

# CALLED AND ACCOUNTABLE

## UNIT 4

# HOW AM I CALLED?

### Memory Verse for the Week

*If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me;  
and where I am, there My servant  
will be also. If anyone serves Me,  
him My Father will honor.*

[John 12:26](#)



- **Essential Truth for the Week**
- No one can adequately come to knowledge of God's truth, for themselves or for others, without a thorough commitment to the place and authority of God's Word (the Bible).
- It is in the Scriptures that God has chosen to reveal Himself and His will for our lives. As a person approaches the Bible and opens its pages, he or she comes face to face with the Author—God!
- The Holy Spirit is present to open the mind and heart of the child of God to an immediate Word from God for his or her life ([John 14:16-17](#); [John 16:13-15](#); [1 Corinthians 2:10-16](#)).

- Without this commitment to encounter God in His Word, one is left to human reasoning alone—something that will never lead to God or an understanding of His Word.
- This entire study is based on the assumption that the reader is committed to meet God in His Word and respond to Him in this encounter.

# Day 1: Awareness of God's Call

- For a Christian to seriously ask the question, "How am I called?" they must first approach this question with a personal commitment both to respond and to be accountable to God in the calling.
- When Christians sense that God is guiding them to a clear, simple answer to this question, they will also be deeply, even painfully aware that having the knowledge of His will brings with it immediately a solemn sense of accountability.

- At the moment when you sense God is calling you, you can never be the same again! You will have to make a conscience decision to say, "Yes, Lord!" Be aware that you may tend to say no.
- But you cannot say, "No, Lord!" For if you say no, at that moment, He is no longer Lord of your life. When Jesus is Lord, His servant always says, "Yes, Lord!"

- We have already indicated that the initial call is a call to salvation, a call to become a child of God and servant of Jesus Christ. It is an eternal decision and an eternal relationship.
- But from the moment when you are born again, how are you called by God and placed on mission with Him?
- Many forget that when a person first becomes a Christian, they are a "baby" Christian, and they must then grow and learn to use their newly given "spiritual senses."

- They need to learn to function with their newly provided spiritual family, the local church. This takes time and experience, just as it does in the physical birth and growth experience.
- The context for this growth, as designed and provided by God, is the local church. God does not bring a person into His kingdom without adequate provision for protection, learning, feeding, and being loved.
- In the local church we learn about our new life in Christ and are given the opportunities to learn to walk, talk, share, and gain experiences.

- New believers must first receive the "milk of the word" ([1 Peter 2:2](#)). As they grow, they are carefully taken from milk to meat.
- Read [Hebrews 5:12-14](#) and answer the following questions. How would you describe your spiritual walk, as needing milk or meat?
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- Based on these verses, what are the distinguishing characteristics between a person on milk or meat?
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- Someone on "meat" would be a teacher of the Word, or someone who is continually moving beyond the beginning truths of the faith, who puts into practice and applies the truths of God consistently.
- Often we can think we are mature in the faith simply because we have been Christians for many years.
- However, the Bible describes maturity by how we learn and understand the Word of God, implement the truths of God into our lives, and allow God to use us to teach others to grow in the faith.

- It is important to note that this passage in Hebrews was an address to all the people and not simply the leaders.
- Each person was expected to grow and, in turn, teach others who were young in the faith.
- They should become teachers of the Word, and by skillful use of the Word move from milk to meat.

- The church must help each believer grow this way, becoming mature and able to be of greater and greater use to God.
- Paul constantly speaks of becoming "mature" ([Philippians 3:12-16](#)).
- But all this takes time! It also takes obedience to Christ, who commanded believers not only to "make disciples" and "baptize them," but also to "teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you" ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

- This task is spiritually demanding but was faithfully practiced by early believers in Jerusalem, as seen in [Acts 2:41-47](#).
- This is a simple and clear picture of a spiritual family, the local church, taking care of newborn believers.
- As you read the rest of the Book of Acts, you see how those believers soon were on mission with God all over their world.
- God really did accomplish His eternal purpose to redeem the lost through them.

# What is Spiritual Maturity?

- **Spiritual Maturity is (being like Christ)**

**Romans 8:29 (NLT)**

<sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son

- **It is not (automatic)**

**Hebrews 5:12-13 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

<sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

# What is Spiritual Maturity?

It is a **(process)** *Proverbs 8:5; 2 Peter 3:18*

**Proverbs 8:5 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.

**2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

It takes **(discipline)** *1 Timothy 4:7*

• **1 Timothy 4:7 (AMP)**

<sup>7</sup> ...Train yourself toward godliness (piety), [keeping yourself spiritually fit].

# Understanding Discipleship

1. **Mature Believers are called (Disciples).**
2. **I cannot be a disciple without being (disciplined).**
3. **The more disciplined I become (the more God can use me).**

# Understanding Discipleship

## 4. The mark of a disciple is **(cross bearing)**

**Luke 14:27 (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

## 5. How often am I to do this? **(Daily)**

**Luke 9:23 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

## 6. Whatever it **(takes)** to give Christ first place in my life.

**Matthew 6:33 (NIV)**

<sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



# Four Habits of a Disciple

- **Colossians 3:9-10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

## 1. Time with (God's Word).

- **John 8:31-32 (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

<sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- **2. (Prayer) *John 15:7-8***

- **John 15:7-8 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

<sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

# Four Habits of a Disciple

## 3. (Tithing)

**Malachi 3:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

## 4. (Fellowship)

**John 13:34-35 (NIV)**

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

<sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

# How to Hear God's Word

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

## 1. Be **(ready)** and **(eager)** to hear God.

**Luke 8:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**Psalms 119:103 (NIV)**

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

# How to Hear God's Word

(continued)

## 2. Deal with **(attitudes that prevent)** hearing God. *Luke 8:4-18*

- A ***closed*** mind: is fear, pride, or bitterness keeping me from hearing God?
- A ***superficial*** mind: Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
- A ***preoccupied*** mind: Am I too busy and concerned with other things to hear God?

# How to Hear God's Word

(continued)

3. Confess any **(Sin)** in your life. *James 1:21; 1 John 1:9*
4. Take **(notes)** on what you hear *Hebrews 2:1*
5. Act on **(what)** you hear *James 1:22-25*
6. Read it **(daily)** *Rev. 1:3; and Deut. 17:19*
7. Read it **(diligently)** *2 Timothy 2:15*

# SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY

## **Dynamic Bible Study Methods** by Rick Warren (Victor Books)

- Twelve (12) different methods are explained in simple step-by-step instructions. (Tapes are also available).
- **Study Bibles:**
  - **The Life Application Bible** (Tyndale)
  - **Thompson Chain Reference Bible – NIV** (Kirkbridge)
  - **The NIV Study Bible** (Zondervan)
  - **The Disciples Study Bible** (Holman)
  - **The New Oxford Annotated Study Bible** (Oxford)
  - **African Heritage Study Bible** (Winston)

- **Bible Handbooks:**

- Richard's Complete Handbook (Word)
- Haley's Bible Handbook (Zondervan)
- Eerdman's Bible Handbook (Eerdmans)

- **Other Important Study Tools:**

- As many different translations as you can afford. (These can be purchased in parallel editions)
- A complete concordance to match your translation or a Bible on computer program such as "Quick Verse"
- The New Bible Dictionary (Eerdmans) or
- The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Baker)
- The New Bible Commentary (Eerdmans)
- The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands (Moody)
- Roget's Thesaurus of the Bible (Day)
- Oxford Dictionary of the Bible (Browning)
- Concise Concordance to the NRSV (Kohlenberger, III)
- Holman Multimedia Bible Dictionary and Handbook (Parson technology)

# Benefits of Memorizing God's Word

1. It helps me **(resist)** temptation *Psalm 119:11*
2. It helps me **(make)** wise decisions.  
*Psalm 119:105*
3. It **(strengthens)** me when I am under stress.  
*Psalm 119:49-50*
4. It **(comforts)** me when I am sad.  
*Jeremiah 15:16*
5. It helps me **(witness)** to unbelievers.  
*I Peter 3:15*



# HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

- Pick a verse that speaks to you.
- Say the reference before and after the verse.
- Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!
- Break the verse into natural phrases.
- Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
- Write down the verse on a flash card.
- Carry some cards with you at all times for review.

# HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

- Display your verses in prominent places.
- Always memorize the verse word perfect.
- Put the verse to music. Write a song!
- Get a partner so you can check each other.
- Suggested beginning rate: two (2) new verses a week.
- THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING:  
REVIEW  
REVIEW  
REVIEW
- We remember what is IMPORTANT TO US.
- *“The law you gave me means more to me than all the money in the world.”*  
Psalms 119:72(GN)

# How to Meditate on God's Word

**Meditation is *(Focused Thinking)* about a Bible Verse in order to discover how I can apply its TRUTHS to my own life.**

# How to Meditate on God's Word

## (continued)

### Why Meditate on Scripture?

1. It is the key to **(becoming)** like Christ. *Proverbs 4:23; Romans 12:1-2; 1Corinthians 3:18*
2. It is the key to **(answered)** prayer. *John 15:6-7*
3. It is the key to **(successful)** living. *Josh. 1:7-8*

# Ways to Meditate on a Verse

- 1. *(Picture it)*! Visualize the scene in your mind.**
- 2. *(Pronounce it)*! Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.**
- 3. *(Paraphrase it)*! Rewrite the verse in your own words.**

# Ways to Meditate on a Verse

## *Continued*

- 4. *(Personalize it)!* Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.**
- 5. *(Pray it)!* Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.**
- 6. *(Probe it)!* Ask the following questions:**

# S.P.A.C.E. P.E.T.S.

## Questions

- Sin to (confess)?
- Promise to (claim)?
- Attitude to (change)?
- Command to (obey)?
- Example to (follow)?
- Prayer to (pray)?
- Error to (avoid)?
- Truth to (believe)?
- Something to (thank God for)?

# **How to Have Quiet Time**

**QUIET TIME IS A DAILY TIME I SET  
ASIDE TO BE ALONE WITH GOD  
TO GET TO KNOW HIM THROUGH  
THE BIBLE AND PRAYER.**



# The Importance of Daily Quiet Time

1. We were **(created)** to have fellowship with God. *Genesis 1:27; 2:7; 3:8; Revelation 3:20*
2. Jesus **(died)** to make relationship to God possible. *1 Corinthians 1:4-9*

# How to Have Quiet Time

## *Continued*

3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' **(source of strength)**. *Mark 1:35; Luke 22:39; Luke 5:16*
4. Every person who has been effective in **(service)** for God developed this habit. *Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc.*
5. You cannot be a **(healthy/growing)** Christian without it! *Matthew 4:4; Job 23:12; Psalm 119:9*

# How to Have Quiet Time

## The Purpose of Daily Quiet Time

1. To give **(devotion)** to God. *Psalm 29:2*
2. To get **(direction)** from God. *Psalm 25:4-5, Psalm 37:3-7; Proverbs 3:5-6; 4:23-27*
3. To gain **(delight)** in God. *Psalm 16:11; Psalm 37:4;*
4. To grow **(daily)** like God. *2 Peter 1:3-8*

# How to Have Quiet Time

## Steps to Begin Daily Quiet Time

1. Select a **(specific)** time.
  - The best time to have quiet time is the **(beginning)** of the day.
  - Whatever time you set **(be consistent)**.
2. Choose the **(special)** place. *Luke 22:39;*  
*Mark 1:35*

# How to Have Quiet Time

3. Gather the **(resources)** you will need.
  - A Bible, a notebook, Bible Dictionary, concordance
  
4. Beginning with the **(right)** attitudes.
  - *(reverence) Psalm 46:10*
  - *(expectancy) Psalm 119:17-20*
  - *(willingness) to obey. John 7:16-17*
  
5. Follow a **(simple)** plan.

# **Fifteen Minutes with God**

## **(A Plan to Get You Started)**

- 1. (Relax) (1 minute)**
- 2. (Read) a (Section) (4 minutes)**
- 3. (Reflect) – (thought digestion) (4 Minutes)**
- 4. (Record) / Write) (2 minutes)**
- 5. (Request Prayer) (4 minutes)**

# How to Overcome the Problems with Your Quiet Time

1. The problem of **(discipline)**.
  - a. Go to bed **(on time)**.
  - b. Get up **(immediately)**.
  - c. Be aware of quiet time **(robbers)**.
  - d. Fall asleep thinking **(spiritual thoughts)**.

# How to Overcome the Problems with Your Quiet Time (*cont.*)

## 2. The Problems of (**distractions**).

- a. Get out of (**bed**).
- b. Get thoroughly (**awake**).
- c. Read and Pray (**aloud**).
- d. (**walk**) during your prayer time.
- e. Keep a (**notepad**) nearby.



# How to Overcome the Problems with Your Quiet Time (cont')

## 3. The Problem of **(Dryness)**.

### Possible Causes of Spiritual Dryness

- a. Your **(physical)** condition.
- b. **(disobedience)** to God.
- c. **(rushing)** your quiet time.
- d. **(getting)** in a rut.
- e. Not **(sharing)** insights with others.

# How to Overcome the Problems with Your Quiet Time (cont')

## 4. The Problem of **(Diligence)**.

*Your greatest problem will be your struggle to stay consistent. Satan fights nothing harder than your quiet time.*

- a. Make a **(covenant)** with God.
- b. **(Schedule)** it on your daily calendar.
- c. Be **(prepared)** for Satan's excuses.
- d. Leave your **(Bible)** open at night to the passage for the next day.

# A Prayer of Commitment

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

- Read [Acts 2:41-47](#) and list the things the early church did to help their members mature in Christ.
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- Is the church you are a part of helping the members to grow into maturity? If it is, how are you helping in this discipleship process?
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- If your church is not helping its members to grow into maturity, how can your life be used in the spiritual growth of the people?
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- A brief summary of the things that new believers must learn early in their Christian life would include:
- to receive spiritual food
- to develop their newly given "spiritual senses" (more about this in Day 2's study)
- to develop a great sensitivity toward sin
- to learn the strategies of Satan (as Jesus did)
- to learn to resist Satan and sin with their whole being
- to know (often the hard way) the consequences of sin, and the crucial place of the church in restoring them

- to know the nature of a life of holiness, so they will always be available to God
- to know their place in the body (local church) and how their lives are used by God to edify and grow others in the body
- to find out, as the disciples did, the nature of the kingdom of heaven, and how God functions in their world, especially through prayer
- to know how to effectively share their faith and present the gospel to others
- Having grown up in Christ, they will be gradually taken on mission with God. As they are faithful in little things, God will give them more and more significant opportunities to be on mission with Him.

- In this process they will learn to "wait on the Lord"—to "be still." In this waiting they will come to learn to:
- Yield their lives completely to God's working through them.
- Appropriate all that God has provided by His grace and by His presence with them. This will include especially Christ living out His life in them, and the complete sufficiency of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- All this, and much more, is involved in an awareness of God's call.

- **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

- God's desire is that, once you have entered into a relationship with Him, you would grow into maturity in the Christian life and, in turn, be used to help others grow in their faith.
- **Spend time praying and ask God if He is pleased with your growth as a Christian. Write down what He places on your heart.**
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- **Have you released your life to God so that He can use you to help others grow in your church, neighborhood, or workplace? Ask God to show you how He wants to use you to help others grow, and write down any specific person that God places on you heart that you need to encourage.**
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# Day 2: Spiritual Senses Developed

- First, remember that when you are born again as a child of God, you are given spiritual senses ([Matthew 13:10-23](#)) so you can hear and see and understand all the ways and activities of God.
- **To whom did Jesus give the ability to understand the ways and thinking of His kingdom?**
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- It was the ones whom God had called, and once called they chose to follow Christ—the disciples.

- **Why were these people unable to see, hear, and receive healing from God?**

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- **What role does your "heart" play in hearing and following God's call on your life?**

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- [Matthew 13:16-23](#)
- **Jesus clearly indicated to His disciples that since they had been "called by God," they were different in several significant ways. In what ways were they different?**
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- "It has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them [others around them] it has not been given" ([Matthew 13:11](#)). This was followed by this astounding announcement: "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear" ([Matthew 13:16](#)). But every believer must develop the use of these special spiritual senses. It is by the use of them that one grows ([Hebrews 5:13-14](#)).

- A newborn child is fully equipped with senses to function in the physical world. By the constant use of them, a child grows to maturity. I had to assist each of my children to use their eyes to see, their ears to hear, and their noses to smell.
- At each stage of their growth, they had new things to learn. I knew that if they grew normally, they could read and eventually attain to a PhD, if God called them to that task. Each of my children have gone on to receive seminary training and are all serving the Lord. But the day-by-day growth when they were younger was essential to what they would become.
- *Each child of God must learn to hear and recognize the voice of God, and obey Him.*

- Every believer must be helped to develop their spiritual senses, given to them by God. It is crucial to their development and their later usefulness to God. The local church is a major factor, as are the believers God places around them at spiritual birth.
- Each child of God must learn to hear and recognize the voice of God, and obey Him. Jesus assured the disciples that this would be true when He said:
- [John 10:2-4, 27](#)
- **Put this passage into your own words as it relates to you and your personal relationship with Christ.**

- Are you coming to sense the personal nature of your relationship with Christ when He called you? As you mature in this relationship and develop your spiritual senses, you will come to hear, recognize, and understand the voice of God as He seeks to use your life for His purposes.
- *Every sheep who is a part of His flock knows the Shepherd's voice and follows Him. Other sheep in the same fold can assist the lambs as they learn this skill.*
- Every sheep who is a part of His flock knows the Shepherd's voice and follows Him. Other sheep in the same fold can assist the lambs as they learn this skill.

- **Describe the ways in which you have grown to know God's voice and His leading in your life.**
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- **How can you help others to recognize and follow God's voice?**
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- **Write out the following Scriptures below:**
- Each child of God must learn to "see" the activity of God and join Him. This Jesus did, and each believer must also.
- **John 3:3**
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- A servant sees where the Master is, and joins Him.
- **John 12:26**
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- The servant does not take the initiative; the Master does. The servant has died to self and come alive to his Lord.

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- [John 12:24-25](#)

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- And every believer must learn to understand with their heart and obey Him.

- [John 14:26](#)

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- God is always looking at the heart, for out of the heart the entire life proceeds. This is why Jesus asked Peter this life-determining question: "Peter, do you love Me?"
- *So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"*
- *He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."*
- *He said to him, "Feed My lambs."*
- *He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"*
- *He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."*

- *He said to him, "Tend My sheep."*
- *He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me!"*
- *And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."*
- *Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."*
- [John 21:15-17](#)
- But you must develop your spiritual senses ([Hebrews 5:13-14](#)). As a child is fully equipped with physical senses to function in the physical world, so the Christian is given spiritual senses to function in the spiritual world in our relationship with God.

- Look up the following verses and list ways our spiritual senses help us in our relationship with God.
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- 1. [John 10:2-4, 27](#)
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- 2. [John 3:3; 5:17, 19-20](#)
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- 3. [John 14:26; 16:13-15](#)
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- Our spiritual senses help us to hear His voice and follow Him; to see His activity and join Him; and to have hearts that understand and obey Him.

- Just as a little child learns to function in our world a little at a time, if we are faithful in a little, He will give us more ([Luke 16:10](#)).
- Jesus said that when we hear and then obey, we are like a man building his house on a rock—nothing can shake it or destroy it ([Luke 6:46-49](#)).
- There are some things that must be firmly in place in the Christian's life to experience the fullness of God's calling in life.

- **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

- As children of God we are expected to go onto maturity. Part of this maturing is growing in our ability to hear, recognize, and see God and His activity.
- **How have you been developing your "spiritual senses"? In which areas are you seeing growth and in which areas do you think you need to be strengthened in your life?**

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# Day 3: You Must Clearly Know Him

- A person must clearly and unmistakably know God. Jesus said eternal life was coming to "know You, the only true God, and the Jesus Christ whom You have sent" ([John 17:3](#)). This means you clearly have come to receive Jesus Christ into your life as your personal Savior and Lord.
- So crucial was this thorough knowledge of Jesus Christ to the purposes of God that the Father taught the disciples through Jesus how to have this relationship. It was almost three years into Jesus' ministry before Jesus finally asked them, "who do you say that I am?" ([Matthew 16:15](#)).

- When Peter responded that He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Jesus assured him that "flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven" ([Matthew 16:17](#)). Only then, with the disciples fully committed to who He was, was He able for the first time to introduce them to His cross, and His coming death ([Matthew 16:21](#)).
- **Jesus is described many different ways in the Scriptures. Select three of the names of Jesus below and describe how you have come to understand Christ in that manner (these are only a few of His names).**



- Advocate ([1 John 2:1](#))
- Almighty ([Revelation 1:8](#))
- Alpha and Omega ([Revelation 1:8](#))
- Author and perfecter of our faith ([Hebrews 12:2](#))
- Bread of life ([John 6:48](#))
- Captain of salvation ([Hebrews 2:10](#))
- Christ the power of God ([1 Corinthians 1:24](#))
- Christ the wisdom of God ([1 Corinthians 1:24](#))

- Counselor ([Isaiah 9:6](#))
- Deliverer ([Romans 11:26](#))
- Door ([John 10:7](#))
- Eternal life ([1 John 5:20](#))
- Faithful and True ([Revelation 19:11](#))
- Friend of sinners ([Matthew 11:19](#))
- Gift of God ([John 4:10](#))
- The Savior ([Isaiah 45:15](#))
- Great shepherd of the sheep ([Hebrews 13:20](#))
- Judge ([Acts 10:42](#))

- Light of the world ([John 8:12](#))
- Lord God Almighty ([Revelation 15:3](#))
- The Lord, your Redeemer ([Isaiah 43:14](#))
- **Now look through the list and see if there are some names of Christ that you have not come to understand and experience. List these names and spend some time asking God to teach you more of who He is through these names.**

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- Without this God-given heart understanding of who Jesus is, all else is useless. It is such a part of the Father's plan. But it is not merely "head knowledge." It must be the heart! The heart determines every other response to God. On our response rests the eternal purpose of God, being worked out through us.

- **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

- Every believer must have a thorough, God-given, real, and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The entire Christian life depends on it!
- **Write out your testimony, and describe how you have been growing in your understanding and fellowship with Christ from the time of your salvation. Be prepared to share this with others from your group this week.**

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# Day 4: Accountability to God

- Just as simply as a little child, you must daily believe Him. That is, "he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" ([Hebrews 11:6b](#)). This is because "without faith it is impossible to please Him" ([Hebrews 11:6a](#)).
- Therefore, the believer must accept as true all God has revealed about Himself, especially in Scripture, and accept as binding upon his life all He has said, asked, or commanded. Since God is indeed God, His child believes Him and obeys Him.

- With all his heart, mind, soul, and strength, a child of God loves Him, and therefore trusts Him, and responds unconditionally to Him. Paul did this in his life, and discovered and bore witness that the love of Christ compelled [constrained] him ([2 Corinthians 5:14](#)).
- In [2 Corinthians 5:9-11](#), Paul expresses his sense of accountability to God. Read this Scripture and write down in your own words how Paul describes his sense of accountability to God.

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- Paul also said that when he was saved, God not only reconciled him to Himself, but committed to him and all believers "the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God" ([2 Corinthians 5:19-20](#)).
- Jesus had clearly indicated to His disciples (see [Matthew 25](#)) that there would be a time of accountability with God. It is a serious time before God. And He will reward everyone according to his faithful obedience to the Master.

- Each will hear his Lord and Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" ([Matthew 25:23](#)).
- Read [1 Corinthians 15:10](#) and [Colossians 3:23-24](#) and describe Paul's sense of accountability and urgency to honor God in the call He had placed on his life.
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- It is certainly clear that our accountability is not just at the Judgment, but in this life also. As we are faithful in a little, He gives us more.



- **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

- To live without a real sense of accountability is to lose a major motivation in serving our Lord! Just to know that not a thing we do goes without His notice and love brings comfort. To love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength brings with it such an intimate relationship and spontaneous, joyful accountability. All those who have been greatly used of God lived this way.

- **Describe how your accountability to God is motivating you in fulfilling God's call on your life.**

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# Day 5: You Must Obey Him

- Unhesitatingly and immediately you will obey Him. Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching" ([John 14:23-24](#) NIV).
- The Holy Spirit, your enabler, will assist you in hearing, knowing, and doing the call and will of God. He will do this all through your life.
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- **Read the following Scriptures and describe how the Holy Spirit will help you to follow God's call on your life.**
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- [John 14:26](#)
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- [Romans 5:3-5](#)
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- **Romans 8:26**
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- **1 Corinthians 2:10**
- **Describe how you have been allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you in knowing and living out the call of God in your life.**
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- It is an encouraging thought to know that as we obey God and His call on our lives, the Holy Spirit has been assigned to help us to honor God. Often we can get discouraged or afraid when we see the assignment ahead of us. However, it is important to realize that we are only instructed to follow one step at a time and be concerned with one day at a time.
- Remember that Jesus has warned us not to worry about tomorrow ([Matthew 6:34](#)) but simply take each day and turn it over to the Lord. For example, you may be sensing that God is calling you to teach the Bible to others (which we have already learned is a sign of maturing in Christ), but you may never have taught or led out in the church before.

- God will not simply thrust you into ministry without preparing your life first.
- He may provide an opportunity to share at a Bible study or share a testimony at church first. He may place you in a class with a teacher who will mentor you and help you know how to study and share the truths of God. Remember that God is faithful to prepare you for the assignment that He is calling you to do.

**• God may have already been preparing you for an assignment and you have been unaware of this preparation. Look back over your life to see if God has been training you for an opportunity to serve. If you can see how God has been preparing you, describe your preparation in the space below.**

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- Within the church family, the spiritual atmosphere is created where the ordinary Christian can hear the call of God and respond confidently. Here, the call of God is clarified and the Christian is assisted to obey God's call.
- *Within the church family, the Christian can hear the call of God and respond confidently. Here, the call of God is clarified and the Christian is assisted to obey God's call.*
- *It is in the midst of serving our Lord that His call is clarified. When His call is clarified, we can respond with obedience!*

- The missions organizations of the church have a key role in creating this spiritual atmosphere, so that every believer can experience his or her calling and carry it out in a responsible, effective way.
- Missions organizations provide opportunities for Bible study, missions study, missions activities, personal involvement, models for missions, and ministry and service opportunities.
- It is therefore in the midst of serving our Lord that His call is clarified.
- When His call is clarified, we can respond with obedience!



- Linda and Renee came to our association as volunteer missionaries. They had sensed the call of God to come and spend two years with us. During these two years, we sought to create a spiritual atmosphere in which God would have the maximum opportunity to reveal to each of them the next step in His claim on and call for their lives. We spent time in Bible study and answering questions. They were given assignments that they sensed were from the Lord, and they responded eagerly. We walked with them through the disappointments, failures, victories, and the painful and happy times.

- Their assignment ended in the fall of 1986. Renee went on to other missions assignments and on to seminary training in preparation for a life of ministry. Linda went on to direct the Southern Baptist witness to the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta, then to serve in New York and Atlanta, and is now ministering in Alaska with her Lord.
- The "how" of being called of God came for both Renee and Linda in the midst of their personal relationship with God and His people as they followed their Lord daily.

## • **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

- Everything in the Christian's life rests on obedience! Obedience always unlocks the activity of God in a Christian's life. Obedience is where all the real activity of God on mission really begins. Obedience is the essential heart of experiencing a life on mission with God in the world.
- **Is your obedience to God unlocking the activity of God in and through your life? Are there areas of your life where you have not fully surrendered to God and obeyed Him? Spend some time before the Lord and ask Him if you have been faithful to obey all He has been asking you to do. Write down what God tells you about your obedience to Him and His claim on your life.**

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