.

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3
Father	Holy Spirit	Son
Mission	Man	Methods
Task	Trainer	Tools
Position	Passion	Programs
Mind	Emotion	Will
Face of God	Heart of God	Hands of God
Purpose	Power	Practice
Head	Heart	Feet

*Table 1*

God lives together in community—a triune relationship; He has made us triune as well: body, soul, and spirit. Our soul/spirit is also tripartite: mind, will, and emotion. We need to be touched by God in all aspects of our lives in order to live a balanced life in Him. The Christian life is described variously in Scripture as a RACE, or as a JOURNEY. If so, we may begin in our spiritual infancy with discipline and duty, but by God’s grace, and by His spirit, we end up obeying God out of delight. The Psalmist said, “I delight to do Thy will, Oh God!” Through ETS you will gain insights into the Word of God, and encounter God in many different ways. You will become His hands to someone else as you minister the gospel and serve them through evangelism and discipleship training. This will bring richness, satisfaction, joy, and fulfillment to your life.

People in all cultures search for meaning and identity, while God has already given us answers to these age-old questions in the Scriptures. Ancient writers recognized the God-shaped vacuum that exists in the human spirit. God has made us for Himself. We are, as the Bible says, “citizens of Heaven,” not of earth. We are to live as “strangers and pilgrims” on the earth, because we are destined for an eternity with God. In the meantime, He has given each of us a meaningful task to accomplish while on earth. ETS is designed to help you discover that universal and unique purpose for which you were created. Only then will you experience what Jesus meant when He said, “I am come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

You have the challenging opportunity of “getting in” on what God is “up to” in the earth! God loves disciplinarians. He loves the world, and He loves those who will allow Him to love others through them. He has no hands but yours and mine. Listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew:

*“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.  
Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out  
laborers into His harvest.”*

*Matthew 9:37,38*

Notice the order: PRAY, then GO (or be SENT). I want you to clearly understand the call of God. I want you to pray and listen until you hear God’s voice in your heart. Read this verse until it burns in your soul. Then begin to pray, “God, make me a laborer. Let me be an answer to my own prayer.” Then you will be ready to be equipped by God’s Spirit with tools that you can wield as a prepared vessel, a mighty warrior in the army of God. I invite you to come, and take your place with me as we labor together until Christ returns!

# SECTION 1

## *The Mission: Engaging the Mind* THE CALL OF THE FATHER



***God's Word Says:***



**“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”**

***Hab 2:14***





# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple's Application Guide - Chapter 1

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject Area** \_\_\_\_\_ Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship  
**Topic** \_\_\_\_\_ A Journey With a Purpose

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
Topic Notes		
Review A Journey With a Purpose		
Bible Study		
Complete Review Questions		
Personal & Spiritual Management Aid		
Outside Reading		
Read Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials pgs. 89-98		
(Chapter 7) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize Matthew 22:37-40		







# Journey With a Purpose

NOTES

## CHAPTER 1

**T**he Christian life is a long journey which begins on earth with our birth, and continues into eternity. We begin as spiritual children, and the journey continues as we grow to our full maturity in Christ. This is our first purpose. Our second purpose has to do with the mission that God has for every disciple—the ability to be able to spiritually reproduce ourselves in the lives of others. When Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians, this was his major objective in life:

*Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*

*Colossians 1:28*

Paul understood this lengthy journey and the stages we pass through from childhood into spiritual maturity.

John reminds us:

*“I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake. I write to fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”*

*1 John 2:12-14*

John saw three stages of growth—children, young men, and fathers. So, as we work to help people grow to their full maturity, we must be able to help them grow through all these

## NOTES

stages. Paul added the fourth stage when he addressed the elders of the church. Elders are people who have reached their spiritual maturity, are now ministering to other people, and giving leadership to the body of Christ. Since most people have never been discipled themselves, they have no idea how to disciple others. ***Equipping The Saints*** is a discipleship course which will guide you step-by-step through the discipleship process as you work to accomplish this mission.

It is heartbreaking to see so many start, but fail to grow much beyond being spiritual babes in Christ. The writer of Hebrews said:

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.*

*Hebrews 5:12,13*

Why people don't grow to full maturity is not an easy question to answer. We know that we have a faithful enemy who is doing everything in his power to make sure we don't grow to maturity, but we can't blame everything on the devil. Sometimes it is because we lead people to Christ and then do nothing to help them know what to do to grow and develop spiritually. Our objective was conversion, not maturity and discipleship. Or, maybe it is a lack of discipline on our part to carry through on what we know we should be doing. Let me suggest several things that will help you grow to full maturity in Christ.

## Four Essentials for Maturity

### ① The Holy Spirit

When we accept Jesus Christ into our hearts, the Holy Spirit comes at once to empower us to live the Christian life. God

knows we have a powerful enemy who can defeat us unless we have His help, strength, and guidance. We will cover this in our study.

## ② The Bible

God reveals to us all we need to know about Himself in His Word, the Bible. It is the Holy Spirit's tool to guide us into the truth and to help us walk into victory by being obedient to God's two great commandments:

*Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "*

*Matthew 22:37-39*

Satan has had his hand in having the Bible banned in many countries—in an effort to keep one of the most essential elements from God's people. In countries where Bibles are plentiful, he attacks the *credibility* of the Word of God, so that many begin to doubt it. He also distracts people with activities so they don't have time for reading the Bible, meditation or study. They are not allowed to understand the priority the Scriptures must have, if they are to grow to true spiritual maturity.

Satan has never forgotten how Jesus defeated him by reciting the Word of God in these three simple words, ***"It is written."***

*But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every WORD that proceeds from the mouth of God."*

*Matthew 4:4*

## ③ Obedience

The third essential deals with our obedience to the Father. As God begins to give us instruction from His Word, and the Holy Spirit brings conviction, we must respond in simple

## NOTES

obedience. We need to apply God's instructions to our lives in a practical manner. Through obedience and application of God's Word, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives are transformed into the likeness and image of Jesus Christ.

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

### ④ A Spiritual Parent (A Discipler)

The final essential is vital to spiritual growth. Every convert needs a loving discipler who knows how to establish and guide them into a healthy personal relationship with God. Without this guidance, many converts only learn to practice a religion, but never learn to know God relationally—on a personal level. By ‘practicing’ religion, I mean: going to church, “warming a pew,” or participating in institutional rituals. Here converts learn **about** God, but they never actually **know** Him or develop an intimate relationship with Him.

A disciplemaker, on the other hand, knows how to guide, instruct, feed, and protect converts from Satan's deceptive ways. Converts need disciplers! Just as God provides parents to provide for, guide, protect, and teach their children, every convert needs a “Paul” (discipler) who functions as their spiritual parent.

*For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you, imitate me.*

*1 Corinthians 4:15,16*

The spiritual parent must live an exemplary life in order for him to urge the disciple to imitate his walk with God!

## Discipleship Commanded

The imperative of the Great Commission is discipleship. The primary verb used by Lord Jesus in Matthew 28:19,20 (known as the Great Commission) is “**MAKE Disciples.**” It was Jesus’ final order before His ascension. This should be the focus of the Church today.

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

## Discipleship Defined

Here’s a useful, Biblical definition of a disciple:

A disciple is a person-in-process who is eager to learn and apply the truths that Jesus is teaching him. These truths result in an ever-deepening commitment to a Christ-like lifestyle and a life of winning and discipling others.

So how are we doing? After almost 2000 years of working on it, is the Church bursting at the seams with disciples? Here are a few descriptions of the Church in America we’ve heard recently:

“Like a “mighty river”—a mile wide and an inch deep.”

“Filled with spiritually undeveloped individuals—that is, people who have been born-again, grown for a time, stagnated, and then remained developmentally frozen.”

“The largest spiritual nursery in history!”

## NOTES

Certainly this description isn't true of the entire Body of Christ, but it seems to be accurate for the much of it. Perhaps we should stop telling people what they should believe, and help them instead begin to read the Word of God for themselves, so they can begin to experience God speaking directly to them! Most believers in our churches do not read and study the Bible; they simply wait for someone to tell them what to believe.

We have said the Bible is the Spirit's tool to bring conviction into the disciple's life. If people are not "in" the Bible, the Bible will never get "in" them, and they will never grow to spiritual maturity. They need a first-hand experience, not a second-hand one. What are we lacking? In a word, maturity. We, as the Body of Christ, need to take a more personal, active role in the task of helping each mature in our most holy faith!

*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go to perfection (NIV="maturity")...*

*Hebrews 6:1a*

What is needed then? In short, the spiritual leaders in the Body (elders, pastors, or disciplemakers) need to focus on equipping the **saints** to once again take individual, personal responsibility for their own spiritual growth and the work of the ministry. They need to quit entrusting it to a small number of overworked and overwhelmed "professional" clergy or Christian workers! Our sincere hope and prayer is that this training curriculum will motivate you to engage with God during these tenuous times—allowing the Spirit to mature you as a true disciple in God's harvest.

As you begin your journey through this course, it is important for you to understand that God has a mission for you and every other believer to fulfill. If this were not so, then the moment you turned to Christ, God would have taken you home to be with Him in heaven. But obviously, He didn't!

# The Disciple's Mission

## NOTES

The mission for every disciple is spelled out for us in the Scriptures:

*Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **On these two commandments stand all the Law and the Prophets** (emphasis added)."*

*Matthew 22:37-40*

According to these verses, we must focus on two things so that they become tangible realities in our lives:

## ① The Great Commandment (love God)

In the Song of Solomon, we are reminded that God desires a “bridal relationship” (an intimate, loving relationship) with His children. This two-way love is developed and deepened day-by-day in several ways.

♥ **The Bible.** As we read and study God’s Holy Word, He speaks and reveals Himself to us in tender and affectionate ways. He conveys how very much He accepts us and loves us unconditionally.

♥ **Prayer.** We respond to God’s initiatives by speaking back to Him of our love for Him. Just as a bride and groom communicate their love for one another, we do so in our communion with God. Israel was called the Father’s Bride; the Church in the New Testament is referred to as the Bride of Christ.

♥ **Worship.** Spending time devotionally in the Bible, praying, combined with “...psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs...” comprise our spiritual fulfillment of the Great Commandment to love God with our hearts, our souls, and our minds. Our entire being—our very lives—become spiritual sacrifices of worship.



## ② The Great Commission (love your neighbor)

This second summary commandment from Matthew focuses on the mission to which each of us is called. In the natural course of life, God brings people into our lives—some unbelievers, and others who are already children of God. We are to relate to each of these types of people in one of two ways (we will explore this further in Chapter 2).

♥ **Evangelism.** If those we meet do not yet know Jesus Christ in a personal way, we reach out to them with the gospel message in an effort to bring them to faith in Christ. Jesus promised to make us, “fishers of men.” This is how we love the lost.

♥ **Disciplemaking.** If our neighbor is already a follower of the Savior, and is not mature in his/her faith, we are to be involved in some fashion in helping him/her to reach maturity—to “grow up” in the faith.

Throughout this course, you will be reminded of these two focal points: “win the lost and disciple the saved!” At the end of this earthly sojourn, we will stand before God, and we will give an account to God for the stewardship of our lives based on these two clear commandments.

## The Discipleship Dilemma

Everywhere I travel, I hear this story repeatedly, “No one ever disciplined me, so I don’t know how to disciple others.” This is perhaps the single greatest need our churches face around the world. This need could be alleviated if church leaders themselves were making disciples. Most of them, however, have never been disciplined; therefore, they are not sure what to do to disciple anyone else. Their preoccupation becomes building the local church, and administering its programs, rather than raising up disciples capable of helping new converts become established in a daily personal relationship with God. So rather than solving the problem, many of them end up multiplying it.



We try to compensate by simply placing new believers in church services, which is equivalent to putting a five-year old child in a college class, hoping that if they sit there long enough, they will learn something. However, most don't, since more is "caught than taught" in the faith. That is why the emphasis in Scripture is laid on imitating others. Our natural children learn by imitating us; our spiritual children do the same. Churches around the world have become "a mile wide and an inch deep," with their members merely attending only to exterior religious practices and neglecting the internal things of the heart, soul, and spirit.

Our five-year old, in the illustration above, would really need to be in a school with a graded curriculum. Here he or she could learn numbers, the alphabet, colors, and how to function in a group setting. The child would learn how words are formed from letters, and how to add and subtract numbers. This allows him to read, write, and do simple calculations. Then come the parts of speech, grammar, and so on.

Just as we give careful attention to the education of our natural children, we ought to give similar attention to the development of spiritual children. We should purpose to never stop growing, and to help those we are discipling to never give up until we all grow up to our full stature in Christ.

## Keys to Becoming a Disciple



### Ask for God's Help

If we don't ask for His help, the Holy Spirit will not force His way into our lives and violate the free will we have been given by God. So, as you pray, ask for the Holy Spirit's daily help in your walk with God.



### Seek Direction in God's Word

As we have stated, the Holy Spirit's tool to aid in our growth is the Word of God. Every day we need to make sure we give priority to a program which includes Bible reading, Bible

## NOTES

study, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word. This allows God to give us the instructions we need and allows the Spirit to bring conviction of these truths.



### Make Application as the Spirit brings Conviction

We must begin making application of revealed truths so they can take root and bear practical fruit in our lives. Thus, we become **doers** of the Word and not just **hearers** of the Word. Otherwise, we are actually deceiving ourselves (thinking we know what the text is all about), as James clearly reminds us.

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

*James 1:22*



### Obey to Experience Transformation

Through obedience and application of God's word, our lives are literally transformed—we become new creations, controlled not by our flesh, but by the Holy Spirit. Our lives begin to display the Fruit of the Spirit.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

*Galatians 5:22,23*



### Obey to Experience Joy and Maturity

Our obedience also insures we become disciples and leads us toward making disciples of others. You can be assured there are obedient disciples who are ready and able to train you, if you so desire. Ask God to lead you to someone who can assist you. The Spirit of God uses more mature disciples to help younger Christians grow to maturity in Christ. Once you have a discipler in your life, avail yourself of all the training

possible, and give it the priority it deserves in your life. Be honest and transparent with God and with your discipler, as well as accountable, so the principles God is building in you become evident to all men. Purpose in your heart to be a finisher and do not allow the devil to sideline you short of all God has for you. This will produce the joy of the Holy Spirit and make your life attractive to others around you.

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

*Matthew 5:16*

As you begin your ETS discipleship training, it is extremely important that you have a clear understanding of some basic and vital principles of the Christian life. If you understand these issues, the skills you learn will bless you, and you will be encouraged as you learn. However, if you do not understand them, your learning experience may be far less fulfilling and may even become painful and tedious. Many people start on the road to maturity without understanding what it will cost to complete their journey and reach spiritual maturity—a life-long process.

*For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.”*

*Luke 14:28-30*

New converts may also lack a clear picture of the mission we have outlined briefly in this chapter. In the next chapter, we will examine that mission in more detail. Then, in Section 2, because we are Body, Soul, and Spirit, we will begin to study the dynamic power of God’s Holy Spirit. Studying this gives us the ability to live the Christian life, participate with God in the fulfilling of the Great Commandment, and the Great Commission found in Matthew 22.

## NOTES

# Review:

## NOTES

1. What aim should every Christian have for his Christian life?

---

---

2. What was Paul's aim for each of his disciples?

---

---

3. What four essential elements are needed to reach full maturity?

---

---

---

4. Why is discipleship so important?

---

---

5. In your own words, define a disciple:

---

---

6. What are the two commandments that summarize all the other commandments?

---

---

## NOTES

7. What are the four stages of growth?

---

---

---

---

8. What stage do you see yourself?

---

---

9. What are the five keys to becoming a mature disciple?

---

---

---

---

---

10. What verse did we consider that promises Jesus' help and assistance in our journey to maturity?

---



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple's Application Guide - Chapter 2

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject Area** \_\_\_\_\_ Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship  
**Topic** \_\_\_\_\_ God's Strategy For the Disciple's Mission

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
Topic Notes		
Review God's Strategy For the Disciple's Mission		
Bible Study		
Complete Review Questions		
Personal & Spiritual Management Aid		
Outside Reading		
Read Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials pgs. 99-107a		
(Chapter 7) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize Matthew 28:18-20		
Review all previous verses		





# God's Strategy for the Disciple's Mission

NOTES

## CHAPTER 2

We learned in the first chapter about Jesus' teaching on the two great commandments:

*Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

*Matthew 22:37-40*

We have a very simple ministry and mission that every disciple can grasp and practice: *Love God, and Love Our Neighbor*. The ETS Discipleship Wheel will further help us understand how we relate to these two commandments. This must come into focus before we examine the role of the Holy Spirit in Section 2.



The ETS  
Discipleship  
Wheel

## NOTES



# Discipleship Wheel

Each of the components of this illustration describes an aspect of the Christian life. Refer to the illustration on the previous page as we progress through this section.

## The Hub

At the heart of the Christian life is Jesus Christ—our **Great Commander**. At conversion, Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, comes to live in us. By His Spirit, He empowers us to live as disciples, to walk in victory over sin, and to accomplish God’s will for our lives. God has a purpose and mission for us to fulfill during our earthly lives.

## The Rim

The Rim represents the **Great Commitment**, which is to live in obedience to the two summary commandments. Jesus said that everything hangs on these two commandments. Obedience to these two commands is one of the ways we demonstrate our love to God. Jesus said:

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”*

*John 14:21*

Love has substance, which is obedience. There is a sense in which the message of the Bible can be summed up in that one word. Love and obedience are opposite sides of the same coin. To say we love God without obeying Him is deception. This concept can revolutionize your life and ministry! If we are walking in obedience to God, these two themes will be balanced in our lives: love for God and love for our neighbor.



## The Great Commandment

There are two vertical spokes in our illustration. These two spokes, *Prayer* and *The Word*, are the keys that allow us to build our relationship with God.

## Prayer

Prayer is one of the ways we communicate with God and express our own personal worship of Him. This also allows us to share the things that are upon our hearts. The five basic components in our prayers are: **Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Adoration** to God for our own needs. Scripture reminds us:

*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*

*Jeremiah 33:3*

The vertical prayer and word spokes allow us to build our relationship with God. Once we are in a growing relationship, God is ready to use us to reach a lost and dying world.

## The Word

In the Bible, God communicates to us everything He wants us to know about Himself and the relationship we are to have with Him. There are five basic ways in which we can get the Word of God into our lives: **Meditating, Memorizing, Studying, Reading, and Hearing** (later in ETS we will study this in another illustration). Each of these are important ways to help us in our own personal walk and prepare us in our ministry to others. One of the major ways God speaks to His people is through His Holy Word.

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

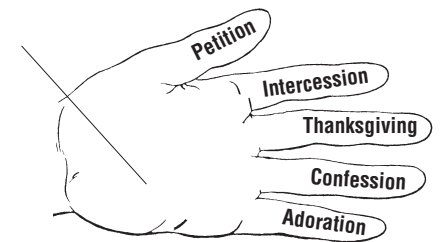
*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

## The Great Commission

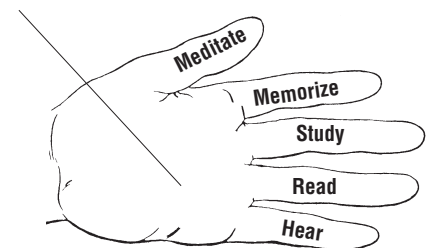
Jesus also called this “loving our neighbors as ourselves.” We are to covet for others the very same things we covet for ourselves in regard to our relationship with God. This means we have to reach out and develop relationships so we earn the right to share Christ with others.

As in the vertical, there are two horizontal spokes in our

### NOTES



Prayer Hand



Word Hand

## NOTES

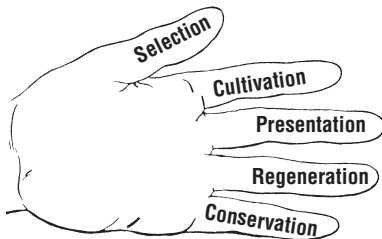


Wheel Illustration. These spokes stand for *Evangelism* and *Discipleship*, and constitute the **Great Commission** in the New Testament. This was Jesus' final commandment to the eleven as He ascended into Heaven.

### Evangelism

The *evangelism* spoke represents the means by which we share the Gospel message of salvation with lost people. This message is so simple that anyone can learn to present it to others. The gospel is comprised of four parts:

- ***Fact of Sin***
- ***Penalty of Sin***
- ***Penalty was paid by Christ***
- ***We must receive Him***



Evangelism  
Hand

Later in ETS, we will present an illustration called the "Evangelism Hand," which keeps us strong and balanced in this area of our ministry to others. It has five fingers:

- ***Selection***—we pray for our lost friends
- ***Cultivation***—we develop our relationship with them
- ***Presentation***—we share the Gospel message with them
- ***Regeneration***—we witness their rebirth
- ***Conservation***—we establish them in a relationship with God



Jesus promised to make us fishers of men. Evangelism is the method by which we fish for men among our friends.

### Discipleship

The opposite spoke on the horizontal plane is *discipleship*, which must be the end product of evangelism, since Matthew said it was the imperative of the Great Commission. Discipling is the means by which we relate to those already in God's family. This produces multiplication for the Kingdom, while making converts only allows for addition. Later, we will also study another illustration, the "Disciple-

ship Hand,” to understand how to keep this in balance in our lives. It has five components:

- **Submission**—we abdicate the throne, and make Jesus the Lord of our lives
- **Instruction**—the Word gives us the instruction
- **Conviction**—the Holy Spirit brings conviction from the Word
- **Application**—without conviction there will be no application
- **Reproduction**—we become fruitful in Evangelism and Disciplemaking

#### NOTES



Discipleship Hand

This Discipleship Hand is the key to guide us in growing to our full maturity in Christ. To further understand God’s strategy for the mission, we will examine one further diagram:

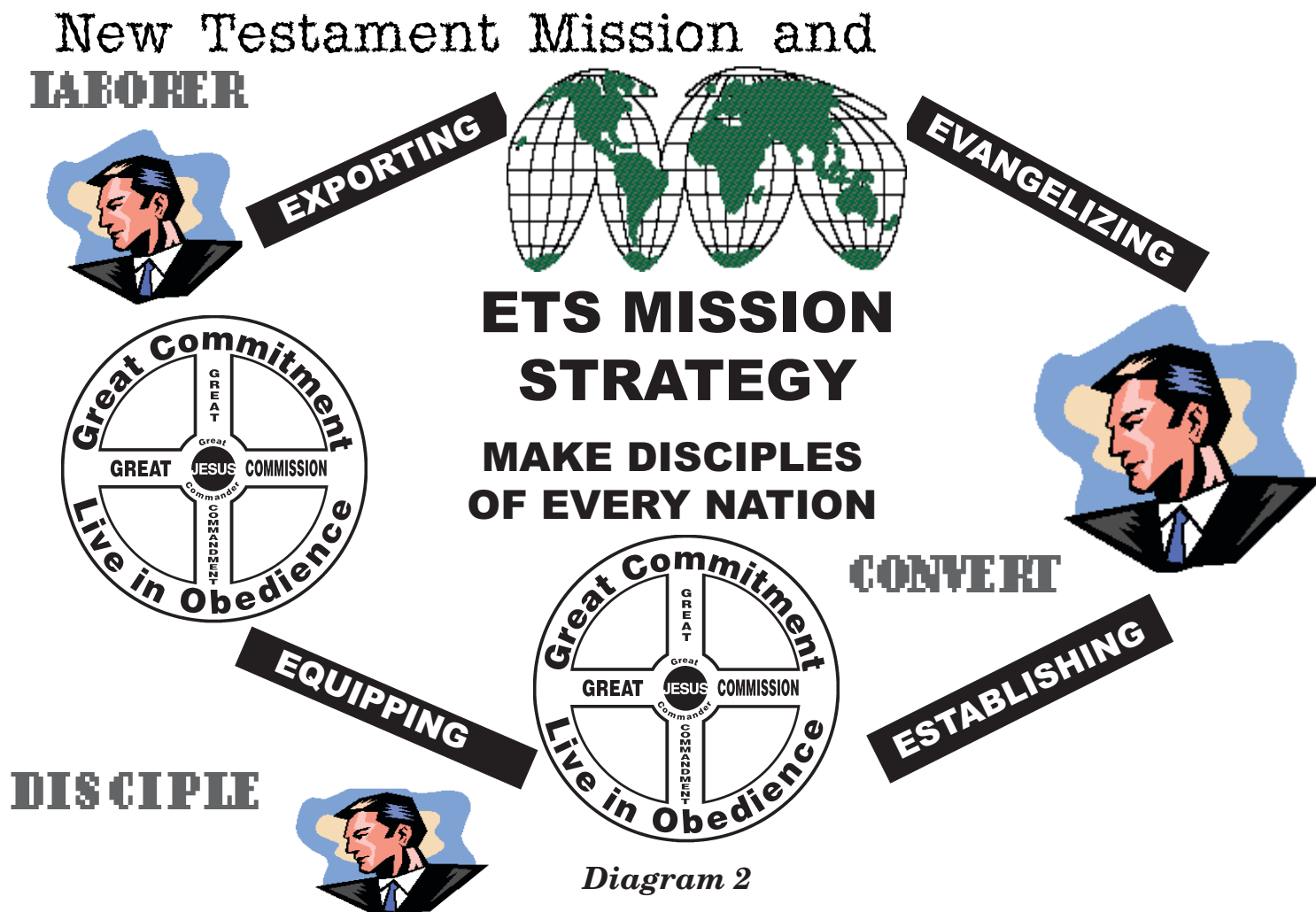


Diagram 2

## Strategy

The mission, or Jesus' final commandment to His disciples, was carefully stated for us in the Great Commission:

*And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

This command will be the basis upon which we will be evaluated at the Bema, or Reward Seat of Christ. Here we will account for the stewardship of our lives. The question that will be set before us is: Did we exchange our lives for the winning and discipling of the nations? In diagram 2, the globe reminds us not to lose sight of our objectives.



### EVANGELIZING

Like Jesus, we begin our mission sharing the Gospel with lost people.

*From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

*Matthew 4:17*



**CONVERT**

But, our Evangelism can only produce a *convert*. Nowhere are we ever told to "go and make converts." The only thing we are commanded to do is "make disciples." Conversion is only the first step to making a disciple. For forty-eight years, I have watched people preach the Gospel, and after they have prayed with someone to receive Christ, they pat them on the back, tell them to read their Bible and keep coming back to church, and that is the end of their involvement. They see the Great Commission as converting lost



people, not making disciples. That is why Matthew tells the imperative is to make disciples.

## ESTABLISHING

Now the question becomes, “How do you develop a convert into a disciple?” That is done by “establishing” him. But, establishing him in what? Since Christianity is not a religion, we want to help new converts develop their personal relationship with God. Religion is man reaching up for God, trying to perform in order to be accepted by God. Only in Christianity do we find God reaching down for fallen mankind, inviting us into an intimate and personal relationship with Himself. By helping a convert experience the depth of this relationship, we rescue him from the deception of religious practices.

## Life in His Name

In the ETS training materials, we have a booklet to help disciplers “establish” the converts they are discipling. This teaching tool was formerly called *Studies in John*. It is a 31-day study guide that has four parts: *Bible Study*, *Bible Reading*, *Quiet Time*, and *Scripture Memory*.

These four elements introduce new converts to practical methods of Bible study, etc., and teach them how to further develop their personal relationship with God. When we lead someone to Christ, it may be appropriate to tell him or her, “You did not join a religious organization today, but you did enter into a personal relationship with God. I feel a sense of responsibility to teach you how to deepen this relationship you have begun today.”

To summarize: the means by which you insure that a convert becomes a disciple is to establish him or her in a vertical relationship with God (review the vertical spokes of the Wheel: **The Word, and Prayer**).

## NOTES



## DISCIPLE

## NOTES



**LABORER**

*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.*

*Acts 2:41,42*

## EQUIPPING

The next step in our diagram refers to “equipping.” Having become a disciple, we must further EQUIP him.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:11,12*

The New Testament Church was to be built on the *priesthood of every believer*. The Old Testament Tabernacle was built on the Levitical priesthood. In the New Testament, the apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors/teachers are all given the same job description: **equipping or training the saints** in the Body of Christ, using the particular gifting they have received from the Holy Spirit.

It is important for us to understand who the **saints** are and why they need equipping. The saints are the people of God: the entire Church, the Body of Christ—the congregations of all the local churches. Notice again the job description of the saints in the next phrase. Saints are to **“do the work of the ministry”**. In the minds of most Christians, that is what they think they are paying the leadership of the church to do on their behalf. The only problem with that notion is that it is contrary to the Scriptures. The job description for the saint and the clergy are clearly delineated in this passage. We must not return to an Old Testament model where everything is done by the priest or clergy.



The leadership of the church is charged with equipping the saints horizontally (review the horizontal spokes of the Wheel: **evangelism and discipleship**) so they can know how to do the work of ministry. This means we must teach the saints how to do personal evangelism, as well as how to establish new converts in a vital, meaningful relationship with God. We must teach them also how to disciple and bring people to their full maturity in Christ, bringing the vertical and horizontal spokes into balance.

**Remember:** The discipleship wheel is only a *picture* of what a mature disciple looks like. The wheel must become real to people, not simply philosophy or theology. *The way to turn a disciple into a laborer is by equipping them horizontally to win and disciple others.*

## EXPORTING

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then he said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest send out laborers into His harvest.”*

*Matthew 9:36-38*

In this passage, Jesus says you are to pray “harvesters” or “laborers” into existence. **Praying** is the first step and never to be minimized. Then, you are charged with **equipping** those whom God brings into your life in evangelism and discipleship. You start in your Jerusalem: that place where God has planted you, and begin to expand outward. As you disciple others, you actually begin to touch the nations—the mission and vision which motivates you will begin to motivate and grip their hearts as well! Now the Holy Spirit can begin to **export laborers** into the harvest fields of the world to accomplish the task that has always been on the heart of God.

## NOTES



## NOTES

Those whom we disciple must have on their hearts what God has on His.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

*John 3:16*

The Wheel Illustration and The ETS Mission Strategy will help you more clearly understand what God has called you to do and to give you a tool to train others. Having overviewed our journey in Chapter 1, and outlined our mission in this chapter, we are left to consider the magnitude of this mission and where the source of power is going to come from to accomplish such lofty goals.

It has been said, “the problem with the Christian life is that it is so daily.” God has given us promises and resources to meet our needs. He never calls us to do anything without providing whatever is needed to fulfill it.

*He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:24*

## Jesus’ Promise to Disciples

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

*Matthew 11:28-30*

If the journey upon which you are about to embark, and if the mission you have been called to seem to overwhelm your mind, God has a promise for you. If your walk with God has become a burden and it is hard to find time for the things of God...if there is no longer a joy and blessing in your walk—then Jesus says, “**Learn of me...**”. Christ wants to clarify the vital spiritual principles that have gone

out of focus or have become cloudy in your life, so that you can again experience His joy and peace. When Jesus says, “*Take my yoke upon you...*”, He is making reference to the Spirit-filled life. When we receive Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God comes to live within us, empowering and assisting us in our walk with God. If, however, we begin to operate in our own flesh rather than in the Spirit, our joy and peace will dissipate and the Christian experience becomes burdensome.

## NOTES

*Here is an illustration:*

We are on a long journey—walking alone. One day, we have an encounter with someone who gives us a car for free to assist us as we travel to our destination. He tells us that as long as we keep the car filled with gasoline, it will help us to reach our goal and it will be a total blessing. If, however, we let the car run out of gas, we will have to push it to our destination and the car will be a burden rather than a blessing.

The Christian life can be compared to the car; the Holy Spirit is the gasoline that makes it function smoothly. If we lose focus and try to live the Christian life in our flesh, the task becomes overwhelmingly difficult and burdensome. It is as if we have let the car run out of gas and now have to push it to our destination.

We do not want anyone who begins the ETS training to miss out on all God has for him or her. Discipline will be required, and there will be times where commitment alone will carry you onward. But God promises to be there with you. The resource of the Holy Spirit is so crucial that we want to devote the next four chapters to exploring, in depth, the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, and how you can be filled with the very life of God Himself. This will ensure you to have the capacity to respond to the commandments clearly laid out in these pages.





## Review:

## NOTES

1. What are the six elements of the Discipleship Wheel?

---

---

---

---

---

2. Explain the importance of the Hub.

---

---

---

3. Explain the importance of the Rim.

---

---

---

4. What are the two commandments of Matthew 22?

---

---

5. What two elements make up the vertical spokes of the Wheel illustration? Why are they important?

---

---

---

---

**NOTES**

6. What two elements make up the horizontal spokes of the Wheel illustration? Why are they important?

---

---

---

7. What is the first component of the ETS Mission Strategy and why is it important?

---

---

---

8. What is the second component of the ETS Mission Strategy and why is it important?

---

---

---

9. What is the third component of the ETS Mission Strategy and why is it important?

---

---

---

10. What is the fourth component of the ETS Mission Strategy and why is it important?

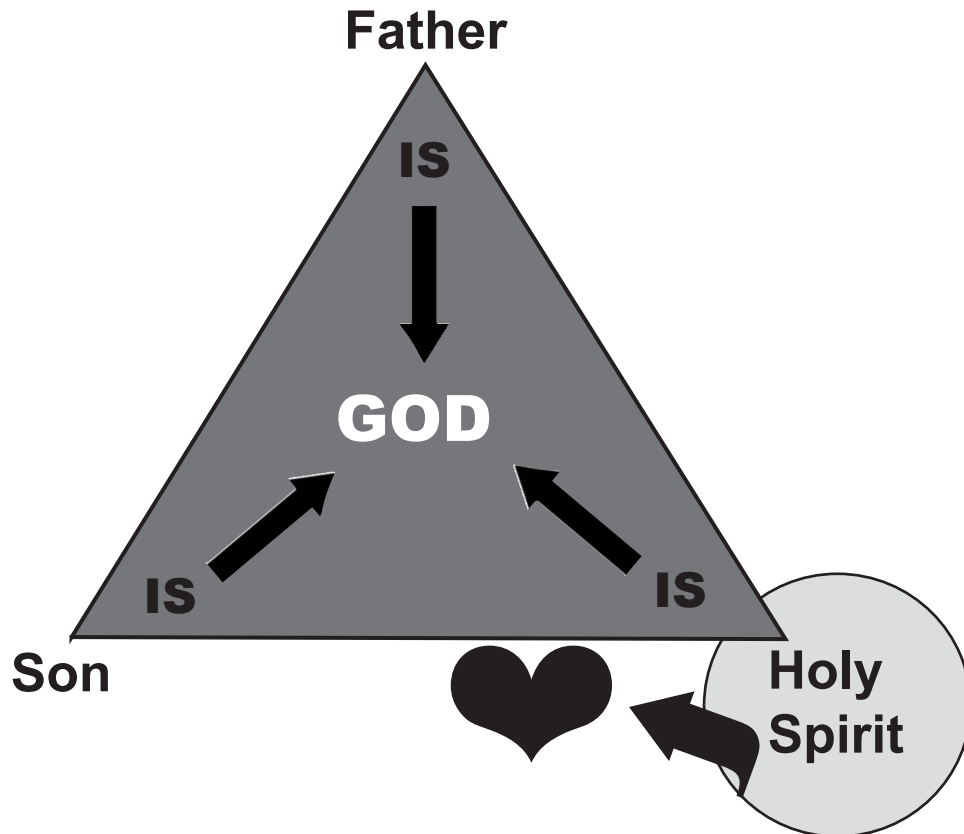
---

---

---

# SECTION 2

## *The Man: Engaging the Heart* THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



### *God's Word Says:*



“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

*Acts 1:8*







# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple's Application Guide - Chapter 3

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject Area** \_\_\_\_\_ Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship  
**Topic** \_\_\_\_\_ God's Triune Restoration of Sinful Man

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
Topic Notes		
Review God's Triune Restoration of Sinful Man		
Bible Study		
Complete Review Questions		
Personal & Spiritual Management Aid		
Outside Reading		
Read Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials pgs. 107b-115		
(Chapter 7) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize Romans 5:18,19		
Review all previous verses		



# od's Triune Restoration of Sinful Man

## CHAPTER 3

### Original Harmony on Earth

God created men and women to live in close union with Him. He created us in His image and placed us in the Garden of Eden with specific instructions. God's intention was that humankind rule over His creation.

*Then God blessed them and God said to them,  
 "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and  
 subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
 over the birds of the air, and over every living  
 thing that moves on the earth."*

*Genesis 1:28*

### Rebellion in Heaven

Sometime in eternity past, prior to man's creation, God had created an angelic host who dwelt with God in heaven. Lucifer, one of His highest ranking angels, led a rebellion against God. He was not satisfied with his exalted position and wanted to be like the Most High, with his throne elevated above God's.

*How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son  
 of the morning! How you are cut down to the  
 ground, You who weakened the nations! For you  
 have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven,  
 I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I  
 will also sit on the mount of the congregation on  
 the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above  
 the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most  
 High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,  
 to the lowest depths of the Pit.*

*Isaiah 14:12-15*

## NOTES

Lucifer was not happy with the limits God had placed upon him. For his rebellion he was cast down from heaven—along with his fallen angelic host—and he has been at war with God ever since. This fallen angel is called Satan, the devil, and is described in Scripture as a deceiver and the father of lies.

When God created Adam and Eve it was only natural that Satan would attempt to turn humans against God to serve and worship him instead.

When God created us in His image, we were given a body and a spiritual capacity to relate to God. That part of us which deals with our soul and spirit is comprised of **will**, **intellect**, and **emotion**, which are a part of man's reasoning capacity and decision-making process.

When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden, they were given specific instruction concerning the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,  
"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;  
but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil  
you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it  
you shall surely die."*

*Genesis 2:16,17*

Man was not to eat from one particular tree under penalty of death. Adam was given tremendous freedom in his life with God and his right to rule on earth, but this single limitation was placed on him regarding the tree. This commandment, which he could choose to disobey, set in operation the faculties of his decision-making processes—his will, intellect, and emotions.

## Rebellion on Earth

The devil realized that to ensnare man to worship and serve him, he must cause Adam and Eve to become dissatisfied with this limitation imposed by God. So he contrived to stir up in

Adam and Eve the desire to covet and usurp from God the right to decide for themselves what was good and what was evil. Eve, and subsequently Adam, fell prey to Satan's cunning deception and ate from the tree. Rather than becoming like God, humankind was suddenly plunged into sin, death, and separation from God. Adam was in clear rebellion when he ate of the tree from which God had specifically forbidden him to eat. Having been manipulated to think God was withholding something from them, Adam and Eve unwittingly joined Satan in his rebellion against God.

### Freedom Comes With Limitations

It should be noted and underscored that man's freedom came with limitations. We are not free to *do whatever we want*, but are only free to *choose whom we will serve*, God or Satan. The option to determine for ourselves what is good or evil was not given us by God. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve became spiritually dead and unable to further develop their relationship with God. Their bodies and souls remained alive, but their spiritual capacities died. They learned too late that God was not withholding something good from them, but was trying to protect them from something that was destructive to their very existence.

Adam and Eve, who had once known the joy of walking with God and ruling over His creation were now enslaved by Satan and eternally separated from God. Obedience had given them freedom and blessing; their disobedience had caused their death and drawn them into spiritual warfare against God. Because our obedience is the key to a Spirit-controlled life, we will look at this more closely.

### Obedience Restores Harmony

Our obedience acknowledges and demonstrates that we are comfortable with God's limitations and that we have no desire to set the standard of good and evil for ourselves. Our obedience gives notice to Satan that we will not let him make us dissatisfied with God's limitations of our freedom. Our obedience demonstrates we are God's servants. Our obedience further declares that we understand our choice is not *whether* or not to serve, but *whom* we will serve.

## NOTES

*Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*

*Romans 6:16*

### Man's Restoration to God

Man, because of his sin, is spiritually dead and separated from God. We are locked in a hopeless dilemma from which there is no escape: if we die, paying the penalty for our own sin results in continued separation from God. Only God can rescue us from this dilemma. In the Old Testament we learn that God graciously accepts the blood of an animal in place of man's blood. In the New Testament God's grace is fulfilled in the Messiah, Jesus the Son of God, second person of the Trinity. Jesus died as a substitute in man's place so the penalty for sin would be paid and we could be restored to fellowship with God.

### Abraham's Restoration

In the Old Testament, we are introduced to Abraham. Like all men, he was on the negative side of God's ledger because of his sin. God made a promise to him that all the world would be blessed through the Messiah, who would be one of his descendants. Abraham believed God's promise and this sinful man was accounted as righteous in God's eyes. Abraham was placed by God on the positive side of the ledger because he had faith in God's promise to him. The Bible calls this *justification by faith*. Like Abraham, if we place our faith in Jesus' substitutionary death for our sins, we also are placed on the positive side of God's ledger.

*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

*Romans 4:20,21*

*Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.*

*Romans 5:18*

Jesus' death and shed blood has paid the penalty for all our sins. In Scripture this is called the *grace* of God. Grace is God doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. God's grace delivered us from our hopeless condition and restored us into union with Him. The Bible reminds us that the Law was given as a "schoolmaster" to bring us to Christ, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Paul emphasizes that God's grace saved us through our faith.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

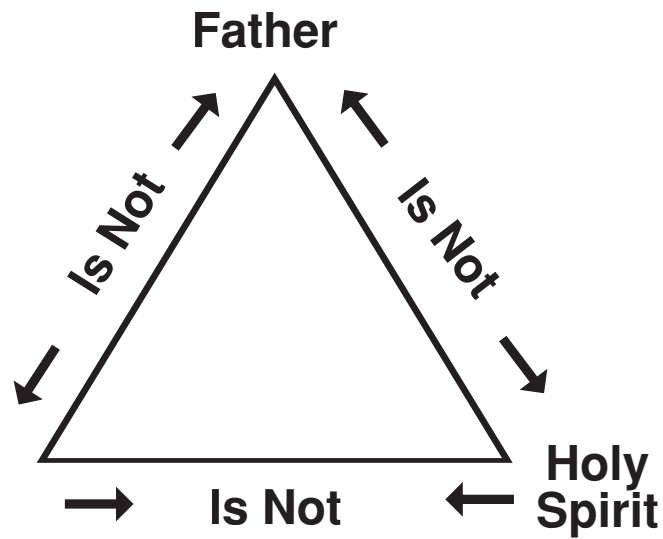
*Ephesians 2:8,9*

## The Trinity

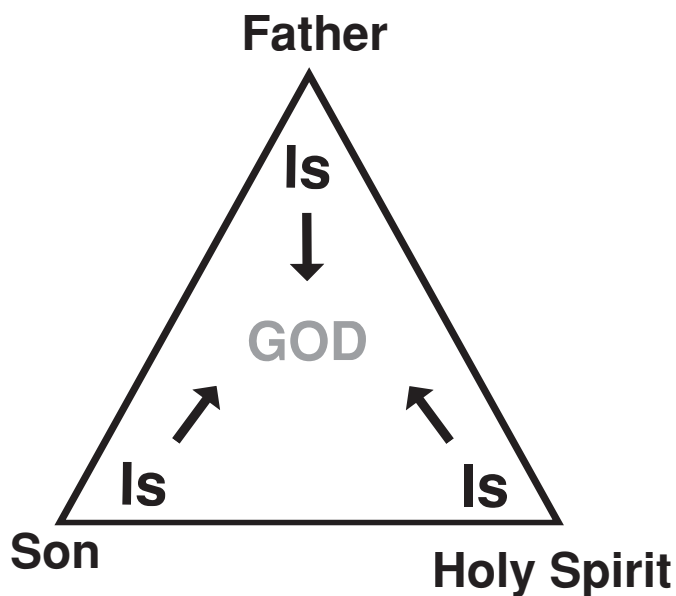
In light of the problem of sin, it is important to understand the nature of our triune God. This is perhaps one of the most difficult concepts about God to comprehend and explain to others. However, the Trinity is not so problematic when we keep in mind that God is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omnipresent (always present). The God who spoke the world into existence by the power of His Word, "Let there be light," is capable of doing whatever is needed for His creation.

In Scripture, we are taught the ministry of all three persons of the Trinity. We must not confuse the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with one another. At the baptism of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we see all three persons of the Godhead present in one place: the voice from heaven (the Father), the dove (the Spirit), descending on Jesus (the Son).

## NOTES



These three Persons are separate and distinct parts of the Godhead, yet they have unity of essence and purpose. Each has distinct responsibilities, and the Scriptures carefully distinguish among them. For instance, the Scriptures never claim that the Holy Spirit died for our sins, since that is the work of the Son. Yet we must also be very clear that the Father is God, and the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.





Even though it may be difficult for us to comprehend, it is important to realize that God, as a Trinity, is the teaching of Scripture. Because of God's triune nature, He was able through the Son's sinless life to die and pay the penalty for our sins (justification). Through the Holy Spirit's ministry He was able to empower us to walk in victory over our sins (sanctification), so that one day the Father would be able to welcome us into heaven (glorification).

In the creation narrative, beginning at Genesis 1:1, the name of God is clearly singular.

*In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth.*

*Genesis 1:1*

Yet in Genesis 1:26 and 3:22, the triune nature of God is hinted at (emphasis added):

*Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness..."*

*Genesis 1:26*

*Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of **Us**, to know good and evil..."*

*Genesis 3:22*

## Man: Dual or Triune Nature?

When mankind was created, he was made in God's image and in the likeness of Jesus' humanity. Therefore, in our humanity, we possess an immortal spirit that allows us to relate personally to God. This sets us apart from the rest of God's creation. Being created in God's image, does not mean equality with God—He is Deity, we are humanity.

In Hebrew culture, man is viewed as being **dual** in nature—body and soul. In Greek culture, man is viewed as being **triune** in nature—body, soul, and spirit.

## NOTES

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:23*

Both Greeks and Hebrews perceived the body as the physical dimension of our existence. The Hebrews viewed the soul and spirit as one—will, intellect, emotions—and through them, we are able to relate to God. The Greeks differentiated the spirit from the soul, believing we relate to God from this part of our being.

## God the Father

Again, the triune God is one in essence yet three in person: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father orchestrates the divine plan to redeem fallen mankind back into fellowship with Himself. Jesus looks to the Father and follows His instructions obediently—He did nothing on His own, but was guided by the Father. During Jesus' life and ministry, He focused the spotlight on the Father and lived as His obedient servant. He taught us to do the same: to keep our eyes on the Father and do nothing for our own glory.

## God the Son

Jesus is the second person of the Godhead. In John's Gospel, Jesus' deity is stressed so the reader will be clear that He is God. John declares:

***In the beginning** WAS **the WORD...***  
***John 1:1***

***The WORD** was WITH **God...***  
***John 1:1***

***The WORD** WAS **God...***  
***John 1:1***

***The WORD** BECAME **flesh and dwelt among us.***  
***John 1:14***

The WORD is capitalized because it refers to Deity. Luke records God's words to Mary:

NOTES

*“...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

*Luke 1:35*

God became a man and lived among us. In His humanity, He was fully man, yet fully God. Jesus voluntarily accepted the human limitations placed upon Him by the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life, and therefore, became the perfect sacrifice necessary to redeem sinful man from the penalty of death. Because He was human, He was able to die for humanity, and because He is the Son of God, He was able to die for all men and women.

*For it is by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man's obedience, many will be made righteous.*

*Romans 5:19*

As Adam's sin and death was passed to all humanity, so Jesus' death made it possible for all men to be restored to life in God. Jesus also demonstrated that it is possible for us to live in obedience to God's commandments if we will live a life by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was led by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and victorious over Satan.

## God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. During Jesus' earthly ministry we see the Holy Spirit active in His life from start to finish:

- ***Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit***

*And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also,*

NOTES

*that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

*Luke 1:35*

- ***The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus***

*When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*

*Matthew 3:16*

- ***Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit to the wilderness to be tempted.***

*Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.*

*Luke 4:1*

- ***Jesus was sealed by the Spirit***

*Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.*

*John 6:27*

- ***Jesus was anointed by the Spirit to preach***

*“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

*Luke 4:18,19*

- ***Jesus cast out demons by the Spirit***

*“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God,  
surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”  
Matthew 12:28*

- ***Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit***

*In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said,  
“I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
that You have hidden these things from the wise  
and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even  
so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.”  
Luke 10:21*

- ***Jesus offered Himself up through the Spirit***

*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who  
through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without  
spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead  
works to serve the living God?  
Hebrews 9:14*

- ***Jesus was raised from the dead by the Spirit***

*...concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who was born of the seed of David according to  
the flesh, AND declared TO BE the Son of God with  
power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the  
resurrection from the dead.  
Romans 1:3,4*

- ***Jesus gave commands to His disciples by the Spirit***

*...until the day in which He was taken up, after  
He through the Holy Spirit had given command-  
ments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to  
whom He also presented Himself alive after His  
suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen  
by them during forty days and speaking of the  
things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

*Acts 1:2,3*

## NOTES

Jesus, then, in His humanity, was empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a sinless life in order to accomplish our salvation. He was constantly dependent upon the Spirit's power to fulfill God's perfect will in His earthly ministry. Jesus demonstrated for us that it is possible to defeat Satan if we will walk in the Spirit rather than in the power of the flesh.

## Victory Through the Holy Spirit

The same Spirit that was given to Jesus so that He could walk in victory is now available to every born again believer in Jesus Christ. Our Savior's "secret" to victory over the devil was obedience to the Father by the power of the Spirit. For most Christians, the Spirit-filled life has never come into focus. Most try to live the Christian life by their own power. It is no wonder so many end up defeated, with little joy in their walk with God. That is precisely why we need sound instruction on the Life and Ministry of God the Holy Spirit!

It is interesting to note that Jesus said very little about the Holy Spirit during His earthly ministry. It was only when He was ready to die and institute the New Covenant that He began to instruct the disciples regarding the coming of a "Comforter"—the Holy Spirit. At the end of the Passover meal, Jesus devoted His farewell address to outlining the ministry of the Holy Spirit for them and for us. Jesus said He was going to send the Spirit, Who would live and abide in them, and empower them to live in obedience to the commandments of God. Previously, under the Old Covenant, they had been given "special fillings" of the Spirit for various tasks. Seven weeks later came the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost.

Jesus taught by example the power of the Spirit-filled life. In the flesh, we are no match for the devil, but in the Spirit, the devil is no match for us, even as he was no match for Jesus. This chapter gave us a basic understanding of the members of the Trinity. In the next chapter, we will deal further with the Spirit-filled life.

## Review:

## NOTES

1. How was man's harmony with God broken?

---

---

---

2. What was Lucifer's main problem with God?

---

---

---

---

---

3. How did Lucifer use his problem to lead us into rebellion with God?

---

---

---

---

---

4. How did God's limitation on us bring us freedom?

---

---

---

5. Explain how obedience and freedom work together?

---

---

**NOTES**

6. Explain how Adam's sin and Jesus' death restored us into a relationship with God.

---

---

---

---

---

7. What does it mean that God is:

1) Omniscient \_\_\_\_\_

2) Omnipotent \_\_\_\_\_

3) Omnipresent \_\_\_\_\_

8. Explain what you understand about justification, sanctification, and glorification.

---

---

---

9. Explain the difference between the dual and triune nature of man.

---

---

---

---

---

---



10. What three elements make up our reasoning or decision-making process?

---

---

---

11. List the ways the Holy Spirit was active in Jesus' ministry.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

12. How does the Holy Spirit help us in our walk with

---

---

---

---

---

---





# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple's Application Guide - Chapter 4

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject Area** \_\_\_\_\_ Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship  
**Topic** \_\_\_\_\_ The Spirit-filled Life and The Lordship of Christ

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
Topic Notes		
Review The Spirit-filled Life and The Lordship of Christ		
Bible Study		
Complete Review Questions		
Personal & Spiritual Management Aid		
Outside Reading		
Read Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials pgs. 116-122a		
(Chapter 7) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize 2 Corinthians 10:3-5		
Review all previous verses		



# he Spirit-filled Life and The Lordship of Christ

## CHAPTER 4

### The Spirit-filled Life

The moment we come to Christ, the third person of the Trinity takes up residence in our lives. The same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus to walk in victory over sin and Satan now lives in us and is empowering us to do the same. We do not have to try to live the Christian life by our own strength. If we do, our defeat is assured. This is why it is so important that we understand the Spirit-filled life. If we fail to learn what the Scriptures teach us about the Spirit's ministry to us and in us, we will live in defeat, and there will be no joy in our walk with God. One of the first things the Spirit will teach us is that Jesus is Lord.

#### Jesus is Lord

Both the Father and the Holy Spirit place the spotlight on Jesus, the Savior of mankind. The Father and the Holy Spirit never ask us to relate to them, but to Jesus. There is no jealousy in the Godhead because all three are God. In God's plan, Jesus is made Lord over all.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*

*Colossians 1:15-18*

## NOTES

### Making Jesus Lord

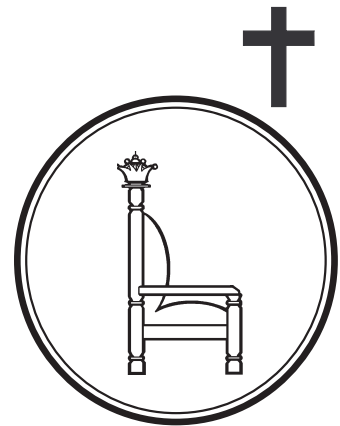
It is one thing for Jesus to reign as Lord over all the earth, but another thing for Him to rule as Lord over our personal lives. In every person's heart there is a throne, and someone or something is ruling from that throne. The Bible speaks of three types of men upon earth—the ***natural, the carnal, and the spiritual***.

#### The Natural Man

The natural man is described for us as unable to receive the things of God:

*But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

*1 Corinthians 2:14*



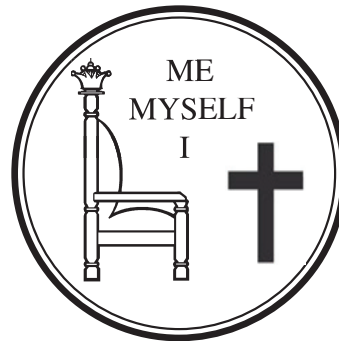
This type of man may know nothing about God, or know about Him intellectually, but has never entered into a personal relationship with God—He exists only outside his life. The natural man sits on the throne of his life, allowing Satan to rule and control him, all the while believing he is ruling his own life. His life does not honor God and is characterized by idolatry, greed, pride, and lust. Paul describes the natural man's life in very strong language:

*“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

*Galatians 5:19-21*

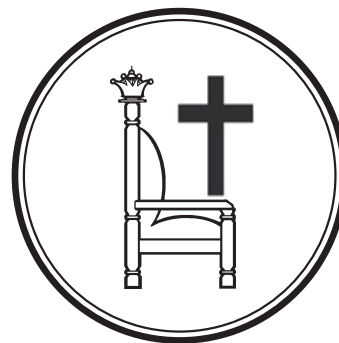
### The Carnal Man

The carnal man may know the Lord, but he is still trying to control his own life. He wants Jesus to be the “co-pilot,” but he fails to acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ. As long as he is in the driver’s seat, Jesus will let the carnal man go and allow the normal consequences of his own decisions discipline his carnal nature. When he has made a mess of his life and is ready to abdicate the throne, then God will graciously come to assume control and lead him to that place of peace and joy and fulfillment of His will.



### The Spiritual Man

The Spiritual man is the one who comprehends the Spirit-filled life and allows the Spirit to lead and totally control his life. His life is described by these characteristics:



*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

*Galatians 5:22,23*

The contrast is clear: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, etc., versus love, joy, peace... the choice is also clear. The spiritual man is the man God desires all of us to be. Several things result from being Spirit-filled:

- ***The Spirit-filled Man Desires to Imitate God***

*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness of covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness,*

## NOTES

*nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.*

*Ephesians 5:1-7*

- ***The Spirit-filled Man no Longer Walks in the Dark***

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."*

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

- ***The Spirit-filled Man is Wise***

*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

*Ephesians 5:15-21*

The Spirit-filled man has allowed the Holy Spirit to invade



his life. He begins to experience new and wonderful things, as transformation takes place. No longer filled with darkness, fear, sin, or grief, the light of God and the joy of the Spirit fill his life.

*Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*

*Nehemiah 8:10*

## Spirit-filled Decision-making

One of the keys to experiencing the Spirit-filled life is learning how to make godly decisions. Our decision-making is governed by the will, the intellect, and the emotions. If we don't allow God to control the interior of our souls and spirits, then we cannot make Spirit-filled decisions. Normally, Satan attacks us first in our minds, as he did with Eve in the Garden of Eden, when he questioned her concerning God's commandment:

*Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “**Has God indeed said,** ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”*

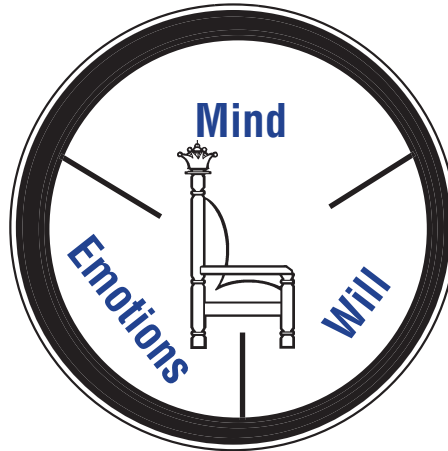
*Genesis 3:1*

**“Has God indeed said!”** What a cunning, deceptive comment Satan spoke to Eve—he planted a seed of doubt. Yet how many of us allow our own thoughts, and even other people to tempt us in the same manner, by getting inside our minds like just like Satan does? We need to understand that our emotions are responders, lacking intelligence, unable to discern among past, present, and future. We feel something because we think something. Many of our emotional problems are thought problems. When we let God control our thoughts and our minds, we no longer have to

## NOTES

listen to self-defeating thoughts or comments that linger in the back of our minds or even defeating comments directly spoken from others.

## Understanding Our Emotions

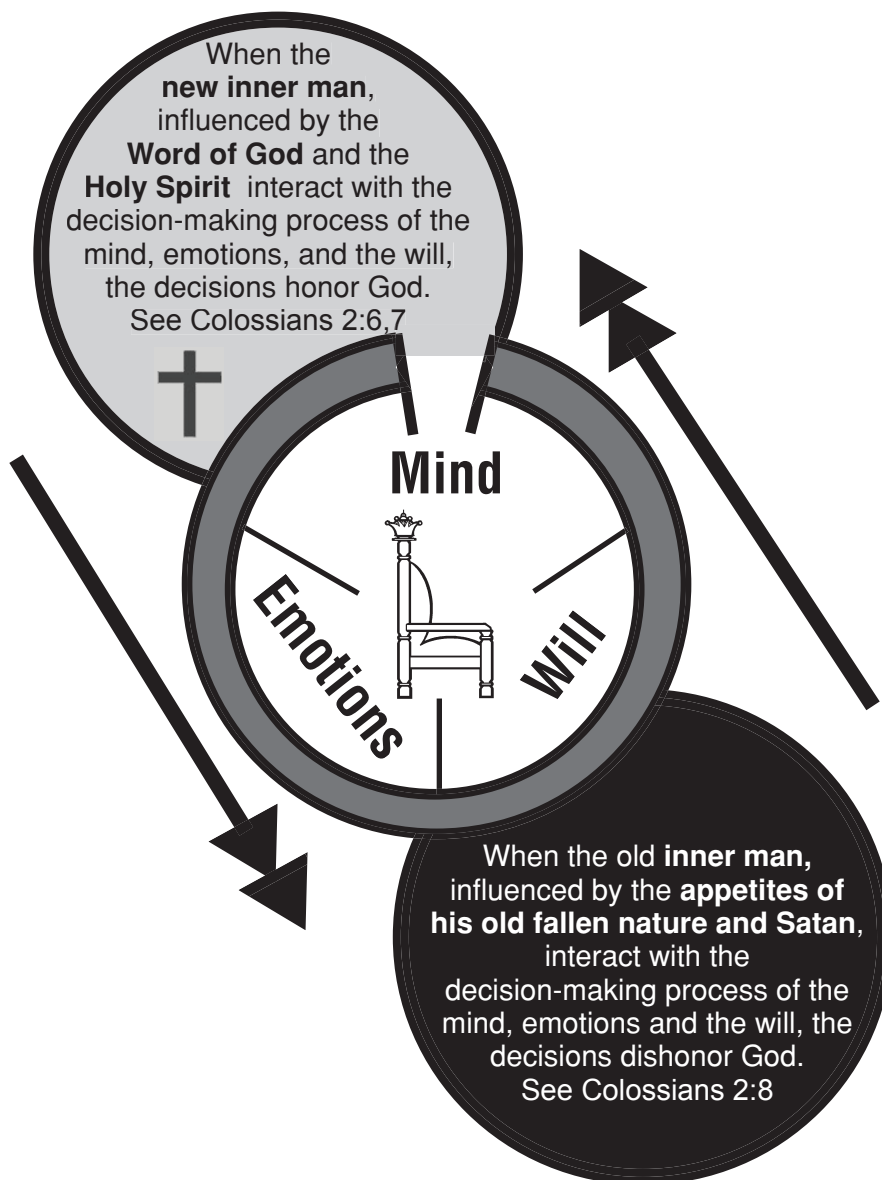


- **EMOTIONS are RESPONDERS; they...**
  - ...Lack intelligence
  - ...Cannot discern fact from fantasy
  - ...Cannot discern past, present, or future
- **We FEEL something because we THINK something**
- **EMOTIONAL problems in most cases, then, are really THINKING problems**

## The Battle for the Decision-making Process

God has given us the Scriptures so we will know His will for our lives. When the mind of the Spirit-filled man is guided by the Word of God, his decisions will honor God. When the carnal mind is guided by the appetites or the carnal nature, we become dissatisfied with God's limitations, and our decisions consequently dishonor God.

Notice in the following illustration, the battle being waged by the devil and the Holy Spirit for control of the decision-



*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*

*Colossians 3:9,10*

So the battle rages for the control of our decision-making process. Victory is much simpler when we allow the Spirit to direct our minds. When the Holy Spirit is in control of the thoughts and desires of our minds, He can freely work to influence our will, which enables our emotions to become God honoring. Defeat is assured if we allow ungodly emo-

## Godly Decisionmaking

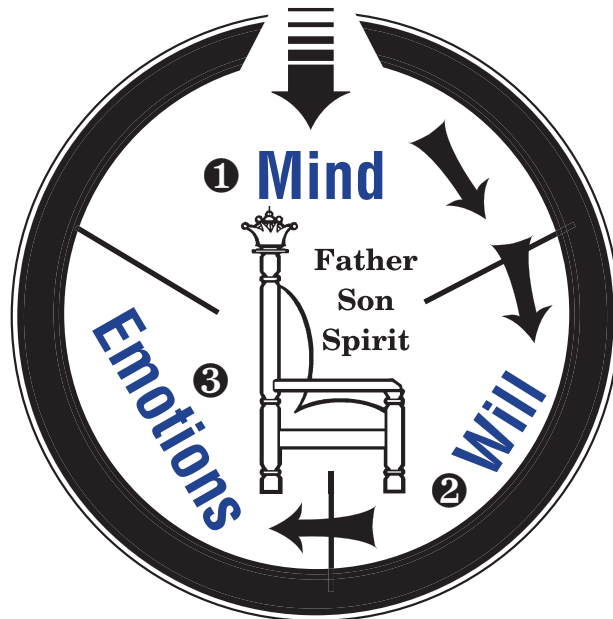
*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.*

*Colossians 2:6,7*

• **OBJECTIVE DECISIONS** are made on the basis of the commandments of God and allow emotions to assume their proper role as responders.

- ① OUR MIND is programmed by the Word of God
- ② By faith, our WILLS act in obedience to God's Word
- ③ We experience Godly EMOTIONS and our obedience produces the Fruit of the Spirit and PEACE

## Input: Truth or Error



*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

*Galatians 5:22,23*

## ***Ungodly Decisionmaking***

*Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*

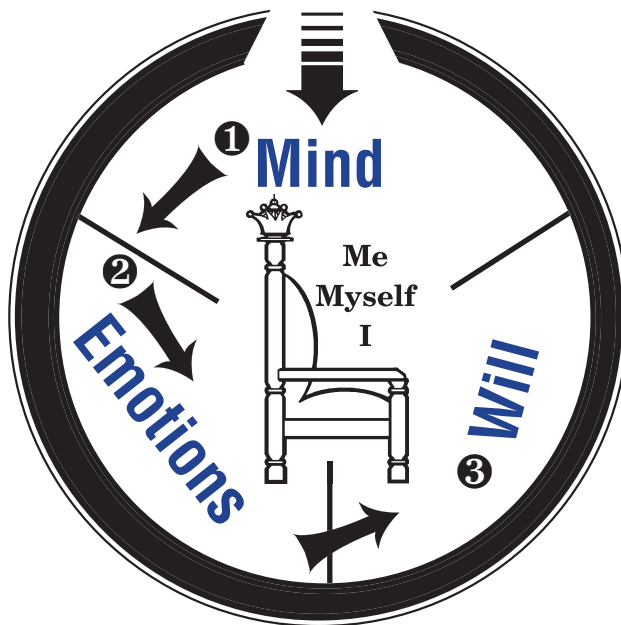
*Colossians 2:8*

NOTES

• **SUBJECTIVE DECISIONS** are made on the basis of emotions and desires, wholly apart from the commandments of God.

- ① OUR MIND is programmed by worldly philosophies
- ② EMOTIONS predictably respond, creating ungodly desires and actions
- ③ Our WILL acts on these desires and produces the Fruit of the Flesh, DEPRESSION and DESPAIR

### ***Input: Truth or Error***



*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Galatians 5:19-21*

## NOTES

A clear understanding of these four illustrations is critical to our understanding of how decisions are made. Review these illustrations until you can clearly articulate them to someone else.

### The Process of Lordship

When we came to Christ, we may have thought we chose Him. But we did not choose God—He chose us! Jesus makes this abundantly clear in the Gospel of John.

*“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”*

*John 15:16*

Paul also reminds us that we were chosen before the very foundation of the world:

*Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

*Ephesians 1:4-6*

And the Psalmist also tells us that God was always with us, even when we were formed in our mother’s womb:

*For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned*

*for me, when as yet there were none of them.  
How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O  
God! How great is the sum of them!*

*Psalm 139:13-17*

From birth to this present day, nothing in our lives has been hidden from God's omniscient eye. God has been intimately involved in bringing us to Himself, and sustaining us to this very day.

- ***He arranged our hearing of the Gospel.***
- ***He gave us the readiness to hear the Good News about Christ.***
- ***He brought conviction of sins to our hearts.***
- ***He rejoiced at our confession and repentance.***
- ***He worked out our conversion and rebirth.***
- ***He filled us with His Holy Spirit.***
- ***He walks with us and protects us daily.***

## The Grace of God

When we consider our salvation, we must confess that it is all by God's grace. It has been said that we should "never get over the wonder of being saved." It is difficult to comprehend the great love that God has for us, but as we open the Word of God each day, we are reassured that His love for us will never end, and we can experience His love each day as we walk with Him. At the moment of our rebirth, that part of us that was spiritually dead because of sin, was reborn. And by His grace, the Spirit of God came to live within us and sanctify us as His earthly temples. God desires that we be holy even as He is holy.

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God  
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

*1 Corinthians 3:16*

## NOTES

Satan is naturally furious when natural men are transferred to God's Kingdom and become spiritual men. When the truth of the Gospel set us free from the enemy and made us God's possession—under His umbrella of protection—we were no longer destined for hell, but heaven became our future home.

As Jesus is the key to our **salvation**, so the Spirit is the key to our **sanctification**. We were filled with the Spirit at the moment of our conversion, and Paul reminds us that we have been blessed “with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*  
*Ephesians 1:3*

This passage assures us the Spirit holds nothing back. There is no way for us to “get more of God,” for we have already been given all of Him. The real key is God getting “all of us.” When each of us walk in obedience by the power of the Spirit, we are able to enjoy the fullness of God's blessings. Even in periods of “dryness” in our walk with God, He stands ready to refresh us—as illustrated in the book of Acts.

*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...*  
*Acts 3:19*

Our sanctification is a joint venture between the Spirit and ourselves. We must be willing to turn over every area of our lives to God. We have the responsibility to maintain the holiness of the temple that we have become. We should be a testimony to the world that God reigns in our lives. As the fruit of the Spirit radiates from our lives, we become powerful witnesses to the grace of God. Like magnets, people are attracted to the Christ within us. No longer on the sidelines as mere spectators of God's work in the world, we become



instruments that God uses to build His kingdom. This is a real crossroads for every disciple. The Spirit is given by God—not just for our enjoyment and pleasure. He comes as a “comforter,” but He comes also to convict us, to reprove us, and to prod us toward maturity and involvement in the work of the Kingdom.

The Spirit-filled life must always be balanced with the Lordship of Christ. When Jesus encountered the woman at the well, He made a remarkable comment:

*“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”*

*John 4:23*

Spirit is balanced with Truth. The Christian life is both the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. ETS seeks to keep both in dynamic balance. While emphasis must always be placed on the importance of daily communion with God through His Holy Word, the Spirit always has a dynamic, daily ministry in our lives. That is the subject of Chapter 5.



## Review:

## NOTES

1. What is the first thing the Holy Spirit will teach you about Jesus' ministry?

---

---

2. What are the three kinds of people the Bible tells us are on earth?

---

---

3. Describe each of these men:

natural \_\_\_\_\_

carnal \_\_\_\_\_

spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the three key elements of the decision-making process?

---

---

5. What did you learn about emotions in this chapter?

---

6. Explain the battle for the decision-making process in our lives.

---

---

---

**NOTES**

7. Describe the Godly decision-making process.

---

---

---

8. Describe the ungodly decision-making process.

---

---

---

9. What is the main tool the Holy Spirit uses to communicate to us?

---

---

10. What did you learn personally in this chapter about the Spirit-filled life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple's Application Guide - Chapter 5

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject Area** \_\_\_\_\_ Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship  
**Topic** \_\_\_\_\_ The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
Topic Notes		
Review The Ministry of the Holy Spirit		
Bible Study		
Complete Review Questions		
Personal & Spiritual Management Aid		
Outside Reading		
Read Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials pgs. 122b-130		
(Chapter 7) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize Ephesians 3:14-19		
Review all previous verses		



# he Ministry of the Holy Spirit

NOTES

## CHAPTER 5

### The Spirit is Given at Pentecost

The subject of the Holy Spirit has been controversial throughout Church history. We want to remain faithful to Biblical teaching in the ETS training. No one can refute the wonderful events recorded for us in the opening chapters of the book of Acts.

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

*Acts 1:8*

Jesus promised this upon His departure, and it was fulfilled in Acts 2, when the Spirit was poured out on a group of 120 people gathered together in a small upper room. Why was the Spirit given? In the Old Testament, as we have previously alluded to, the Spirit came only for special occasions, and did not remain. Now, with the departure of the Savior, the Spirit came to stay!

One of the first teachings about the ministry of the Holy Spirit is that He came to empower believers to be **witnesses** to others about Jesus’ life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

Statistics tell us that only 5% of believers witness to others, but if witnessing to others is the natural result of the Spirit-filled life, then it is clear that the Spirit-filled life has not come into focus for many believers. In this chapter, we want to explore the ministry of the Holy Spirit’s involvement in our lives, and explore what our responsibilities toward him should be, in return.

## NOTES

### The Work of the Holy Spirit Toward Us

We have seen how much God loves us, and how by His Spirit He wants to develop us into powerful ministers of the Gospel. In doing so, the world in our lifetime can be won and disciplined for Him. God is not interested in only using us, but also in “growing us up” and developing us to make us into the kind of people He intended us to be.

### The Holy Spirit Gives Us Gifts

According to 1 Corinthians 12, God bestows upon every believer a gift or gifts to make us more effective in our ministry. Each person is uniquely gifted to contribute to the building up of the Body of Christ, and since no one possesses all of the gifts, we must learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*

*1 Corinthians 12:7*

### The Holy Spirit Helps Us In Our Prayers

As members of Christ’s Body, we are not to be independent, but interdependent with one another in the community of faith. Paul assured the church at Rome that the Spirit of God is praying on our behalf when we do not know how to pray.

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

*Romans 8:26,27*

### The Holy Spirit Guides Us Into Ministry

We are shown in Scripture that the Spirit calls believers into ministry according to God’s perfect timing and according to His will:



*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*

*Acts 13:2*

### The Holy Spirit's Ministry is Explained

In Jesus' final hours on earth, He explained the coming ministry of the Holy Spirit to His disciples. Prior to this, He had been silent concerning the Spirit. Now He told them His time with them was almost over, and that He was ready to depart and return to the Father. The disciples could not go with Him, but He promised to ask the Father to send another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who would be *with* them and *in* them. John 14-16 explains much of the ministry of the Spirit to us.

*“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”*

*John 14:16*

*“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”*

*John 16:7*

### The Holy Spirit Will Teach Us All Things

Jesus promised that the Comforter would teach the disciples all that they would need to know.

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

*John 14:26*

## NOTES

The key to knowing God's will for us is spending time in God's Word so the Spirit can teach us. God can speak to us in many ways (there are many windows to the soul), but primarily, He speaks through His word. It is the Spirit Who interprets that Word to our minds and hearts.

Failure to spend time reading and meditating on the Word is one of the indicators of walking in the flesh and will eventually end in departure from the faith. The Spirit will call to mind as we read everything that Jesus has taught us if we will take the time to meditate. Many people wait for someone else to "spoon feed" them the Word and tell them what they should be doing without ever reading and studying for themselves. This is not a picture of the Spirit-filled life.

### The Holy Spirit Will Bear Witness of Jesus

In John 15:26 we learn that the Comforter will testify about Jesus.

*"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."*

*John 15:26*

The Savior of the world is the focal point within the Trinity. God the Father appointed Jesus to be the head of all things. We come to the Father only through Jesus. The Holy Spirit always bears witness of Jesus. Negligence in our teaching about the ministry of the Holy Spirit allows Satan, the master deceiver, to confuse believers about the Spirit's work. The Spirit never calls us into an experience with Himself, but always to a relationship and experience with Christ.

### The Spirit Convicts Us

*"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."*

*John 16:8*

The Spirit brings us under conviction so that we become aware of our sin. The Spirit brings righteousness to people by teaching that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

*John 14:6*

Finally, the Spirit convicts people of the truth of judgment. Satan stands in opposition to these truths, but we are assured that the Spirit of God bears witness to these truths as we minister to people.

### The Holy Spirit Guides Us Into Truth

The Comforter will guide us into all truth, not speaking from Himself, but speaking those things that He hears from the Father and showing us the things to come:

*"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

*John 16:13*

If we will walk in the Spirit, we will be guided into the full truth of the Scriptures and into every truth God wants us to know. We should speak only what we hear Him speak to us, just as Jesus did.

### The Holy Spirit Will Glorify Jesus

Just as Jesus' life and ministry brought glory to God, so the ministry of the Spirit will glorify Jesus.

*"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."*

*John 16:14*

## Our Responsibility to the Holy Spirit

Just as the Holy Spirit has been given certain responsibilities toward us, the Scriptures remind us that we also have responsibilities toward Him. The Scriptures instruct us concerning things we are *not* to do as well as things we *are* to do.

### Things Not to Do

#### Don't Rebel

In Isaiah, the Old Testament saints were rebuked for vexing and rebelling against the Holy Spirit. They worked contrary to the will of God rather than allowing God to help them.

*But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit;  
So He turned Himself against them as an  
enemy, And He fought against them.*

*Isaiah 63:10*

#### Don't Lie

Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles about the price of a piece of land. God said it was not the apostles, but the Holy Spirit to whom they were lying. When we lie about things that have to do with the Kingdom of God, we need to be careful that we are not lying to the Holy Spirit.

*But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled  
your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back  
part of the price of the land for yourself?"*

*Acts 5:3*

#### Don't Resist

In Acts, the religious leaders are charged with resisting the Holy Spirit because of their rejection of Jesus.

*"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart  
and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as  
your fathers did, so do you."*

*Acts 7:51*

When we reject certain biblical truths because they go against our own prejudices, we need to be sure that we are not resisting the Holy Spirit.

### Don't Grieve

In Ephesians, we are charged not to grieve the Holy Spirit by disobeying God's commandments. God has commanded us to love one another, and when we act in an unloving way toward others, we grieve the Holy Spirit.

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

*Ephesians 4:30-32*

### Don't Quench

When we refuse in our disobedience to follow the guidance of the Spirit, the Spirit's influence on our lives becomes diminished. We are told:

*Do not quench the Spirit.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:19*

### Don't Blaspheme

In the Gospel of Matthew we are warned not to blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

*"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."*

*Matthew 12:31,32*

## NOTES

When the religious leaders took the work of the Holy Spirit and attributed it to Satan, they were in danger of blasphemy. We should be very careful when judging things to be the work of the devil. If we walk in the Spirit, we need not worry about “accidentally” falling into blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will guide us and assure that we do not fall into these temptations.

## Things We Are to Do

### Be Filled

In his epistle to the Ephesians, Paul commanded us to be filled with the Spirit.

*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.  
Ephesians 5:18*

On a daily basis, we need to be in communion with God, allowing the Spirit to keep us filled. The meaning of “be filled” in the Greek language is more accurately translated, “be being filled”—a day-by-day action. In other words, there is more than one filling of the Spirit! The apostle writes, that as we give ourselves to others in ministry, we need to be re-filled and re-fuelled. However, the Spirit is unable to fill us if our lives have not been surrendered to His lordship.

### Take The Sword of The Spirit

In Ephesians also, we are charged to take the Sword of the Spirit as we engage in spiritual warfare.

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...  
Ephesians 6:17*

The Word of God is our defense against the attacks of our enemy, Satan. But we must be skilled in its use. Paul reminds the church at Corinth that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God.

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

*2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

### Pray in the Spirit

In Ephesians, we are told to *pray in the Spirit*. Praying in the Spirit is praying in such a way that the Spirit is guiding us concerning what and whom to pray for. Sometimes, we are at a loss as to how to pray, and we do not want to pray contrary to God's will. We, therefore, ask God for guidance in our prayers.

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*

*Ephesians 6:17,18*

We pray in the Spirit, employing the Word of God. Some of the best prayers are praying God's Word back to God! For example, the Psalms were originally prayers and spiritual songs. The Word is the Sword of the Spirit. Jesus said, "My words are spirit and life." We also pray with other Spirit-filled believers, and pray as the Spirit gives us utterance.

### Be Empowered by the Spirit

*Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.*

*Luke 4:14*



## Be Anointed by the Spirit

*“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”*

*Luke 4:18*

We ask God to anoint us with His wisdom and power so that we do not end up ministering in the flesh. If Jesus needed God’s anointing, how much more do we?

## Be Baptized by the Spirit

As John baptized his disciples in water (water being the agent), Jesus baptized His disciples in and by the Holy Spirit (the Holy Spirit being the agent).

*“I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

*Mark 1:8*

*“For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

*Acts 1:5*

We must see that this anointing and baptism of the Holy Spirit, this filling of the Spirit, is for us today—for our lives and for our ministries. The Holy Spirit of God is the one who supplies the grace and power for disciples to be obedient, fruitful, and to make other disciples. It is not the Holy Spirit’s responsibility to go, but the disciple’s. The disciple is to yield himself to the Lord by His Spirit. Today many want to worship in the power of the Spirit, but not work or witness in the power of the Spirit. May you, the reader, be the Spirit-filled believer that Jesus wants you to be, winning the world to Christ and making disciples of all nations.



## Review:

1. What does the Bible teach us about the Spirit giving disciples spiritual gifts?

---

2. How does the Spirit help us in our prayer life?

---

Have you ever experienced this? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus teach His disciples about the ministry of the Holy Spirit during the Passover evening?

John 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:26 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:7 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:8 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:14 \_\_\_\_\_

4. When was the Spirit of God given to the disciples?

---

5. How do you understand the new covenant in the ministry of the Holy Spirit? (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Mark 1:7-8, Matthew 3:11)

---

---

---

6. According to Acts 1:8, the Holy Spirit gives us power to do what?

---

**NOTES**

7. What does the Bible warn us not to do in relationship to the Holy Spirit:

Acts 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 7:51 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thess 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What are we taught to do in obedience to the Holy Spirit?

1 Thess 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you consider yourself a mature, Spirit-filled disciple?  
Explain

---

---

---

---

10. What gift or gifts has the Holy Spirit given you?

---

---

---

---



# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Disciple's Application Guide - Chapter 6

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject Area** \_\_\_\_\_ Master Plan For Biblical Discipleship  
**Topic** \_\_\_\_\_ The Process of Being Filled with the Spirit

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
Topic Notes		
Review The Process of Being Filled with the Spirit		
Bible Study		
Complete Review Questions		
Personal & Spiritual Management Aid		
Outside Reading		
Read Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials pgs. 131-137		
(Chapter 7) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize Ephesians 4:20-24		
Review all previous verses		



# he Process of Being Filled with the Spirit

## CHAPTER 6

Because many of those studying this volume will be uncertain as to whether or not they are experiencing the Spirit-filled life, we turn now to the **process** of giving the Spirit control of our lives, or being filled with the Spirit. We emphasize “process,” since we saw in Ephesians, in the last chapter, that the filling of God’s Spirit is a matter of “be being filled.” Six aspects of this process are helpful for us to understand.

### Abdication

Where the “unholy trinity” of “me, myself, and I” once ruled on the throne of our lives, we must first ask the Lord Jesus to come and to rule over us. Like Jesus, we can simply say that we live “not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me.” We must submit ourselves to God and allow Him to live out His will in and through our lives. Literally, we are abdicating the throne of our lives.

### Incarnation

Next, we should understand that the Lord Jesus is now, by our invitation, living and dwelling within us. Having yielded ourselves—body, soul, and spirit—to God’s control, and because of His promise, He now is our Great Commander (Chapter 2). From this day forward, we are never alone.

Even in our humanity, deity lives within us and empowers us to radiate the Fruit of the Spirit. Incarnation means Jesus has become real to us—in us and with us.

*“...but you know Him (the Spirit), for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

*John 14:17*

## NOTES

### Purification

An unholy or impure life cannot be filled and controlled by the Spirit. As far as we are able, we need to confess and purify ourselves of known sin through confession and repentance.

*And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

*1 John 3:3*

As we confess our sins to God, we ask for forgiveness, and He assures us of immediate cleansing from all unrighteousness.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*1 John 1:9*

Confession also produces a clear conscience.

*This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.*

*Acts 24:16*

For many, the sins of the past seem to haunt them. A practical exercise might be in order. In ETS we call this “spiritual inventory.” We need to get alone with God and walk back through our lives, taking stock (mentally or on paper) of our wrongdoings. It may be helpful as you confess to review your list, then dispose of it as a picture of God’s forgiveness. As we confess our sins, the devil then has nothing with which to accuse us before God or men.

### What Happens When We Confess

Something quite wonderful transpires as a result of the confession of sin. God is full of compassion, and treats our sins differently than we do our own. Here are some of the things that happen to God’s people as a result of our honest confession.

- ***Our sins are nailed to the cross—sins of the past, present, and future have been paid for in full by the blood of Christ.***

*And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

*Colossians 2:13-14*

- ***Our sins are blotted out by God and remembered no more.***

*I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.*

*Isaiah 43:25*

- ***Our sins are fully accounted for.***

*But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.*

*Romans 4:5*

- ***Our sins are cast behind God's back.***

*Indeed it was for my own peace that I had great bitterness; but You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.*

*Isaiah 38:17*

- ***Our sins are cast into the depth of the sea.***

*He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*

*Micah 7:19*

## NOTES

- ***Our sins and iniquities are remembered no more.***

*“Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*

*Hebrews 10:17*

- ***Our sin is completely removed from us.***

*As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

*Psalm 103:12*

Satan will try to bring up past sins for which you have already repented, but when he does, you can remind him of these promises. Keep this list available for your prayers. Satan has no defense against the Word of God. He is described in the Bible as the “accuser of the brethren.” When he raises his ugly head to try to accuse you, review these promises and begin to praise God. Satan cannot stand the presence of God nor His promises. The Psalmist reminds us that God’s Presence is called down through praise.

*But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.*

*Psalm 22:3*

In view of God’s forgiveness toward us, we are also commanded to extend this same forgiveness to others who may have wronged us. Our willingness to forgive others is an indication of whether the Spirit is in control of our lives.

## Restitution and Reconciliation

When Zacchaeus invited Christ into his home and repented of his sins, he promised to restore fourfold anything he had dishonestly acquired.

*Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord,  
“Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor;  
and if I have taken anything from anyone by*



*false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

*Luke 19:8-10*

As we pray over the spiritual inventory we made, we need to be obedient to the Spirit if He guides us to set right our past wrongs. We must be careful not to reopen old wounds and do more harm than good. The Spirit will guide us if we seek His counsel. Making amends means more than simply saying “I’m sorry”. We must take care to deal only with our own failings without pointing out the failures of others. We would be wise to seek the counsel of more mature believers before we go to those we may have hurt. God wants to bring us to the place where we are at peace with everything and everyone.

*This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and Man.*

*Acts 24:16*

Once having made restitution, we can experience more readily the filling of the Spirit. God cannot pour His Spirit into impure, unholy vessels.

## Servanthood

Jesus says:

*“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

*Mark 10:45*

A key part of the Spirit-filled life is recognizing that we are to serve others; in so doing, we are serving the Father. Like Jesus, we realize that God has made us to pour out our lives. Without the Spirit, this is an impossibility. God has a mission for us to be engaged in during the short span

## NOTES

of our lives on earth before He brings us home. He has made us fishers of men so that we will reach out to those who do not know Him, sharing the Gospel with others in an effort to win people to Christ and to deliver them from sin's penalty of death. Being filled with the Spirit will result in a meaningful sphere of service.

God has also asked us to serve others by discipling the nations. Each of us is to be engaged in helping less mature believers, enabling them to develop to their full stature in Christ. When the Spirit is in control, He will lead us into the ministry God has commanded us to do.

Jesus commands us to win the lost and to disciple the nations. We begin in our own "Jerusalem," allowing God to direct us to the regions around us and to the ends of the earth. If we are not fishing for men and making disciples, we need to examine who is in control of our lives—the Spirit, or ourselves. We must determine to allow the Spirit of God to control our lives and to yoke ourselves to Him.

*"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

*Matthew 11:29,30*

Serving others is no small task. It cannot be done in the energy of our flesh. We need a powerful transformation. Even Jesus went up a mountain to be transfigured. There He revealed His glory to the three disciples, Peter, James and John. They were forever changed! A glimpse of glory will transform any disciple and cause him to "hunger and thirst for righteousness".

## Personal Transfiguration

In Ezekiel we are told that God is going to give us a new heart, putting His Spirit within us to cause us to walk in His statutes:

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

*Ezekiel 36:26,27*

This is an amazing promise—God assuring us that the Spirit will come and enable us to walk in obedience to His commandments. God wants to give us His Spirit perhaps more than we want to have Him!

Certainly one key to the filling of the Spirit is ***desire***. God had to lead His people into the desert in the Old Testament in order to speak “tenderly” to them (Hosea 2). Wilderness experiences, or times of *desolation* come to us by God’s gracious hand in order to produce *desperation*.

We see a picture of this in the Prophet Hosea:

*I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will diligently seek Me. Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.*

*Hosea 5:15-6:2*

Several principles are suggested here for our consideration as we posture ourselves before the Lord and ask for His filling of the Spirit.

### Acknowledge Your Offenses

We have dealt with this earlier. Confession is the prerequisite for the filling of the Spirit. God cannot pour His riches into hearts full of sin or other worldly goods.

## NOTES

### Seek the Face of God

We must cry out to God not only for His forgiveness, but for His Presence and Power. Seeking His face is different than seeking His hands. Too often we want God's favor, not His face; his gifts, and not God Himself. Diligently, we must pursue God. Hosea said we will certainly seek Him if we encounter misery!

### Return to the Lord

We may think we haven't "gone anywhere" away from God. But realistically, without attending daily to the Word, prayer, and other disciplines of the faith, we easily turn in small increments away from God. To be filled again with the life of God, we are invited to return to Him.

### Allow God's Healing

Perhaps there are wounded places in your life that need to be "mended." The Great Physician stands ready to bind up those wounds. In fact, like a surgeon, some of them have been allowed in order for you to experience His healing power. Remember: desolation breeds desperation. A desperate cry is a prayer God answers! If you ask Him, He will come.

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*  
*Matthew 11:28*

### Experience Renewal and Revival

The promise of God is that He will come to you in such a way that you will be "revived"—another word for filling of the Spirit—and renewed. God stands ready always to refresh us, to revive us, and to renew us.

### Live in His Presence

The final promise is that we will "live before him," or "live in His presence." We can, through the Spirit, live a life of victory, joy and peace. Our spiritual ancestors learned the secret of "practicing the presence of God." We must not lose that ability. Rather than rush in and out of the pres-

ence of God... learn to live before Him. Through the filling of His Spirit, He will transform you and make you a new person. He is waiting for you. We will suggest a prayer for you to pray as you ask Him to fill you with the fullness of His own life.

## The Disciple's Prayer For Filling

*Dear Lord,*

*As a result of my study of the life You have offered me by Your Spirit, I want to express to You my desire to enter into this deeper and intimate relationship with You. Thank You for sending Jesus to save me. I am so grateful for Your Word and for those You have sent to help me understand Your ways. I want to be all You want me to be. To the best of my knowledge, I confess my sins, and forsake them. I ask for your cleansing. I commit myself afresh to You. Please send that "time of refreshing" to my soul—fill me with Your Spirit and empower me to walk in victory. I want to be Your disciple, and I want to be involved in serving You wherever You want me to go. Thank You for renewing me and assuring me again of Your love for me. As I enter into this ETS training, please use it to equip me in my walk with You and in my ability to share Your life with others. I offer this prayer in the Name of Jesus.     **Amen***

## Transformation

As you walk through this process of personal transformation, the Spirit of God will make visible changes in your life and in your mind. You must be sensitive to the Spirit as He speaks gently to your heart. He wants to conform you to the likeness and image of His Son, Jesus. People should be able to observe the life of Jesus demonstrated and lived out in your life. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that God wants old things to pass away so that all becomes new.

## NOTES

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

The key to this transformation is the renewing of your mind:

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

*Romans 12:2*

As you spend time in the Word of God each day, the Spirit of God will transform your thinking into the mind of Christ, remolding your thoughts to conform to God's—if you allow Him to. When you are filled with the Spirit, you will begin to experience Christ living out His life through you. One of the most wonderful promises of Scripture is found in Galatians.

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

*Galatians 2:20*

Paul had made the commitment to die to himself in order to allow the Spirit to live out His life through him. That is your challenge. As you begin your ETS training, daily bathe your heart in prayer. Pray over each lesson. Pray as you memorize each verse. Pray as you prepare your Bible study and make applications. Pray for the various reading assignments that are a part of the ETS material. Pray for those who are lost. Pray for your disciples who need to grow in their faith.

Review this book from time to time to refresh your heart and mind regarding the ministry of the Spirit, whenever you feel “bogged down” in your work.

## Review:

1. What is the first step to living the Spirit-filled life?

---

2. How does the incarnation of Christ become a reality in our life?

---



---

3. How does a person purify his or her life?

---



---

4. What verses do you know that teach us how to purify your life?

---



---

5. What happens to our sin when we confess them to God?

Isaiah 43:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 38:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 4:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Micah 7:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 103:12 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why is restitution and reconciliation so important in this process?

---

## NOTES

---

---

7. How does transformation occur in a disciple's life?

---

---

8. What is the most important aspect of remaining Spirit-filled? Explain your answer.

---

---

9. Can you think of any biblical commandment you are willfully disobeying?

---

10. Are you willing to confess your sin and do whatever is necessary to make it right? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Plan a half-day with the Lord and recommit your life and your desire to live the Spirit-filled life. Ask God to give you a special anointing as you begin your training to grow to your full maturity in Christ.





# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Leader's Application Guide - Chapter 7

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area \_\_\_\_\_ Introductory Guide \_\_\_\_\_  
 Topic \_\_\_\_\_ Discovering Spiritual Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
Review <i>Discovering Spiritual Gifts</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:7		
Review all previous verses		



# Discovering Spiritual Gifts

## CHAPTER 7

No study of the Holy Spirit's ministry in the life of a disciple would be complete without addressing the matter of spiritual gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12-14, the Apostle Paul outlines for us the importance of spiritual gifts, which are given by God to us as believers. The Lord Jesus Christ, Who has been made Lord over the earth and the church, directs these gifts. The Holy Spirit is responsible for administering the gifts in the life and ministry of every disciple of Jesus Christ.

### Definition of Spiritual Gifts

Open any good thesaurus and you will find a plethora of synonyms for the simple word, 'gift'. We speak of *talents, capacities, proficiencies, genius, aptitudes, skills or masteries* as we refer to various attributes that are extraordinary or above average. In an effort to clarify this issue, I will describe all these synonyms simply as *gifts*, which I will divide into two categories: *natural gifts* and *spiritual gifts*.

### Natural Gifts

At birth each of us is given various *natural gifts* that allow us to succeed and even excel in specific areas of life. These gifts enable us to do some things more easily and more successfully than others.

For example, anyone can draw a picture, even a simple one, but when compared to a Picasso or a Renoir, we are astounded at both the ease with which they created their art, and its breathtaking beauty. Why? Their *natural gift* allowed them to rise above the average and left us "ordinary people" in stunned admiration.

It is important, however, to recognize that whatever natural gifts we may possess, they are usually only a ***potential***

## NOTES

advantage for true success. Education, practice and discipline must be added to allow the gift to reach its fullest capacity.

It is equally important to remember that natural gifts have nothing to do with a person's **spiritual** condition. Many of the most *naturally gifted* artists, writers, musicians and athletes of our day—or generations past—do not or did not possess a worldview that includes belief in a personal God.

### Spiritual Gifts

Like natural gifts, *God also bestows spiritual gifts*, but spiritual gifts are given *only* to believers in Christ, and are activated by the Holy Spirit at a specific moment in time. Spiritual gifts allow the believer to speak or act with certain spiritual perfections that are far beyond human or natural abilities. Spiritual gifts allow God to use an individual in a supernatural way to accomplish something that no human (believer or unbeliever) could accomplish on their own.

For example, in Acts 3, Peter and John were on their way to the temple to pray when God used Peter to heal a lame man sitting at the gate of the temple. When the excited crowds began to follow Peter and John, Peter clearly and firmly stated that the power to heal was God's power...not Peter's.

*“So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people:  
“Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God*

*raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”*

*Acts 3:12-16*

Peter did not possess the power to heal anyone. It was only as the Holy Spirit activated the gift of healing through Peter that he was able to heal the lame man.

### Everyone Has One or More Spiritual Gifts

As they review the ministry of John the Baptist, each of the four Gospel writers reminds us of his teaching:

*“He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit....”*

*Matthew 3:11*

*Mark 1:8*

*Luke 3:16*

*John 1:33*

Let’s take a particularly close look at Matthew’s account where John said:

*“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire...”*

*Matthew 3:11*

Notice that in this passage, John identifies himself as the *agent* who baptizes with the *element* of water. He then prophesies that Jesus will initiate another greater baptism in which Jesus will be the *agent* and the Holy Spirit will be the *element*.

As believers are baptized by Christ with the Holy Spirit—in fulfillment of this promise—Paul reminds us that the Spirit

## NOTES

always comes with a spiritual gift or gifts. No one is excluded from receiving at least one spiritual gift.

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...”*

*1 Corinthians 12:7*

*“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”*

*1 Corinthians 12:11*

## Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Paul clearly states in 1 Corinthians 12:7 that the *purpose* for spiritual gifts is to *profit or edify the Body of Christ (the Church)*. Paul also makes it clear that God will give a diversity of spiritual gifts in an infinite variety of applications and operations. Yet, it will be the Holy Spirit’s responsibility to give, activate and administrate the gifts throughout the Body of Christ, so that all the gifts will work in harmony and unity as God intended (vv. 11, 18).

## Paul’s List of Gifts

In 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 Paul gives us a list of spiritual gifts that may be given to believers. This may not be a complete list, but the nine that are given are:

- ***Words of wisdom***
- ***Words of knowledge***
- ***Faith***
- ***Gifts of healing***
- ***Working of miracles***
- ***Prophecy***
- ***Discerning of spirits***
- ***Diverse tongues***
- ***Interpretation of tongues***

If the Body of Christ is to function effectively, all of these gifts are required to be working in harmony. From

Scripture, we understand that any believer may be capable of being used by God to function in any one of these gifts at any given time—whether once, or repeatedly. Some are gifted as “specialists” in these gifts much in the same way as other spiritual gifts (such as serving or giving). We see a wonderful picture of the Body of Christ in the book of Acts: functioning in harmony, using the varied gifts, as the Church expands into Asia Minor and Europe.

Paul adds to the previous list of gifts in verse 28 of the same chapter when he describes special gifts of leadership. In fact, in this list Paul prioritizes the importance of these gifts as he eloquently elevates one very special gift in Chapter 13—*the Agape Love of Christ*.

The gifts listed in verse 28 are:

- ***First: Apostles***
- ***Second: Prophets***
- ***Third: Teachers***

He then again lists many of the other gifts described earlier:

- ***Miracles***
- ***Gifts of healing***
- ***Helps***
- ***Governments***
- ***Diversity of tongues***

The emphasis on the leadership gifts is necessary, because without spiritual leaders the saints in the Body of Christ could not be properly equipped to carry out the work of ministry.

Though God places priority on certain gifts, *every* gift is essential to the orderly operation of the Body of Christ, and each gift is provided and distributed by God Himself. In Chapter 12, Paul addresses the inevitable flawed,

## NOTES

human response to the dispersing of gifts by God. He reminds us that **not** everyone is an apostle, a prophet, a teacher, a worker of miracles, nor does everyone possess the gifts of healing, tongues or interpretation of tongues. These gifts are divinely bestowed to complement rather than compete with the other gifts.

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.... But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”*

*1 Corinthians 12:7-11,18*

Paul’s exhortation in these verses is a prelude to the summa bonum described in Chapter 13—the **Best Gift**, the Gift of Love.

### Love is the Supreme Gift

God is Love, and when we aspire to His Gift of Love, we are living in harmony with the very nature and essence of God. We are also fulfilling all the Law of God—which is to love God and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39).

It is significant to note that between the listing and description of the gifts in Chapter 12, and the problematic matters that are addressed in Chapter 14, we have a beautiful bridge to help us maintain unity. God knew we would need guidance in how to apply the gifts in the Body. No matter what our spiritual gift or gifts may be, if we are not guided



by the love of God, we are *nothing* in God's eyes. Chapter 13 is Paul's magnificent dissertation on this "Life of Love." I commend this chapter to your careful study and exhort you to allow its principles to guide you as you seek to apply God's truth about the gifts to your life.

As Paul begins Chapter 14, he exhorts us to let the Love of God described in Chapter 13 guide the use of our spiritual gifts. We are commended to seek or **pursue** spiritual gifts (especially prophecy), concentrating on those that build up and edify the Church. So, it appears that the pursuit of spiritual gifts is permitted, insofar as we understand it is the GIVER of those gifts that we actually wish to encounter. We ought to be open to be used by God's Spirit in ANY of the gifts mentioned in Chapter 14.

## The Issue of Spiritual Languages

According to imminent Greek theologians and scholars such as Dr. Spiros Zodhiatis, whose native language is Koine Greek, Paul, in 1 Corinthians 14, is describing two kinds of languages:

- ***Ethnic Language***
- ***Ecstatic Utterance***

Zodhiatis says:

When the word ***glossai*** is used in the plural with a singular pronoun, reference is made to ethnic languages. When the word 'tongue' is used in the singular, ***glossa***, as in 1 Corinthians 2,4,13,19,26-27, it refers to the Corinthian ecstatic utterance. In 1 Corinthians 14:9, it refers to the physical tongue of man and in 1 Corinthians 14:23, being in the plural with a plural pronoun, it refers to the Corinthian ecstatic utterances.<sup>1</sup>

Ethnic language, of course, is the language people use to communicate with each other—a *local* language. At Pentecost, this gift was given to the disciples to allow them to

<sup>1</sup> Zodhiatis, Spiros; The Hebrew Greek Study Bible, footnote, p. 1405

## NOTES

speak in ethnic languages that they had never learned so that people from all over the world could hear the Gospel of Christ in their own language. (Some theologians feel the miracle of Pentecost was the “hearing” of the Gospel, not so much the “speaking” of the Gospel; the results are, of course, the same.)

Ecstatic utterance, or unknown tongues, is language that is known and understood only by God, but is not understood by other human beings. This language has sometimes been called a *celestial* or *prayer language*. Both ethnic and ecstatic languages are addressed in Scripture and have their proper use in the Church.

Ethnic languages, of course, bring edification and comfort to teach and build the Church. Ecstatic language, on the other hand, is primarily given to edify the person who is praying, in perhaps the same way that the Holy Spirit helps us through “groanings” that cannot be put into words when we don’t know how to pray (Romans 8:26). Celestial language is often very helpful in personal worship to God, and is used by many who have been called by God to significant prayer ministry.

The **public** use of this gift, however, is far different. The Scriptures clearly teach that without the gift of interpretation of tongues, celestial or ecstatic language does not edify the Church as a whole. That is why Paul goes to such great lengths to explain the public use of the gifts of prophesy and tongues in Chapter 14, calling for “decency and order.”

Paul exhorts the Corinthians in this great chapter that as they seek and practice spiritual gifts, they should especially employ those that edify the entire Church.

*Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.*

*I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may*

*teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

## NOTES

*1 Corinthians 14:12;18-19*

In the Church at Corinth the gift of ecstatic utterance had become problematic because it was not being guided by the supreme Gift of Love. So in verses 26-33 Paul also outlines certain regulations and parameters for its use within the Church:

- ❶ There should be only 2-3 ecstatic utterances per church service.
- ❷ Those speaking in ecstatic tongues should speak one at a time.
- ❸ If there is no one available to interpret the ecstatic language, the speaker should pray silently to himself and to God.
- ❹ The Church should not forbid the use of this gift.

Paul ends these instructions by reminding his disciples that God is never a God of disorder, but of peace.

## Finding Your Gift(s)

Often a disciple may be unaware of what his/her natural or spiritual gifts may be. Spiritual leaders in the Church can be of great help to young believers in identifying God's special gifts to them. There are, however, some general thoughts and guidelines that may be of help.

Usually, a natural talent will be associated with something that comes easily to you and that you can do better than most other people. You will also enjoy this activity, because you are functioning in your area of natural strength. Often other people will see your natural gift long before you are aware of it, so you may wish to pay attention when others compliment you on something you have done well or when others seek you out to serve in a particular area.

## NOTES

Spiritual gifts, as we have said, are given *after* you become a believer in Christ and are walking in obedience to God. Godly leaders—pastors, mentors, disciplers—can also help you to identify these special gifts. Pay special attention to what the Body of Christ is calling on you to do (teach, serve, organize, sing, etc.). There are also spiritual gift tests that have been devised to help you discover your areas of gifting. Of course, the most important thing is to ask God to help you understand the gift or gifts He has given you and how you can develop them and use them to serve His Body.

All gifts we receive—whether natural or spiritual—must be dedicated to God and used regularly in His service through His love. When gifts are not submitted to the Lordship of Christ and controlled by the power of the Holy Spirit, they can become a “thorny problem” that can cause great division due to fleshly and sinful comparisons and jealousies.

Spiritual maturity delivers us from attitudes of inferiority and superiority. As we grow and mature, we will actively practice the gifts we have been given and appreciate those that have been given to our brothers and sisters. We will come to celebrate diversity. As we gratefully use the gifts we have been given to build each other up in our most holy faith, we will experience the healthy functioning of Christ’s Body, and the peace and unity He offers.

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

*It is like the precious oil upon the head,  
Running down on the beard,  
The beard of Aaron,  
Running down on the edge of his garments.*

*It is like the dew of Hermon,  
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;  
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—  
Life forevermore.*

*Psalm 133:1-3 NKJV*

# Review:

## NOTES

1. What are spiritual gifts?

---

---

2. What is the difference between *spiritual* and *natural gifts*?

---

---

---

---

3. Does the Holy Spirit baptize? Explain.

---

---

---

4. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

---

---

5. What does Paul teach us about seeking spiritual gifts?

---

---

---

---

6. What gifts are we taught to seek?

---

---

## NOTES

7. What is the 'supreme' gift?

---

---

---

---

8. Explain the two kinds of languages Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 12-14.

---

---

---

---

9. What guidelines are given to use for ecstatic languages in the church?

---

---

---

---

10. How do we discover what our natural and spiritual gifts are?

---

---

---

---

---

---

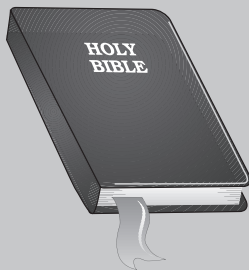
# SECTION 3

## *The Method: Engaging the Will*

### THE WORK OF THE SON



***God's Word Says:***



**"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."**

***John 9:4***







# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

## Leader's Application Guide - Chapter 8

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area \_\_\_\_\_ Introductory Guide  
 Topic \_\_\_\_\_ Equipping The Saints Introductory Guide

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
Review <i>Equipping The Saints Introductory Guide</i>		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
Memorize 1 Corinthians 14:9		
Review all previous verses		



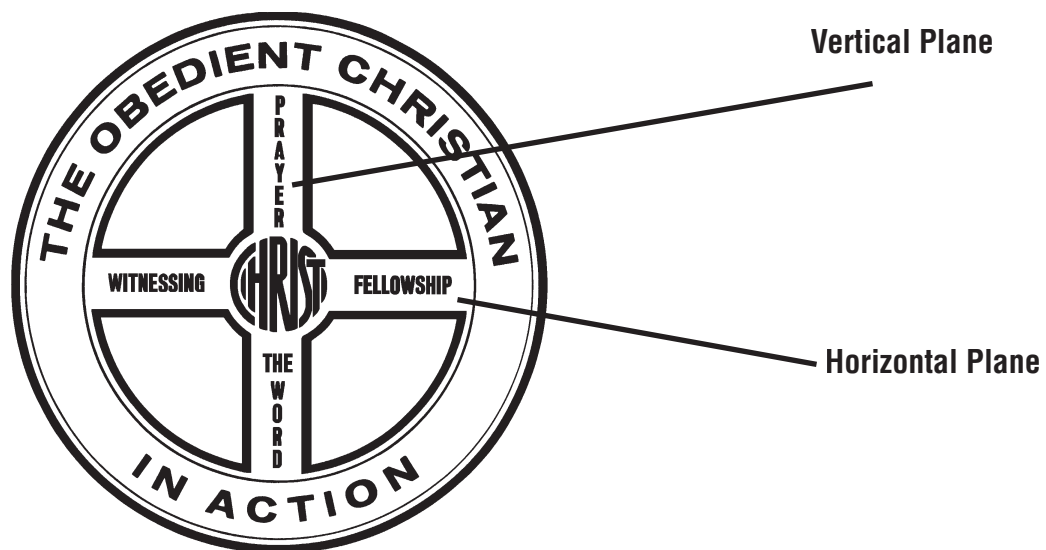
# Introductory Guide to Using ETS Materials

## CHAPTER 8

### ETS Beginnings

Thirty-six years ago, when I was National Director for The Navigators in the nation of Singapore, *ETS* was born. For over seventy years, The Navigators have specialized in training laypeople to do the work of the ministry. Navigator ministries are now conducted in over two-hundred plus countries around the world.

As Navigators in Singapore, we worked on college campuses, among the military, with young professional and business people, and students in their last years of high school. The Navigators have a very simple ministry where training is concerned. It revolves around the understanding that the Christian life is lived on two planes. One plane, the vertical, has to do with our own personal relationship to God through His Son Jesus Christ. The other, the horizontal, has to do with our relationship to the people for whom Christ died.



## NOTES

Many of you will recognize this illustration as The Navigators' *Wheel*. The outer rim represents the obedient Christian living out his life in accordance with God's revealed will for us. The "hub" represents Christ at the center of life, the source of power to accomplish God's objectives in and through us.

Our relationship with God, the vertical plane, is established through the Word of God and prayer; our relationships on the horizontal plane are conducted through evangelism as we relate through our witness to the lost, and through the fellowship of believers, as we relate to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When I speak of fellowship, I speak not of a social gathering revolving around coffee, cake, punch and conversation having to do with everything other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Rather, I speak of the fellowship of believers described in Acts 2:41,42, a passage of Scripture which states that the 3,000 people converted on the day of Pentecost "continued steadfastly in the ***apostles' doctrine, fellowship, and the breaking of bread and prayers.***"

This fellowship truly was a "follow-up" for these 3,000 converts who came from all the nations of the world. Through this "follow-up fellowship", they were prepared to return to their homes and continue in their vertical relationships to God and in their horizontal relationships to the lost and to other believers. It was a "follow-up" of bringing people to full maturity in Christ, enabling them to do what Christ commanded His disciples to do in Matthew 28:19: "Go and make disciples of all nations." The training process in The Navigators grew up around these principles.

One day in Singapore, a pastor from a major denomination came to see me. He was president of the Board of Evangelism for his denomination. He wanted to know if I could come into a local church and train his people as effectively as he saw me training the people related to The Navigators. As this man looked at our ministry, he was enamored of our

ability to train people on both the vertical and horizontal planes—winning people to the Lord and discipling believers. He felt the real problem in the ministry of the local church was getting people out of their pews to go and share their faith with others. Further, if anybody *did* win somebody to Christ, they did not seem to know what to do to help that new convert grow to maturity.

I thought very carefully about his particular question. Could I train people as effectively in the local church as we were training them through The Navigators? I realized that if I said I could not, then what I really was saying was that the ministry was contingent upon the geography in which we were working. However, I knew in my heart that our work was founded upon solid principles of Scripture, and if that were true, the principles should be as effective in the local church as they had been in our mission agency.


I realized, however, that if the training was going to work in the local church it would have to be extensively adapted. For example, in my own ministry I spent anywhere from two to five years with a particular individual in the training process. Where my team in Singapore was concerned, I was with them for twelve years. But when a pastor invites a teacher into his church, he would like for him to do whatever is necessary in a shorter period of time—at the most, three to six weeks. It was apparent to me that I could not do what the pastor was asking me to do in a week, three weeks or even in six. I felt that it would take, at a minimum, six months just to begin addressing the issues involved in effective training, provided I could extract the absolute maximum response from the people being trained.

I also wanted to address a weakness that I felt existed in most training offered to laypeople through mission organizations, expressed in the proverbial saying: *“More is caught than taught.”* In my limited experience, it seemed to me, that only a few people out of a hundred ever rose to the surface in a “more-caught-than-taught” system (the system used predominantly for training in most churches

## NOTES

and Christian organizations). The reason for this is that people who effectively learn in this system must be able to **analyze** what they both see and hear, **synthesize** the principles that provide the structure for what they've seen and heard, then **package** those principles into an "application," or usable tool. Finally, they need to **program** both the tool and the people into a course of study and **train** their people until the principles become a reality in their lives. *I had often contended with my colleagues that only about five out of every one hundred people can do those things!* The following diagram will summarize the training system employed in many Christian groups.

### Principles Worth Weighing



**"More is CAUGHT than is ever TAUGHT"**

(Perhaps only five out of one hundred people can develop in this kind of training environment.)

- **ANALYZE** what you see and hear.
  - **SYNTHESIZE** the principles you have been taught.
  - **PACKAGE** the application into a usable tool.
  - **PROGRAM** the principles and tools into a course of study.
  - **TRAIN** the people.

In the system illustrated above, you can understand why so few "rise to the top" and become multiplying disciplermakers! When I discussed the validity of my observations with Dr. Howard Hendricks of Dallas Theological Seminary, he completely agreed, except for the fact that he felt only **two** out of **one hundred** excel in this environment!

To underscore this important concept (for it is the heart and soul of *ETS*) let me illustrate the point. My wife,

Mary, is a very gifted musician with perfect pitch. When any piece of music is being played, she will automatically begin analyzing, synthesizing, and packaging it into a program. If I comment, “Isn’t that a beautiful piece of music?”, she will reply, “Do you realize there are only three chords used in that song?” Because of her special gift to analyze, synthesize, package and program music, she can sit down at a piano and within two or three minutes play any piece of music she has heard. That is the secret to *all* so-called “ear-player” musicians.

Just as it is a fact that people who have such musical gifts are rare, it is also a fact that in the process of making disciples, few possess such innate abilities. A person must be able to analyze, synthesize, package and program all that he hears and sees about making disciples if he is to rise to the surface in a “more-caught-than-taught” system.

But what about those who are not so gifted? I wondered if there was a way to do for the other ninety-five or ninety-eight percent what they were not gifted to do for themselves. *ETS* is my attempt to help this audience, and it is my hope that around each person who invests himself in this training a healthy disciple-making ministry will spring up.

Could we train people in the local church as effectively as we had been able to train people through The Navigators? That question posed by a Singapore pastor nearly thirty-one years ago began a six-year involvement with a group of Singapore churches, and more particularly with the Board of Evangelism of that denomination. That board eventually adopted *ETS* as its official lay-training program for their churches and allowed other churches in Singapore to send people for this kind of practical training.

This life preparation system, in which you may decide to invest yourself, has been extensively field-tested and demonstrated repeatedly to be effective. It works! I hope you will be one of thousands who will see outstanding results in your own life and in the lives of people I am confident God will raise up around you.

## The Basics of ETS

*ETS* is an application of something my friends have called “Dawson’s Law.” This law states: Biblical principles require application, which will result in some kind of methodology, which allows for production in one’s own life and reproduction in the lives of other people.

Let me strengthen that statement. Biblical principle doesn’t *require* application; rather, it ***demand*s** application.

### Principles Worth Weighing



#### “Dawson’s Law”

Biblical principle ~~re~~quires ***demand*s** application,  
which results in methodology,  
which allows for production  
in a person’s life and reproduction in other’s lives.

#### BUT

Biblical principle not applied results in  
***ACTIVITY*** without ***PRODUCTIVITY***,  
which prohibits production in one’s own life, reproduction in the lives of  
others, and normally leads to spiritual abortion.

Any time you encounter a principle, that principle *must* be applied. Whenever you apply a principle, the application will result in some kind of methodology or tool that allows people to produce the principle in their own lives and to begin reproducing it in the lives of others.

Biblical principles not applied result in *activity* without *productivity*, which prohibits both production in one’s own life and reproduction in the lives of others, normally leading to spiritual abortion. Many times we are taught principle without application; we are taught activity without pro-



ductivity; we are taught observation rather than obedience. *ETS* makes extensive use of the New King James version of the Bible; however, as much as I love it, I recognize there are certain passages where the word chosen in A.D. 1611 does not carry the same meaning today.

One such word is included in Matthew 28:20, where Jesus instructs “the twelve” to go and make disciples and to teach those disciples to “**observe** all things, whatsoever I have commanded you” (KJV and NKJV). We have taught people to observe (meaning “see them from afar”) the commandments of Jesus, but we have not taught them to apply them to their lives or to obey them.

We teach a principle to people and we are in effect saying to them, “Do you see that?” or “Do you understand that?” They reply, “Oh, yes, I see and understand that.” But if we ask them, “Are you doing it?,” they’re likely to reply, “Well, not exactly.” But the Greek word translated “observe” in the King James, literally means “to keep” or “to obey.” We are therefore deceiving ourselves if we feel we have taught this concept without adequately underscoring *obedience* or *application* rather than *knowledge* or *understanding*.

### Principles Worth Weighing



### Knowledge vs. Application

#### A disciple is a learner

This implies a student/teacher relationship, which necessitates the disciple adopting the philosophy, teachings, and practices of the teacher.

#### THEREFORE

*ETS* assumes we have taught nothing to our disciples until we see the truth being produced in their lives and they are reproducing it in the lives of others.

## NOTES

The Greek word for disciple is “mathetes”—meaning a “learner.” As noted in the illustration, the word “disciple” implies that there is a student/teacher relationship that calls for the disciple to adopt the philosophy, teaching and practices of Jesus—not just to know or understand them.

Therefore, *ETS* assumes we have taught nothing to a disciple until we see the principle being produced in the disciple’s life and then reproduced through him into the lives of other people. When we have taught someone to apply principles to his life, it becomes *reality*, rather than just *philosophy* or *theology*. We have accomplished what Jesus commanded us to do when He said, “Teach them to observe (*obey*) all that I have commanded you.”

Evangelical teachers can face the same danger today to which Pilate succumbed to when he called for water to wash his hands in order to absolve himself from guilt in the death of Jesus Christ. If we teach principles without application and obedience, then try to absolve ourselves of responsibility for application on the part of God’s people, we become like Pilate. Remember: knowledge without application leads to spiritual abortion!

### Principles Worth Weighing



### Knowledge vs. Obedience

We must teach people to:


- **KNOW**
- **BE**
- **DO**

Knowledge without application leads to:  
**Spiritual Abortion.**

This course not only gives you knowledge, but it also provides you with a basic set of tools. People need both. If you give people the knowledge without the tools, there is little possibility that they will be able to translate the principle into a usable tool such as ETS.

## ETS Organization

Below, you will see a reproduction of the “Course Content Overview” of *ETS*. This overview lists the ten major subject areas that are incorporated into this discipleship course. Review this very carefully, since it will show you the scope of this material.



### EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

#### Course Content Overview

---

*The Equipping The Saints Course consists of Eight Books covering Ten Major Subject Areas essential to growth and discipleship in the Christian Life. These subjects are “layered” throughout the various courses so that a student is normally working on at least three areas simultaneously. This structure will be indicated in the numbering system used throughout the Course. The first number (example: 1 / 1) refers to the book; the second number refers to the chapter (see Contents pages 2 and 3).*

**❶ The Layman and the Great Commission**

**❷ Personal and Spiritual Management**

**❸ Evangelism**

**❹ Basic Christian Living**

**❺ Follow-Up**

**❻ Discipleship**

**❼ Advanced Follow-Up**

**❽ Leadership**

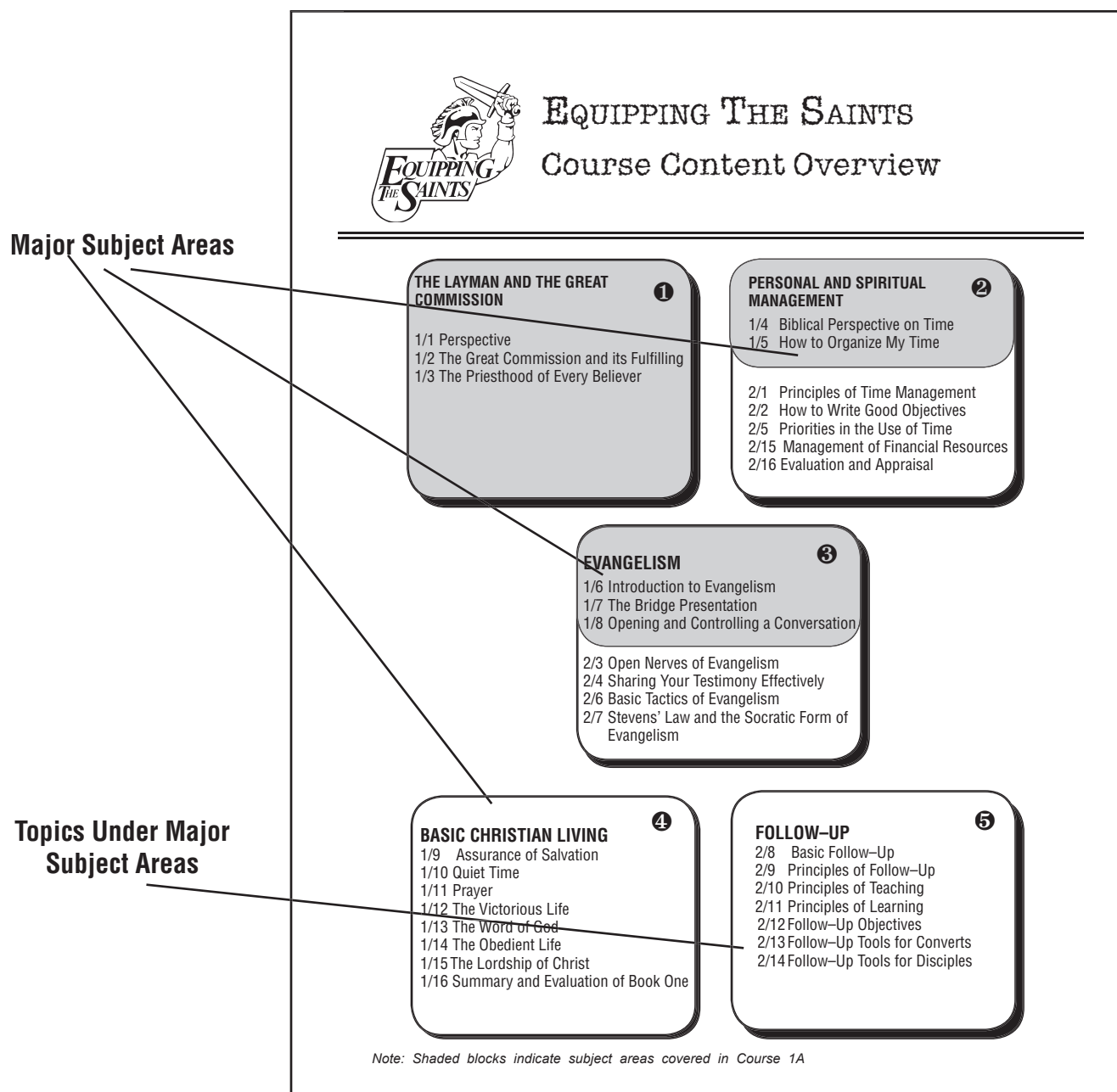
**❾ Christian Character**

**❿ Visual Survey of the Bible**

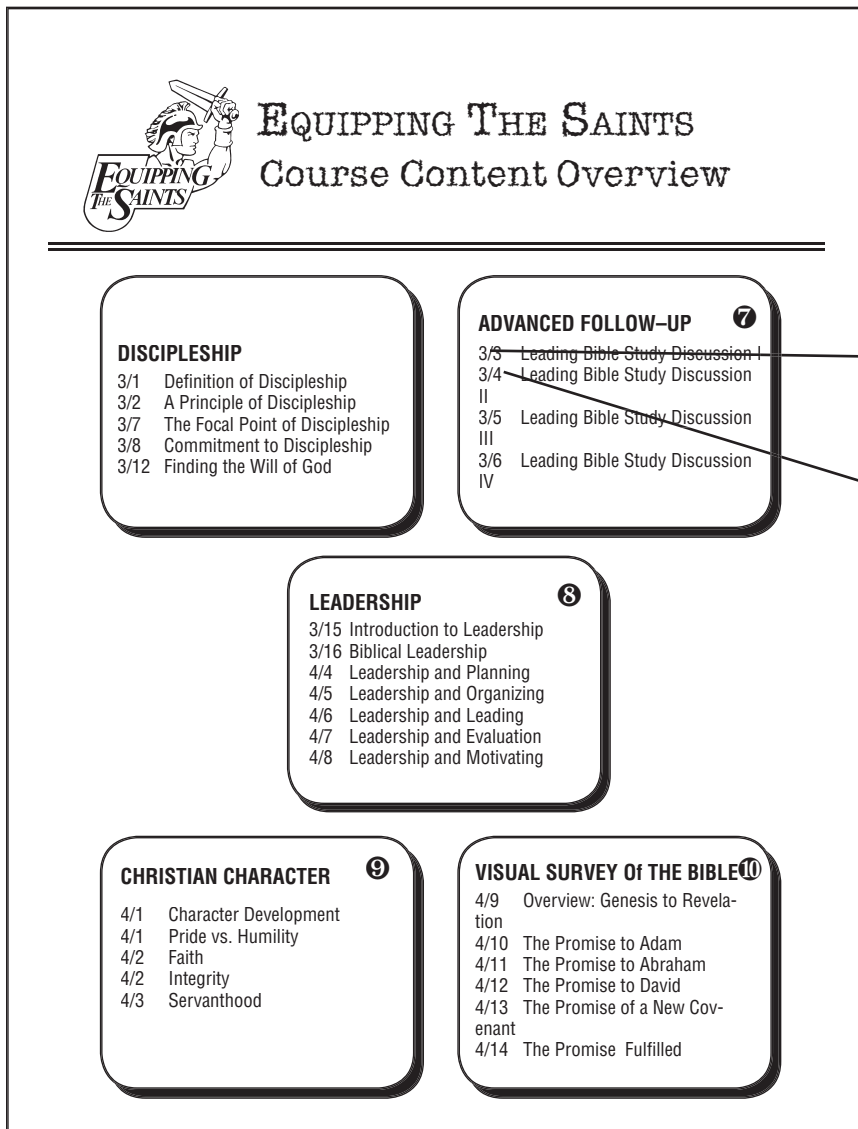
*Note: Shaded blocks indicate subject areas covered in Course 1A*

# Course Contents

The example below shows you the course content in Books One and Two. Under each major subject area, you will find topics covered to develop the subject. The number beside each lesson indicates where the topic is located. The first number refers to the book; the second number refers to the chapter in the book (example: 1/9, Book One, Chapter 9). Study the “Course Content Overview” carefully, as it will acquaint you with the material in *ETS*.



The example below shows you the course content in Books Three and Four. Under each major subject area you will find topics covered to develop the subject. A careful examination of these two pages will point out the way the topics have been layered together. Review carefully.



The Book Where Topic  
is Found

Chapter Number

This consolidated reproduction of the “Course Content Overview” is a quick reference that allows you to see the chronological flow of topics as they appear in each book. This page eliminates the need of searching through the contents for the next topic.



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS Course Content Overview

### BOOK ONE

- 1/1 Perspective
- 1/2 The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling
- 1/3 The Priesthood of Every Believer
- 1/4 Biblical Perspective on Time
- 1/5 How to Organize My Time
- 1/6 Introduction to Evangelism
- 1/7 The Bridge Presentation
- 1/8 Opening and Controlling a Conversation

- 1/9 Assurance of Salvation
- 1/10 Quiet Time
- 1/11 Prayer
- 1/12 The Victorious Life
- 1/13 The Word of God
- 1/14 The Obedient Life
- 1/15 The Lordship of Christ
- 1/16 Summary and Evaluation of Book One

1A

1B

### BOOK TWO

- 2/1 Principles of Time Management
- 2/2 How to Write Good Objectives
- 2/3 Open Nerves of Evangelism
- 2/4 Sharing Your Testimony Effectively
- 2/5 Priorities in the Use of Time
- 2/6 Basic Tactics of Evangelism
- 2/7 Stevens' Law and the Socratic Form
- 2/8 Basic Follow-Up

- 2/9 Principles of Follow-Up
- 2/10 Principles of Teaching
- 2/11 Principles of Learning
- 2/12 Follow-Up Objectives
- 2/13 Follow-Up Tools for Converts
- 2/14 Follow-Up Tools for Disciples
- 2/15 Management of Financial Resources
- 2/16 Evaluation and Appraisal

2A

2B

### BOOK THREE

- 3/1 Definition of Discipleship
- 3/2 A Principle of Discipleship
- 3/3 Leading Bible Study Discussion I
- 3/4 Leading Bible Study Discussion II
- 3/5 Leading Bible Study Discussion III
- 3/6 Leading Bible Study Discussion IV
- 3/7 The Focal Point of Discipleship
- 3/8 Commitment to Discipleship

- 3/9 Pacesetter
- 3/10 Selecting People for Discipling
- 3/11 Team and Teamwork
- 3/12 Finding the Will of God
- 3/13 Spiritual Reproduction
- 3/14 Interpersonal Relationships
- 3/15 Introduction to Leadership
- 3/16 Biblical Leadership

3A

3B

### BOOK FOUR

- 4/1 Character Development / Pride vs. Humility
- 4/2 Faith / Integrity
- 4/3 Servanthood / Purity
- 4/4 Leadership and Planning
- 4/5 Leadership and Organizing
- 4/6 Leadership and Leading
- 4/7 Leadership and Evaluation
- 4/8 Leadership and Motivating

- 4/9 Overview: Genesis to Revelation
- 4/10 The Promise to Adam
- 4/11 The Promise to Abraham
- 4/12 The Promise to David
- 4/13 The Promise of a New Covenant
- 4/14 The Promise Fulfilled
- 4/15 The Promise Expanded
- 4/16 The Promise Through Prophecy

4A

4B

# The Layman and the Great Commission

This subject area is the “vision” aspect of the course. Proverbs 29:18 tells us that “where there is no vision, the people perish,” or, in the New International Version, the people “cast off restraint.” I believe lack of vision is the greatest single problem facing the church of Jesus Christ today.

## Principles Worth Weighing



“Where there is no **VISION**, the people perish (KJV)...”

“Where there is no **VISION**, the people cast off restraint (NIV)...”

—Proverbs 29:18

## THEREFORE

**You *cannot* extract from people more than you are able to bring into FOCUS.**

We live in a world that is perishing. It perishes not because it is not reachable, or because the Gospel is no longer the “power of God unto salvation,” but because the people responsible for reaching it are leaving the task to somebody else. “That’s what we pay our minister to do,” the laymen say. “That’s what we pay our youth minister for; that’s what we pay our missionaries for,” they echo.

Thus, they leave the business of reaching the world to all those “full-time Christian workers,” thinking the ministry is theirs because they have special training, or because they’ve been to Bible college or seminary. Most laymen think


## NOTES

vocational Christian workers have forgotten more about the Kingdom than they themselves will ever know. “Let’s let *them* build God’s Kingdom,” the laymen say, “while we build our own kingdom.” The only thing wrong with that idea is that *it is totally unscriptural*.


Ephesians 4:11,12 is a passage around which much of the *ETS* curriculum is centered. “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...”

With these words, Paul instructs us that these gifted people—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers—are given for a specific purpose; that is, to “equip the saints,” or, in some translations, to “train the saints.” Why do the saints need equipping or training? Because *they* are responsible for doing the work of ministry and for edifying the body of Christ! You cannot pay someone else to do the work of ministry on your behalf because the Scripture says that those people you’re paying are given to equip *you* to do the work of the ministry, as illustrated below.

Principles Worth Weighing



“And HE gave some...



Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers...

▼ FOR ▼

*the perfecting of the Saints*

▼ FOR ▼

*the work of the ministry; for the edifying of the Body...*



In the first lesson, “Perspective”, we try to get the student to look at life through the eyes of God—as He intended life to be lived, *rather* than to see it through *our own human perception or misconception*. The Lord wants us to have our eyes fixed on the “eternal things of God”, rather than the “temporal things of the world.” If we cannot utilize the Scripture to bring the eternal things of God into focus for other believers, then we are never going to be able to accomplish what this course requires—the training of people to do the work of the ministry (make disciples) and to edify the body of Christ.

The lesson on “Perspective” contrasts the eternal with the temporal in an effort to bring the eternal things of God into focus for the *ETS* student. If a person understands that his life is being dissipated on the temporal rather than invested in the eternal, then that person will begin to reach out and say, “How do I go about investing my life in the eternal things of God?”

In the second lesson, “The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling,” the student learns that the responsibility for fulfilling Christ’s Great Commission belongs to *him*, personally, a truth necessary to grasp to benefit fully from *ETS*.

Until the people who sit in the pews on Sunday morning recognize that Christ’s words in Matthew 28:18-20 were directed to them *personally*, we will never get them out of their pews to do anything. This lesson is an effort designed to aid students in their grasp of the imperative of the Great Commission—*making disciples*. This introduces a multiplying factor in the building of God’s Kingdom.

Unfortunately, the end product of most Christian organizations is not the making of *disciples*, but the making of *converts*; therefore, they only **add** to the Kingdom. The great cry is “Win the World!” So we win folks to Christ and give them a pat on the back. “God loves you,” we tell them, “Read your Bible and go to church,” and then we’re off to win still others to Christ. Meanwhile, the new converts are

## NOTES

walking out the back doors of our churches faster than we can bring them in the front doors!

It is interesting to note that nowhere in the pages of Scripture are we commanded to convert anyone. The only thing we are commanded to do is to make disciples. Conversion is only the first step in that process and not the end product.

In the third lesson we deal with the “Priesthood of Every Believer.” This topic changes the direction of the vision from what God wants me to *do* (which is the focus of “Perspective,” and “The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling,”) to *who* I am, and *what authority* I have to engage in the work of ministry.

In this “Priesthood” lesson, you will help your disciples to see that each believer is vocationally called of God to be a “priest.” He then can function wherever God places him in the Body of Christ. In the military, every soldier is first and foremost a rifleman—no matter what position he may be assigned. So, in the Body of Christ each believer is a priest first of all. Then he is directed by God to a specific area of service where he can best fulfill his priestly role. This may be as a mechanic, an attorney, a missionary, etc. Each area of service has its own “congregation” of people where the priest may carry out his two-fold ministry—interceding before God on behalf of the people and representing God back to them.

These three lessons—collectively titled “The Layman and the Great Commission”—comprise the vision aspect of this course. It should be noted that vision is nothing more complicated than the “ability to bring into focus everything we can see throughout our entire range of sight.” The only things in focus for too many Evangelical Christians are the temporal things of the world and the building of their own kingdoms, rather than the eternal things of God and the building of His Kingdom. The burden of these first three lessons is to bring the eternal values into focus for the student

and to help him see that his life should be invested in the eternal realm. Only then will believers reach out and grab hold of us and say, “How do I do that ?” *ETS* was created to aid you in discipling those for whom you have helped bring God’s eternal values into focus.

In these opening lessons, we give people principles with which they may begin to alter their lives. However, since *principle without application becomes activity without productivity*, we want the student to *apply* the principle of the first three lessons by getting involved in this training, thus equipping him to do the work of the ministry. Once we bring the eternal things of God into focus for our student and he begins to exchange his life for them, then we will deal with what I consider to be the *second* greatest problem that we face today in the church of Jesus Christ: managing our lives in accordance with the eternal.


## Personal and Spiritual Management

When people begin to see that their lives should be invested in eternal, rather than in temporal things, the very first thing they will tell you is, “Yes, I understand that, *but I just don’t have the time.*” We seek to deal with this issue before it even becomes a problem, and we do that with what we call “Personal and Spiritual Management.”

The first lesson in this subject area trains the student from God’s Word in how to manage the resource of time. Here, disciples learn that God has given them all the time they need to accomplish the specific tasks God has assigned them. When they have learned to live by this principle, it will give them time to invest in the matters of His Kingdom. Following that, we teach students how to organize their time. We introduce them to a worksheet that will help them learn how to manage their time around the eternal things of God. That worksheet, called the “Personal and Spiritual

## NOTES

Management Aid” (PSMA), is divided into three parts. The top section deals with the students’ personal devotions—day by day spending time with God, preparing their hearts to walk with Him, and receiving direction for what God wants them to do during the day. The middle section focuses on the basics of the Christian life: Bible reading, Bible study, prayer, Scripture memory, witnessing, follow-up, and caring for God’s temple, the body. The final section is a time management aid on which the students make out a “do list,” rearranging their activities in keeping with their newly-formed Biblical priorities, arranged around the eternal.




**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS**  
Personal & Spiritual  
Management Aid

Date

Passage

---



**Quiet  
Time**

Observations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

Application \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


---



**Basics**

Area	✓	Description	Comments
Scripture Memory: Current			
Scripture Memory: Back			
Scripture Memory: New Verses			
Bible Reading			
Bible Study			
Prayer			
Witnessing			
Follow Up			
Exercise			

---



**Time  
Manage-  
ment-**

Daily Schedule	Prior-	Do List	Errands & Projects
8			
8:30			
9			
9:30			
10			
10:30		Write	
11			
12		Phone	
1			
1:30		See	
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

If our students do not plan their days according to *God's* priorities, there is a whole world out there waiting to plan their days *for them* according to worldly priorities. If people cannot manage their time, they will never properly manage anything else in their lives!

The basic principle—*God has provided us with time to invest in the eternal things of God*—is the heartbeat of this subject area. Once a disciple begins to steward the resource of time, he can move on to our next subject area (another great problem in the Body of Christ): reaching the lost.

## Evangelism

The first lesson in this section is devoted to teaching our students another principle from God's Word: "If you follow me, I will make you fishers of men." This is a worthy vocation, one which demands our obedient application.

Unfortunately, research reveals that only five percent of people in the church ever share their faith with another person. If that is true, there is something desperately wrong with the "following" of the other ninety-five percent of the Body of Christ, because Jesus clearly said, "If you *follow me*, I **will** make you fishers of men." If this ninety-five percent of the church is not fishing, it is obvious they are not following. Can a person be a fisherman if he never catches a fish?

We first introduce our students to the principle—*people who follow will fish*—and since principle without application becomes activity without productivity, we introduce them in the next chapter to a tool which we call the "Bridge Presentation," a very simple means of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to another person.

Then we go a step further. In the next lesson of this book, we teach them how to open and control a conversation so they will be able to go right to the heart of the "Bridge" in order to make a Gospel presentation. As a follow-up, we move to the fourth great problem of Christianity.

## Basic Christian Living

The lessons involving this subject area deal with the very basic business of living out one's Christianity, including such matters as having the assurance of one's salvation, learning how to have a quiet time, the importance of prayer, walking in victory, understanding the importance of the Word of God and obedience, and coming to grips with the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

If people do not have these basic concepts in operation in their lives, it is only a matter of time before Satan will knock them out of the race. These lessons, which complete Book One, are very important.

As we begin the second book, we resume our study of "Personal and Spiritual Management," teaching our students further principles of time management: how to write objectives which are clear, concise and measurable, and having them write out some objectives for themselves.

We also return to the issue of evangelism, adding to their previous instruction by touching on some of the "open nerves" of evangelism and helping them determine what their own "open nerves" were before they were saved. This is followed by the development of personal testimonies— including those areas that lost persons will be able to identify with and realize that we have found an answer in Jesus Christ.

As students work on their testimonies, *ETS* layers another "Personal and Spiritual Management" lesson which deals with priorities in the use of time and learning how to prioritize the things that fill our days so that God's Kingdom comes first.

Another lesson on "Evangelism" teaches basic tactics of personal evangelism and exploring "Stevens' Law." This Law states, "Never tell them what you can show them, and never tell them what you can ask them." The student is then ready to address what to do with converts once they have



trusted the Savior and are ready for the growth process to continue. We call this “Follow-Up.”

## Follow-Up

After learning exactly what follow-up involves, principles of follow-up are introduced, including the principles of *teaching* and the principles of *learning*. We explore some basic objectives for follow-up and some rules for follow-up with a new convert.

The “Follow-Up” syllabus we used in Book One will be replaced in Book Two with a lengthier syllabus for use with a new convert (2/13) and a more complete one for use with a disciple (2/14). These new “Follow-Up Guides” will incorporate the new tools that have been introduced in Books One and Two and will guide the students step-by-step in following up with both the new convert and the more mature disciple.

At the conclusion of Book Two students put the finishing touches on “Personal and Spiritual Management” with a lesson that deals with evaluation and appraisal. They are asked to evaluate the objectives they wrote fourteen weeks before, in order to see how capable they have been in actually accomplishing those basic objectives in their own lives.

You will recall, that the moment every disciple begins working with *ETS*, he begins to pray for two people to win to Jesus and one person to disciple. As he finishes Book One and moves to Book Two, he should be ready to begin reproducing Book One into the life of the disciple God gave him.

As your disciple moves from Book Two to Book Three, his disciple should have completed Book One and be ready for Book Two. In addition, he should be ready to reproduce Book One in the life of yet a third generation. As each generation begins to reproduce itself in the next generation, *ETS* becomes less of a cognitive course in philosophy and

## NOTES

theology of ministry and more on-the-job training.

Every person involved in ETS training is taking that training into the mission field week after week. If a student runs into problems, he can bring those problems right back to his own discipling session where he can get the problem resolved. If your disciple brings you a problem you can't resolve, please remember that we are not in the book-selling business, but in the people-training business. Call the *ETS* office and let us try to help.

The imperative of the Great Commission in Matthew 28 is "*Go and make disciples.*" At this moment, the whole world is talking about discipleship. If you're not into discipleship, you're missing it! I would point out to you, that there may be a difference in the discipleship Jesus talked about and the discipleship the church talks about in the twentieth century.

Most discipleship curricula deal basically with the vertical spokes of the wheel, the relationship between the disciple and God. The end product is a growing Christian, but a Christian who is neither winning the lost nor discipling the saved. This course is built especially for the horizontal aspect of discipleship, which begins with the vertical but branches out to evangelism of the lost and the discipling of the saved. That, of course, is another of our subject areas.

## Discipleship

Book Three of *ETS* begins by evaluating what Jesus meant when He talked about being His disciple. Students are presented with a principle of discipleship before continuing on to the subject area of Advanced Follow-Up, discussed below.

After working on the application of new knowledge about leading Bible study discussions (in the next section), the student returns to Discipleship to look at some principles having to do with the focal point of discipleship and the



commitment to discipleship.

NOTES

The Discipleship section concludes with lessons on finding the will of God, spiritual reproduction, and interpersonal relationships. With this blend of subject matter, students are reminded of their own need to continue spiritual development, as well as insure the development of their ministry skills to others.

## Advanced Follow-Up

In this area, there are four lessons that deal with leading Bible study discussions—the emphasis being on *discussion*. Our students learn how to be discussion *chairmen*, rather than *lecturers* or *teachers*.

This subject area is of vital importance to the maturing disciple-maker. With over a year of study and application behind him, he embraces issues such as pacesetting, selecting people to disciple and how to form a band of people into a team—to accomplish spiritual objectives in a particular ministry situation.

## Leadership

As the student nears the end of Book Three, he begins to delve into the subject of leadership. Leadership is a “hot” management topic and is the subject of numerous workshops and seminars in business and industry. Since ministry involves the leading of people, this area is of vital interest in the development of disciple-makers. We cannot adequately develop people without examining the Biblical approach.

The Church of Jesus Christ is forever putting people in places of leadership without teaching them how to really lead. Because there are so many military and secular leadership courses, people try to bring this approach to leadership training into the ministry.

But there is a difference between *secular* and *spiritual* leadership! Jesus said, “...the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion upon them, but it shall not be so among you.”

## NOTES

Biblical leadership is marked by three distinct roles clearly taught in the Bible. First, God's leader must be a *servant* not only to God's person, but to God's people. Second, he must recognize that he is a *steward* of the resources entrusted to him; he is to build God's Kingdom rather than his own. Third, he must be a *shepherd* of God's people. Whenever you find these three distinct roles fulfilled, you find true Biblical leadership.

Further discussions of leadership are covered in the fourth volume of *ETS*—dealing with the tools leaders use to Plan, Organize, Lead, Evaluate and Motivate. Taken together, these lessons are aimed at increasing the level of leadership in disciple-making ministries. God is still looking for people!

## Christian Character

In Book Four our major emphasis will be on developing Christian character in light of the holiness of God. First, we'll discuss the definition of Christian character and how it is developed in the life of a disciple. Then follow lessons on "Pride vs. Humility," "Faith and Integrity," "Servanthood and Purity." Each of these is an essential character trait that must become a reality in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ, if he is to be a usable vessel in the hands of the Living God.

Having completed these character lessons, the student again returns to the leadership tools discussed previously—(planning, organizing, leading, and evaluating). Because motivating others is such an essential part of leading, *ETS* includes an entire lesson on legitimate ways to motivate people in the disciple-making process.

## Visual Survey of the Bible

The final subject area covered in *ETS* is a visual survey of the entire Bible. Here students are introduced to a 15-foot chart which places every major Bible event in its proper chronological order, beginning in the Book of Genesis and moving to the Book of Revelation.

That chronological order weaves a golden thread that ties together the sixty-six books of the Bible into a cohesive whole. It also enhances the student's ability to understand the central message of the Bible: the story of God's fulfilling His promise to mankind. God promised that through the seed of the woman, whom Satan had deceived, God would bring forth One who would crush Satan's head and whose heel Satan would bruise—that promised One is Jesus Christ.

In the concluding chapter of Book Four, the student is confronted with Christ's Second Coming and with the four prevailing views of the fulfilling of that prophecy.

## Summary

If students can grasp the ten subject areas of the Christian life covered in the *ETS* discipleship life preparation system, along with the application required week by week, they will be growing in their vertical relationship with God, and they will be both winning and discipling others. By engaging in each of these activities, students will be exchanging their lives for the eternal things of God, rather than the temporal things of the world. They will have developed a Biblical focus of life.

## NOTES

# Lesson Plans and Forms

In each volume of *ETS*, a lesson plan is included for that particular book. This lesson plan outlines the system as it is to be executed with someone who is already a believer, but who desires to be discipled. A lesson plan for a brand new convert, who needs more basic instruction, is also part of Book One. There are two basic formats in this system—one for a Disciple and one for a new Convert.

**Sample Disciple's Lesson Plan**


**Book/Chapter Reference**

**That Week's Topic**

**Memory Verses for the Week**

**Bible Study and Ministry Assignment**

**Outside Reading and Miscellaneous Assignments for the Week**


**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS**  
 Book One-A Disciple Lesson Plan

Book	Topic	Memory	Ministry • and Bible Study •	Outside Reading and Other Assignments
1/1	Perspective	Ephesians 4:11,12	• Ministry Prayer Guide * Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• Born to Reproduce
1/2	The Great Commission and Its Fulfilling	Matthew 28:18-20	* Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• The Need of The Hour
1/3	The Priesthood of Every Believer	Colossians 1:28,29	* Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• Pole Town USA • 100 Word Essay
1/4	Biblical Perspective on Time	Psalm 90:12 1 John 5:11,12	• Assurance of Salvation * Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• Beginning With Christ
1/5	How To Organize My Time	Ephesians 5:15,16 John 16:24	• Assurance of Answered Prayer * Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• Write Out Your Life Objective • 5 PSMA
1/6	Introduction To Evangelism	Matthew 4:19 1 Corinthians 10:13	• Assurance of Victory * Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• Whatever Became of Evangelism? • 5 PSMA's
1/7	The Bridge Presentation	Romans 10:9,10 1 John 1:9	• Assurance of Forgiveness * Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• Memorize First Half of Bridge Presentation • 5 PSMA's
1/8	Opening and Controlling a Conversation	2 Timothy 1:7 Proverbs 3:5,6	• Assurance of Guidance * Pray for 2 Converts * Pray for 1 Disciple	• Memorize Second Half of Bridge Presentation • 5 PSMA's

Lesson Plans 1

These two formats are laid out for you in the Chapter Application Guides. Find these two Lesson Plans and study them carefully. The Disciple Lesson Plan is followed by the Convert Lesson Plan.

An overview of the entire course content of *ETS* is located after this Introductory Guide, and after the overview is a registration form. This registration form provides information about a students' walk with God vertically and horizontally and what they are doing to win and disciple others.

On the reverse side of the registration form, is a commitment form for students who wish to become involved in this training. This commitment is a very important aspect of the course. If someone is going to involve himself in the training of other people, he needs to be sure that those he is training (1) recognize their need for training, (2) want to be trained, and (3) know that God wants them to be involved in this *ETS* training process.

When people express a desire to become involved in *ETS*, it is important to explain to them as carefully as possible what the program involves, the content of the course, and the problems it addresses. They are then to go home, get alone before God, and find out whether God wants them to be involved in this particular program of training. If He does, then He certainly wants them to regularly attend sessions when they're scheduled, and He wants them to come on time with their lessons completed.

Before the course begins, it is crucial to challenge prospective students to settle with God the matter of whether He wants them involved in this particular training course. From that point on, it should not be an issue.

If students decide to participate, they are asked to sign the commitment form, which includes this statement: "I understand that if I fail to comply with my covenant I will be asked to drop the course until I am able to give the course the priority it requires." Any student who becomes involved


## NOTES

in *ETS* must understand that he cannot *audit* this course. If he does, it becomes mere philosophy and theology rather than reality. *The only way ETS can become a reality in students' lives is by their making the necessary application of the principles they learn.* If they will not do this, simply ask them to drop the course.

The “Ministry Outreach Plan,” “Ministry Prayer Guide,” “Ministry Prayer Tree,” and a “Ministry Disciple Guide” are a series of forms which follow the course layout. These forms and guides are the *core* of *ETS* which challenge each student to carry out the work of the ministry and allow the students to see *how* they have progressed.

## Ministry Outreach Plan

In the Ministry Outreach Plan you will find instructions on how to fill out the three tools we use in the *ETS* course.



### EQUIPPING THE SAINTS Ministry Outreach Plan

The next three pages are the most important pages in the *Equipping The Saints* course for several reasons. They:

- make the *Equipping The Saints* course an on-the-job training program,
- make the *Equipping The Saints* course training practical and not just cognitive, and
- make the disciple reproduce in others what is being taught.

The end product or objective of *Equipping The Saints* is to make you a reproducing disciple. From the onset of your training you must start praying for two people to win to Christ. This engages you in evangelism—fishing for people. You also begin praying for one person to disciple. This causes you to reach back into the church for people who are not growing the way they should in their walk with God.

**Ministry Prayer Guide**  
On the next page you will find the Ministry Prayer Guide. This will help you identify potential people for your ministry.

**Non-Christian Friends**  
Make a list of all your non-Christian friends and begin to pray for them. When you have peace from God about a name, move the person to the evangelism section of your Ministry Discipleship Guide and follow the four line syllabus. Move the person to the Ministry Prayer Guide in the space marked “Convert.”

**Christian Friends**  
Make a list of Christian friends who do not seem to be growing in their walk with God. When you have a commitment from a person to go through *Equipping The Saints* with you, write the name in the Disciple-Making section of your Ministry Discipleship Guide and on your Ministry Prayer Tree on the line marked “Disciple.”

**Ministry Prayer Tree**  
The Ministry Prayer Tree helps you visualize God's plan for your ministry. Write your name in the box on the left side of the page. The three you win and disciple must be trained to reproduce the next generation. Set your heart now to labor until at least this page is filled with your spiritual children. What a wonderful gift of obedience this would be to present to your Savior at the Judgment Seat of Christ!

**Ministry Discipleship Guide**  
This guide will direct you in what to do with your converts and disciples until we get to this subject matter later in your training.

**Evangelism**  
The four-point outline will guide you in what to do with the people you want to win.


**Discipleship**  
The nine-point outline will guide you in what to do with your new convert or disciple as you help the person grow toward discipleship.

*Both of these initial guides will be replaced in lessons 2/13 and 2/14 by a more detailed instructive guide.*

# Ministry Prayer Guide

The first day a student begins his involvement in *ETS*—if he or she already is a disciple of some degree of maturity, rather than a new convert—he is asked to pray for two people to win to Christ and one person to disciple who is not growing in their walk with the Lord. As the student prays for two people to evangelize, he reaches *outside* the church towards lost people with the goal of bringing people into a right relationship to God. At the same time, he begins to pray for one person to disciple, which forces him to reach back *into* the church for discipling relationships with people who are not growing in their faith the way God intended.

If we are going to reach the world, we need every Christian involved, not only in winning the lost, but in helping his brothers and sisters grow to their full maturity in Christ!



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

### Ministry Prayer Guide

---

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make a list of your non-Christian friends and begin to pray for them. When you feel peace about two of them, enter their names on your Ministry Discipleship Guide.

Non-Christian Friends	


Make a list of your Christian friends who are not growing in their walk with God. When you have peace about one of these, enter that person's name on your Ministry Discipleship Guide.

Christian Friends	



## Ministry Prayer Tree

This tool is designed to help put a conceptual idea into visual form. The Prayer Tree shows how the ministry of praying for two to win and one to disciple is carried out during the period of training. People *must* be taught to reproduce themselves. If people you teach go through this training and remain spiritually sterile, this course was a giant failure and waste of time and energy. It did not serve you, the church, or the building up of God's Kingdom in which we have been charged to extend to the end of the earth. We began in Our Jerusalem. This Prayer Tree shows how one person who works with two to win and one to disciple, can touch thirty-nine people if they teach people to reproduce. Don't give up until this chart becomes a reality in your life. Wouldn't it be wonderful, when you account for the stewardship of your life, to be able to present your disciples to the Lord?



### EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

#### Ministry Prayer Tree

Paul First Generation	Timothy Second Generation	Faithful Men Third Generation	Others Fourth Generation
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80px;">Your Name</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 100px;">Convert</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div>
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 100px;">Convert</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div>
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 100px;">Disciple</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">_____</div>

*"And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*  
 (2 Timothy 2:2)




# Ministry Discipleship Guide

NOTES

This simple convert and disciple's guide will help the student know what to do with the people he is praying for. It guides them in what to do with their non-Christian friends as well as what to do with their disciple.

On the "Ministry Discipleship Guide", we ask students to fill in the names of prospective converts and a disciple. If the student does not know how to lead somebody to Christ, he need not reach for the "panic button" because in this course we never ask anyone to do what we have not specifically taught him to do. However, once we've taught a person how to do it, we're going to ask him to go out and begin doing what he has been taught. There is a four-line syllabus to guide you on what to do with the people you are trying to win.

In the course, we will replace these guides with more extensive guides as we come to the subjects of Follow-Up and Discipleship.



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

### Ministry Discipleship Guide

---

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evangelism**  
*As part of your Equipping The Saints training, you are to ask God for two persons to win to Christ. List the two persons below, once you have peace from God who those persons should be.*

Name	✓	Date
Prayed For		
Shared Testimony		
Presented Bridge		
Decision		

**Student's Name**

Name	✓	Date
Prayed For		
Shared Testimony		
Presented Bridge		
Decision		

**Two Prospective Converts**

**Disciple Making**  
*You are also to ask God to give you one person to disciple. This person may be a Christian friend*

Name	✓	Date	Comment
Received Christ			
Baptized			
Attends Church Regularly			
Consistent Quiet Time			
Five Assurance Bible Studies 1/4-1/8			
Memorized Five Assurance Verses 1/4-1/8			
Memorizes and Shares the Bridge			
Develops A Servant Heart			
Committed to Growing — Finished ETS Book One			

**Prospective Disciple**

**Nine-line Syllabus**

**Prayer Guide on Reverse Side**

## NOTES

Following the “Ministry Discipleship Guide” is a “Class Attendance Record.” When working with only one person, it is helpful to record when class sessions were conducted, what assignments were done and so on, but if the class consists of a larger group of people, this written record becomes essential.

## Disciple and Convert Application Guides


The key to working through each of the four *ETS* volumes is the “Disciple’s Application Guide.” One is included at the beginning of each lesson. In each book you are provided with sixteen lesson tabs. (These are to be inserted individually by each student.) At the top of each guide, the book number, and chapter number is circled. For example, 1/1 refers to Book 1, chapter 1, 1/2 means Book 1, chapter 2, and so on. The tabs 1-16 are to be inserted in front of this Guide for each chapter.

The front side of the “Disciple’s Application Guide” is intended to be used for a disciple—that is, someone who is more mature when beginning the course. An Application Guide for the new convert is printed on the reverse side.

Notice the material included on the “Disciple’s Application Guide” is arranged in the same order in which it is found in the book. Each week’s lesson will deal with one specific topic among the ten major subject areas already discussed in the introductory guide. On the back side of the “Disciple’s Application Guide”, is the “Convert Application Guide”. The “Convert’s Application Guide” will show you how to rearrange all the material for the Disciple into a new configuration to which will allow you to easily follow up on the new Christian.

Sample Disciple's Guide  
(In Books One and Two,  
Convert's Guide  
is on the  
Reverse Side)

NOTES



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

### Disciple Application Guide

1/1

---

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject Area** The Layman and the Great Commission

**Topic** Perspective

**Group** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Disciple's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
Topic Notes		
Review <i>Perspective</i>		
Bible Study		
Personal & Spiritual Management Aid		
Outside Reading		
Read <i>Born to Reproduce</i> (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Ministry: Evangelism Follow-Up/Discipleship		
Pray for two people to win to Christ		
Pray for one person to disciple		
Fill out Ministry Prayer Guide		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize Ephesians 4:11,12		

Book/Chapter  
Designation

Subject, Topic Info

Lecture  
Assignment

Bible Study  
Assignment

PSMA  
(Daily Time  
Management)

Miscellaneous  
Assignments


Evangelism and  
Discipling  
Assignments

Scripture Memory  
Assignment

## NOTES

The new convert's outline begins with a lesson on the "Assurance of Salvation." That lesson is found in Book One, Chapter 9. The Bible study for the first week is found in Book One, Chapter 4. Rather than have the new convert memorize Ephesians 4:11,12, he is asked to memorize 1 John 5:11-13. To rearrange Book One for a new convert, simply pull the lesson on Assurance of Salvation from Chapter 9 (indicated by 1/9), the Bible study from lesson 4 (indicated by 1/4), and put them together.

In the second week for a new convert, the subject is prayer. Again, the outline explains where the material is found. *ETS* material is the same for a new convert as for a more mature Christian; the difference is simply the order in which the lessons are covered.


**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS**  
 Convert Application Guide

1/1

---

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Group** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Basic Christian Living** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject Area** \_\_\_\_\_ **Assurance of Salvation** \_\_\_\_\_

Convert's Profile	Completed	
	Yes	No
<b>Topic Notes</b>		
Review <i>Assurance of Salvation</i> (1/9)*		
<b>Bible Study</b>		
Complete <i>Assurance of Salvation</i> (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>		
<b>Outside Reading</b>		
Read <i>Beginning With Christ</i> (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
Read <i>Lessons on Assurance</i> (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
<b>Ministry: Evangelism Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
Memorize 1 John 5:11-13		

\*Refers to Book N°/Chapter N°

There are three different ways to proceed through the content material (the major topic) in each lesson:

- The instructor *teaches* the lesson before the student reviews the lecture notes.
- The student *reads* the lecture notes and comes to the session prepared for discussion.
- The lesson may be read and discussed *during* the session itself.

The recommended procedure is to teach the lecture notes prior to the students receiving those notes. In this manner, the student is encouraged to sit back and listen carefully to what the instructor is saying. They are informed they will be given a set of notes to review at the conclusion of the lesson (though in some cases, the students may have already received a full set of materials). Students are therefore freed to give themselves wholly to the intake of the material as covered verbally by the leader.

Then students are given the assignment materials for that week. This includes the “Disciple’s Application Guide,” which specifically outlines each assignment for the week. The first item is always to review the lecture notes. This reading of the material constitutes the second time through the material (the first verbal, this one visual), reinforcing the impact of that lesson.

As the students get before God, the Spirit of God is given opportunity to teach each student individually what He wants them to learn and apply from that week’s material. God knows things about each student that the instructor does not know. Hebrews 4 and Ephesians 6 reveal that the tool God uses to teach is His Word—the sword of the Spirit. Therefore, every verse used in *ETS* is quoted in its entirety in the material because students need to interact with the Word of God, not just the leader, commentary, or other members of his group.

## NOTES

As mentioned, the second way to teach the lesson, but one which should be used only with very mature laypersons, is to give the students all the material prior to the class session. After reading the lessons individually, students come to class prepared to discuss the material among themselves rather than listen to an instructor teach.

Still a third method is used by a group of pastors in the Washington, D.C. area, who, when they come to class, pass out all the material, read it together in class, then discuss it among themselves.

Whichever method is chosen, it is best to start with an empty notebook, adding only one week's material at a time. Unless that person is an extremely mature layperson, the sheer volume of material may overwhelm students!

The "Disciple's Application Guide" also includes other practical applications required on a weekly basis, including outside reading assignments, Bible studies, Scripture memory verses, and, later in the course, evangelism and discipling requirements. As previously mentioned, students will be asked to pray for two to win, and one to disciple, beginning in the very first volume.

It will take approximately one and a half to two hours to conduct a class session for each lesson of *ETS*. Each session is divided into two sections: the first half of the session is used for *accountability*—that is, a discussion of reading assignments, lecture notes, ministry involvement, and recitation of memory work from the previous week—while the second half is then used for *teaching* the lesson which students will review for the following week.

## The Importance of Scripture Memory

Scripture memory is one of the most important aspects of this course, and memory verses are included in every lesson. If people know the Word of God and can quote it ("Thy

Word have I hid in mine heart...”) they are more apt to apply it to their own lives and share it with others. If they do not know the Word of God, they will say, “Somewhere in the Bible there’s a verse of Scripture that goes something like this....” There is no *power* in a commentary of what someone *thinks* the Word of God says! The *power* is in the Word of God itself!

The Book of Hebrews tells us that God’s Word is “...quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (4:12 NKJV). Many Christians may wish their words were that powerful, but they’re not. And our words need not be so powerful as long as the Word of God is quick and sharper than any two-edged sword. Our students must train themselves to memorize the Word of God so that the Spirit of God can put it to work in the hearts of the people they are discipling.

Every week our students will memorize verses and recite what they have memorized. Every week they’ll begin with Ephesians 4:11,12 and work their way up to the new verses they have acquired. If a particular *ETS* course involves a group, each person in the group should recite *all* new verses for the particular lesson on which they are working. However, old verses are reviewed by having each person recite a *different* one, working around the group so that no member of the group can be sure which verse he’ll recite. This aids retention of the verses as they are reviewed weekly.

It is suggested that students use a pack of spiral-bound index cards for their memory work, writing verses on the back side of each card and the reference on the front side of each card. This pack of cards is something they can keep in their possession to take advantage of odd moments for review—a habit that should be formed for life. If memory work is related to a daily activity, such as walking or doing dishes, it will be easier for students to remember to memorize and review on a consistent basis.



## NOTES

# Lecture Notes

Upon examination of the format for the lectures, it will be noted that the page is divided conveniently into two parts. On the left, is printed the notes as they will be given by the group leader, and on the right, a blank column entitled simply, "Notes." The notes column is not intended to be used by the student to record his thoughts as he listens to the lesson being taught, but rather as a review of the material later during his second reading.


This column is also intended for the student to later *teach* the material to his own disciples when he begins to lead others. As the student reviews the lesson, he is to record his notes in such a way so as to be able to teach from this column, not relying on the pre-printed notes on the left.

**Lecture (topic)  
Title**

**Lecture Notes  
(with headings)**

**Note Column**

**Lesson Title  
and  
Page Number**



**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS  
PERSPECTIVE**

NOTES

**Introduction**  
In Proverbs 29:18 we learn where there is "no vision" or "revelation" of God the people perish. Today we live in a perishing world. It perishes not because it can't be reached, but for lack of vision or revelation on the part of God's people. God wants to use us to reach a lost and dying world that has been separated from Him because of sin. Like God, we were made to live for the eternal. Unfortunately, many of God's children have let the eternal slip out of focus and are locked into the temporal things of the world.

The three lessons on the *Layman and the Great Commission* help to bring back into focus those eternal things of God. They help us first see life through the eyes of God as He intended for it to be lived, not as we perceive it through our human conceptions or even misconceptions. These lessons help us understand that the fulfilling of the Great Commission is our responsibility. The way to reach the world is by making disciples who can reproduce themselves into the lives of the next generations. When we begin to exchange our lives for these eternal things as God intended, the world in our lifetime and generation can and will be reached.

**The Layman—the Major Participant**  
Most Christian laymen are familiar with the Great Commission story, but they seldom grasp the fact that it has deep personal implications for everyone who names the name of Christ. Instead they see themselves as spectators in the great competition for the souls of men and women. They stand at the sidelines shouting words of encouragement, praying and giving financial support to "full-time Christian workers."

However, their involvement normally ends here. If the job doesn't get done and the Church is not increasing, they feel badly, but they have no personal sense of responsibility for the outcome. After all, they surely cannot be accountable! Discipling is the job of the pastor, the evangelist and other full-time workers.

They see themselves merely as faithful on-lookers and supporters watching the action on the field. This was never God's plan! God's original intention is outlined for us in Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Perspective 1



If a student later teaches from the left side of the page, not using his note column, he will likely spend ninety percent of his time looking at the page, trying to figure out what is to be said next. By working from the note column to jog his memory, he'll spend only about ten percent of his time looking at the material. During the other ninety percent of his time, he can better maintain eye contact to insure maximum communication.

Some students find it convenient to highlight verses or points from the text of the lesson that they want to be sure to refer to. This is certainly encouraged.

This concludes our overview of the *ETS* course, consisting of four books of sixteen lessons each. We have sought to familiarize you with the philosophy, strategy, and content of the course, and to give as much technical instruction as necessary to successfully launch an *ETS* group. By reviewing the history of the course, we have tried to communicate the heart and soul of the course. Areas of concern which may have been overlooked can be discussed personally with us by calling our office.

## How to Start an ETS Group

Many people have inquired as to how to successfully organize an *ETS* group. First of all, *pray* and ask God to give you the people He wants you to have and to keep out people who are not ready for this kind of training. Doing this first, could save you many problems. Your adversary, the Devil, will be happy to give you some people to hinder your group in its training process. So pray first, asking God for the people He desires to be involved. Secondly, *recruit* those people that you want to be a part of your group. Approach each individual in person, explain to them precisely what *ETS* involves, and help them to see how *ETS* might benefit them. Be “up front” about the kind of commitment and accountability called for in the training process.

Normally, a group meets once per week; homework assignments require approximately three hours of work weekly.

## NOTES

Each student must make *ETS* a *priority* because of the commitment they enter into and because of the accountability required. Let each prospect know they will be required to recite their memory work and to hand in any pages they write on (Application Guides, Bible studies, PSMA's and so on).

Remember this principle of training: *people generally do what you **inspect**, rather than what you **expect***. That is, they'll work more diligently if they know in advance someone is going to review their work.

Once you have issued personal invitations, you may want to issue a similar invitation "at large" to your Sunday School class or to your church as a whole. Tell the larger group the date on which you intend to conduct your first *ETS* session. Normally, you'll find those you invite personally, will be the only ones who register for training. However, by issuing this broad invitation to the larger group, you allow the Spirit of God to recruit others you may have failed to invite personally. Also, the "at large" invitation will keep your group from being thought of as a "clique" or exclusive group.

A third suggestion when you're ready to form a group, is that you start small and build a solid foundation—you "grow into business, rather than go into business." If you seek to recruit everybody in your church or in your neighborhood, your students will have difficulty when they begin their own recruiting. So, let the group multiply itself out.

Discipleship training will pretty well follow lines of relationships already established. People tend to congregate themselves with those with whom they feel some degree of affinity. For example, there may be a person you would desperately like to see in your own group, but that person may not be interested. However, he may register for a group established by one of your disciples. This is perfectly natural, and you should encourage people to enroll with those they feel comfortable with.

## Leading a Group

As you begin to lead your *ETS* group, *master* the material you plan to present each week. Know exactly what you are going to communicate. Make your notes well so that you can operate from the note column (see page 39) rather than from the left side of the page. Be sure your examples and illustrations are well thought out and placed appropriately in the lesson. Each lesson is an excellent opportunity for you to reach into your own life to find illustrations and examples of the material you're going to present. Decide in advance how you are going to teach the material in each lesson.

## Discipling Plan

We have created a form called a "Discipling Plan" which is designed to help you plan each training session. This form is introduced in Book Two of lesson one. In lesson 3, this form is blank and can be copied as needed, or you may order these forms from the *ETS* office.


The first thing to do in planning the lesson, is to write an objective for that lesson. An example: "My objective for Lesson 1/1 is to help the students understand the material on 'Perspective' and to work with him until it becomes a reality in his life, and he is reproducing it in the lives of others."

The next step in planning the lesson, is to list activities and tools you intend to use in teaching. Take the activities off the "Disciple's Application Guide" or "Convert's Application Guide". Tools would include such things as Bible studies, PSMA's, and reading assignments.

Next, decide how much time you are going to devote to each activity, and then plan your session time, giving half to accountability and half to new material, as suggested on page 37 in this guide.

## NOTES

Include some form of evaluation after each session. Write down your thoughts about how the lesson went, whether you need to rearrange anything, and what you may have learned about the way you taught the lesson this particular time. Then be sure to follow up with your students. Perhaps one of them asked you to bring certain material to the next session, or he needs to privately review some portion of the lesson he did not understand. Another principle of training is involved here: *people are always more important than paper or programs.*

 <b>EQUIPPING THE SAINTS</b> <b>Discipling Plan</b>		<i>1/1</i> <b>Date/Lesson</b>
Trainer _____		Disciple _____
<b>Lesson Objective:</b> <i>To introduce the course and class procedures of Equipping The Saints. To help my disciples understand the material on "Perspective" and work with them until the principles become a reality in their lives and they are reproducing this into the lives of their disciples four generations deep.</i>		
Activities	Tools	
	Review	Teach
Prayer		
Lesson		"Perspective"
Bible Study		
PSMA		
Reading		
Evangelism/Discipleship		Fill out Ministry Prayer Guide
Scripture Memory		
Time	Plan for Activities	
7:00 - 7:05	Greetings and Prayer	
7:05 - 7:25	Group Introduction (Have everyone share)	
7:25 - 7:35	Go over Class Procedures	
7:35 - 8:25	Teach or Discuss Lesson in "Perspective"	
8:25 - 8:30	Go over Application Assignments	
Application	Assignment	
Lesson	Review "Perspective"	
Bible Study		
PSMA/Reading	Read and be ready to discuss "Born to Reproduce"	
Ministry	Fill out Ministry Prayer Guide	
Scripture Memory	Ephesians 4:11, 12	

**Discipling Plan**  
**Page 2**

[illegible]

As you plan for your sessions week-to-week, write out the discussion questions you intend to use from the reading assignments or Bible studies. When you arrive in class, all you need is your notebook with the current lesson and the lesson plan you have prepared for that week. Failure to adequately prepare and meticulously plan will be very apparent to members of your group, and they will most likely repeat your mediocrity when they begin to lead their groups. On the other hand, if you will prepare well, you can file away your plan with the lesson it covers, and when you teach that lesson again in the future, you will need only a few minutes of review before you teach. This will also set a better example for your students to model after.

## NOTES

*ETS* is the best basic training of which Christians can avail themselves! It is a tool to be used over and over again if you are going to be involved in helping people live both vertically and horizontally in their walk with God. This training can equip you for a lifetime of disciple-making.

As you minister to growing disciples in your groups, demonstrate excitement about what the Spirit of God is teaching each of them. As they share insights and thoughts with you, rather than sitting passively listening and shaking your head, communicate enthusiasm. Make comments such as, “Boy, that is a beautiful insight!” or “Praise God! That really is exciting!” This will let your students know that you are genuinely excited about what the Spirit of God is teaching them. Even truth you have covered numerous times ought to yield this response, since people’s lives are being changed before your very eyes!

Another important part of leading a group is to build a relationship with your students. The kind of relationships you build will determine how deep you can go into their lives. If you meet once every week as teacher/student without any further involvement, you will never be able to delve deeply into their lives. But if you are interacting in activities with your students, enjoying recreation with them, inviting them to your home, etc., you’ll be surprised how deeply into their personal lives these relationships will carry you.

We also need to remember, that when we’re dealing with people, we need to be real and transparent. If we try to pass ourselves off as heroes, we set a standard our students can’t live with.

We want our students to understand that many of the things we are discussing in class are things with which we’re wrestling in our own lives, as well. The fact that we’re holding them accountable, and they’re holding us accountable, helps us make *ETS* a reality in our lives.

Uphold a high standard. Set it with the group in the beginning and then hold them to it. The minute you lower the standard, you are putting the “kiss of death” on that group. Most people who bail out of the church, do so not because the standard is too high, but because the standard is too low. They wonder, “Why bother with it?” That’s why you should ask that homework be turned in, and that’s why you should make sure the students are doing the things they’re required to do.

Also, resolve problems that appear in the group. Suppose that in the first week, somebody comes and has not memorized his Bible verse. Simply make a note that the person didn’t get the memory work done. If that person comes the next week without having memorized the verse, then you invite that person to have coffee, and in the time you’re together, say something like, “I could be wrong, and, if I am, I hope you’ll correct me, but when it comes to your Scripture memory verse, I sense that you’re struggling. Is that true or isn’t it?”

If it is, the person probably will tell you, and together you can deal with whatever the problem is. That person may need help in knowing how to memorize, or he may need to spend more time on memory work. By being on top of the problem and trying to help resolve it, you will know whether or not the student is making an appropriate effort.

If it is determined that he is not committed to doing the assignments, he should be asked as kindly as possible to drop the course. If allowed to remain in, only to audit the course, it will put him on a guilt trip and lower the standard of the group.

Do not settle for a “vertical” group in which your students are growing in their relationship with the Lord, but not reaching out to win and disciple others. Provide for both vertical and horizontal growth by holding your students accountable for assignments every week. Simply tell them that the author says this is how the material must work.



## NOTES

Remind them that they're committed to make it work this way and that your job is to help them be successful.

Be sure that you start and stop your sessions on time. Then be willing to stay around after the session ends to interact with people for as long as they want to interact. You may want to think about having some kind of very simple refreshments, but avoid situations where the refreshments become more and more elaborate every week until the refreshments are more central to the sessions than the material you're trying to teach.

As the instructor, you should arrive early for the first meeting and have everything ready and in place, so you can make your students welcome. Do whatever is necessary to get your people in a circle or semicircle so that everyone can see each other and so that some people are not looking at the backs of others. Make sure there is proper heating and/or cooling and that the room is well-ventilated so that distractions are kept to a minimum.

As you begin your sessions, emphasize again what *ETS* is designed to do in terms of helping people establish growing relationships with the Lord—learning to reach out and have a ministry of winning and discipling people. Explain to them how the program is going to function, when the meetings will be held, how the sessions will be conducted, and that there will be homework assignments which they will be expected to do.

Once the ground rules have been laid, you're ready to teach the first lesson. After the lesson has been taught, distribute materials for Lesson One, go over the "Disciple's Application Guide", and review the applications they are to make for the following lesson. Remember this first meeting will set the tone for the rest of the meetings you will have. Plan this meeting well, and be sure it goes the way you planned for it to go. Pray for your people during the week. Let them know that you're available to them. These lessons have been planned carefully so you will have time available during the



week to drink coffee with your students and get to know them. Do whatever you can so that you're not only their instructor, but also their friend.

## A Final Word

Many people use *ETS* for reference. Doing this simply cancels the system's horizontal aspect, and it becomes a cognitive course. I realize that it's very tempting to do this, but if you don't use the materials as they are intended, the principles become counterproductive, and they work against you. The end product of *ETS* is not only a growing disciple, but a growing disciple who is reproducing himself into the hearts and lives of the next generation of believers, potentially to the fourth generation and beyond.

## God Bless You

...as you begin *ETS*. Remember that we are not in the book-selling business; we're in the *people-training business*. When you have a problem or question, please pick up your telephone and call us; give us an opportunity to help you. You can reach us at (903) 455-3782, or FAX (903) 454-8524, email [etsusa@aol.com](mailto:etsusa@aol.com), or MAIL 4006 Walnut Street, Greenville, TX 75401.

## **Matthew 22:37-40**

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**NKJ Love God and Love Your Neighbor**

## **Romans 5:18,19**

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

**NKJ Justification In Christ**

## **Ephesians 3:14-19**

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**NKJ Fullness of the Life of Christ**

## **1 Corinthians 12:7**

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all....”

**NKJ Spiritual Gifts**

## **Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

**NKJ The Great Commission**

## **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ....

**NKJ The Supremacy of Christ**

## **Ephesians 4:20-24**

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**NKJ Righteousness and Holiness**

## **1 Corinthians 14:9**

“So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.”

**NKJ Spiritual Gifts**