

Marshall Billingslea

STEPS TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY...

Establishing your faith!

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FOUNDATIONS -

1CO 3:10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. [11] For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, [13] his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. [14] If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. [15] If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

PS 11:3 When the foundations are being destroyed,
what can the righteous do?"

LK 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? [47] I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. [48] He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. [49] But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

LK 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? [29] For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, [30] saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is to oppose the one coming against him

MATURITY -

EPH.4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up

1CO 3:1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. [2] I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

HEB 5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. [12] 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! [13] Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. [14] But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith

in God, [2] instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

1SA 2:26 And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

LK 2:41 Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. [42] When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. [43] After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, [52] And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

PROCESS OF MATURITY :

1. STUPIDITY—unteachable, unwilling to learn, refuses information.
2. IGNORANCE— lacking education or knowledge, unaware or uninformed.
3. INFORMATION— collection of facts or data
4. INTELLIGENCE— the capacity to receive information, level of intelligence = ability to learn
5. KNOWLEDGE— knowing, having an understanding, the sum conclusion of what is perceived
6. EDUCATION— to acquire information. Knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process. Having received instruction in a field of study.
7. OBEDIENCE—knowledge without action puffs up and swell with pride. More knowledge = More accountability
8. WISDOM— experience, common sense, sound judgment, having the proper use and application of education.
9. MATURITY— proper development over time, to ripen, blossom, or come to adult fruition. (the fruit of growth) the evolution of information to application.

* Many people memorize information for a test. They do not understand it or know how to apply it, therefore, they never grow or mature. They know what but not why. They know the letter of the law, but not the spirit of the law. They are not wise or experienced. They do however, attain degrees or titles. Jesus called them hypocrites also known as Pharisees and Saducees,

ATTRIBUTES OF GROWTH :

Samuel and Jesus grew in 4 areas... so do we!

MENTALLY— renew your mind, study to show yourself approved, intellectual or expanded knowledge

PHYSICALLY— bodily activity, disciplined behavior, self control, trained character

SPIRITUALLY— if we live in the spirit, then walk in the spirit. intangible matters of the heart

SOCIALLY— fellowship, social interaction, common relationships, shared lifestyles

RETARDED GROWTH— to much emphasis on one area, and not enough attention to another. Impeded progress, delayed growth that causes deformed maturity.

INFLUENCES & CATALYSTS TO GROWTH

Matt. 19:12— For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven.

1. Hereditary — things we get from family or passed down from previous generations.
2. Environment— culture, friends, location of habitat
3. Will / choice— personal decision

THE DESIRE TO GROW ...

RO 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts.

RO 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

RO 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; [7] the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

JAS 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? [2] You want something but don't get it. [3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

HOS 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.

"Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

HOS 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil,

BENEFITS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

GAL 4:1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. [2] He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. [3] So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. [4] But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, [5] to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. [6] Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." [7] So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Luke 4: [3] "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. [4] As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. [5] Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. [6] But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. [7] Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. [8] Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."

LK 8:11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. [12] Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. [13] Those on the rock are the ones who receive the

word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. [14] The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. [15] But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

CONTRAST OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

	GOOD -	BAD
CHILDREN—	trusting	self centered
	innocent	nieve
	eager to learn	undisciplined
	high energy	restless
ADULTS -	experienced	unwilling to change
	provides for others	baggage
	responsible	

Jesus said to become like little children. He did not say to stay like them and refuse to grow or change. Anyone who has been saved longer than a couple of years, must certainly be responsible for their own spiritual growth. A balanced diet spiritually must include Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and ministry. If we don't serve others in ministry, it's like eating and not exercising. Consider the difference in spiritual milk and meat:

MILK	MEAT
Christian T.V.	Regular church attendance
Focus on receiving	Focus on giving
Read a Bible verse monthly	Study the Bible daily
Say a prayer at meals	Have a daily prayer life
Being entertained	Serving the needs of others

BARRIERS TO GROWTH...

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1. **WILLFUL IGNORANCE**— MT 13:15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

RO 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

2 Peter 3: [5] But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed

2. **RESISTING CHANGE BY AVOIDING CONFLICT**—

We can not repeat the same behavior and expect different results. We must move beyond our comfort zone. This often comes by way of conflict: (bro. sandpaper & sis. stumbling block)

- a. when someone makes you wait, you see how impatient you are!
- b. when someone falsely accuses you, you see how vindictive you are!
- c. when someone wont let you have your way, you see how stubborn you are !
- d. when someone ignores you, you see how insecure you are

STEWARDSHIP / responsibility & accountability

A steward is one who manages anothers property, finances or affairs.

1 Cor.4: [2] Now it is **required** that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

RO 14:12 So then, each of us will give an **account** of himself to God.

Rom. 12:11— Be ... **not slothful** in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord (KJV)

MT 25:14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money...

MT 25:23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ...to the one who had received the one talent came. "His master said, 'You wicked, lazy servant! 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

GOD'S MANAGERS...

man·age To direct or control the use of; handle. To exert control over. To make submissive to one's authority, discipline, or persuasion. To direct the affairs or interests of. To succeed in accomplishing or achieving, especially with difficulty; To direct or conduct business affairs.

To continue to get along; carry on.

We own nothing, but we are responsible for everything in our care :

GE 39:2 The LORD was with **Joseph** and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. [3] When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, [4] Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, for the furtherance of His work .

[David Livingstone.](#)

GE 30:29 **Jacob** said to him, "You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care. [30] The little you had before I came has increased greatly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I have been.

9. **REQUISITION**—to express a desire for some thing— to ask for
 Matthew 7:7-11/ Phillipians 4:6
10. **INQUISITION**—a search for information,
 knowledge, or facts, an investigation
 Judges 18:5
11. **MEDITATION**—waiting, contemplating,
 consider at length, to ponder. To tarry, to be delayed
 Psalm 1:2 / Acts 1:4 / Isaiah 40:31
12. **ADORATION**—expression of the deepest love, to adore Matthew
 22:37 / 1 John 4:7,8
13. **CONSECRATION**—making a vow, dedication of a baby, set apart
 as sacred, sanctified for use Exodus 13:2 / 2 Chronicals 7:5-7
14. **INVOCATION**—inviting His presence, welcome Him to join a
 service or participate in something. Exodus 33:14-16
15. **BENEDICTION**—a closing prayer or blessing, usually asking
 God to bless what has already taken place
16. **INSPIRATION**—seeking revelation (reveal the definition of) or
 interpretation to a
 vision, or dream. Daniel 2:24-28 /
 Revelations 1:1 / Galations 1:11,12

PREPERATION

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Communicating with God. Talking to Him and letting Him talk to me. A two-way street. (An attitude not a duty)

WHY PRAY?

You must talk to someone to build a relationship with them.
 Not just because we want something

WHEN TO PRAY?

Early in the morning, late at night, before meals / after meals,
“Now I lay me down to sleep . . .” - Pray without ceasing! When
your in need, when your thankful, lonely, scared, nervous, etc.

WHO SHOULD PRAY?

Parents children, leaders, people who sin, people in need, “ I would that ALL men pray . . .”, but-
” God hears not the prayers of a
sinner”. Unsaved people must get right with God before trying to carry on a relationship with
Him.

WHERE SHOULD WE PRAY?

At home, at church (“my father’s house will be called a house of prayer”), at school, at work, at
the doctor’s office, at the restaurant,
at Wal-Mart!

HOW DO WE PRAY?

we will discuss, types, people, patterns, power, hindrances, and
postures of prayer...

TYPES OF PRAYER

- 1. PUBLIC**—don’t be as the publicans and hypocrites
don’t be a show off! Matthew 6:5
- 2. PRIVATE**—get personal and intimate—go into your
closet come out of your closet Matthew 6:6
- 3. CONFESSION**—to admit, disclose, acknowledge personal
shortcomings / sins
Romans 10:9 / 1 John 1:9
- 4. SUPPLICATION**—ask for God to supply—earnest,
humble, plea 1 Timothy 2:1
- 5. INTERCESSION**—to stand in the gap—on behalf of someone or
something Romans 8:26,27

6. **PETITION**—a request to a superior authority—
a formal application 1 John 5:14, 15

7. **DECLARATION**—to affirm or state emphatically— to proclaim
or make a resolution
Hebrews 2:12 / 1 John 1:1-5

8. **DETERMINATION**—making a consistent decision
—persistence Luke 18:1-8

DIAGRAM OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

I. OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME.

A. He is our father, he has adopted us as children

B. The names of God and their meaning:

YAWEH—	“I AM”
JEHOVAH TSIDKENU—	My sanctifier
JEHOVAH SHALOM—	my peace
JEHOVAH SHAMMAH—	His presence
JEHOVAH RAPHE—	my healer
JEHOVAH JIREH—	my provider
JEHOVEH NISSI—	my banner
JEHOVAH ROHI—	my shepherd

ELOHIM—Ultimate, Supreme one

IMANUEL— God with us

ADONI—Lord, Master

“the name that is above every other”

“at His name every knee shall bow”

“by no other name can you be saved”

“Thou shalt not take His Name in vain”

II. THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE

A. In me (my personal life to line up with the word)

B. My family (spouse, children, parents, etc.)

C. My church (Pastor, leadership, harvest of souls)

D. Nation (City, state, congress, president)

III. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

A. Provision of needs, wants, desires

B. Prosperity to further serve God

C. Be specific, be tenacious

POWER IN PRAYER

FASTING—

when you fast, wash your face and comb your hair
this faith only comes by prayer and fasting
even now declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning
my knees are weak through fasting and my flesh faileth
the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak

AUTHORITY—

approach the throne of God boldly
the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man
availeth much
when you've done all to stand . . . Stand
(having confidence God will do it)

UNITY—

if two shall agree, it shall be done
they all joined together constantly in prayer, and they were all in one accord
(no doubts, not skeptical, not fearful)

TONGUES—

he who prays in the spirit is edified (your mind does not understand, your
spirit must be in charge)
the spirit knows our infirmities,
he prays with groanings and utterings that can not be understood

ABRAHAM—Genesis. 18:23

MOSES—Exodus. 33:11,12

SAMUEL-1 Sam 7:8,9 / 12:23

DAVID—Psalm 5:1,2

JERIMIAH-Jerimiah 29:7,12-13
33:3 / 42:4

JOB—Job 16:17 / 42:8-10

ELIJAH—James 5:17-18

PAUL-1 Corinthians 14:13-18

HANNAH—1 Samuel 1:27

DANIEL—Daniel 6:10

JONAH—Jonah 2:1,2

HABAKKUK-Hab.1:2 / 3:1,2

NEHIMIAH— Ch. 1:4,6

ESTHER—Esther 4:3,15,16

JAMES—James 5:13-16

JESUS—Matthew 4:1,2/
Matthew 26:36-41 / Mark 1:35
Luke 6:12 / John 17:9, 20

PEOPLE OF PRAYER

E. M. Bounds— Power Through Prayer

Leonard Ravenhill— Prayer, Key to Revival

Billy Graham— ”The keys of success to any crusade:
1. prayer 2. prayer 3. prayer”

Evelyn Christenson— What Happens When Women Pray?

Dr. Paul Yongi Cho— Prayer Mountain, Soul Korea

HINDERANCES TO PRAYER

HINDER—To get in the way, delay progress, interfere, obstruct “when they seem to bounce off of the ceiling”

1. **Disobedience**—(children of Israel) Duet. 1:26,43,45
(Saul) 1 Samuel 13:12,13 / 14:36,41
Proverbs 28:9 / Ezek 20:1-3

2. **Secret Sin**— Psalm 66:18-20 / Joshua 7:6,10

3. **Indecisiveness**— James 1:6-8

4. **Family Dissension**— 1 Peter 3:7

5. **Unforgiveness**— Matthew 5:23,24 / 6:14,15

6. **Worry/ Doubt**— Matthew 6:25-34

7. **Contrary to God’s Will / Selfish Motives**

Disciples Matthew 20:20-22

Moses Dueteronomy 3:23,26

David 2 Samuel 12:16

Paul 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

carnal minded

Christians James 4:3

THE POSTURE OF PRAYER

POSTURE—position of the body in regards to some

thing. “physical

attitude” - to pose in attentive ness

BOW—to bend downward in submission, to yield
Romans 14:11 / Phillipians 2:10

KNEEL—to rest on the knees Mark 1:40 / Luke 22:41 / Acts 20:36

PROSTRATE—to throw down flat, lying face down,
incapacitated
Matthew 17:6, 26:39 Luke 5:12 Revelations 11:16

STAND—rise up in an upright position on your feet. To be stable on a
foundation
Mark 11:25 Luke 1:19 Ephesians 6:11,13

THIS IS NOT ONLY A PHYSICAL POSITION, BUT ALSO A HEART
CONDITION!

IV. FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE
FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

- A. Our sins, our offenses / toward God, toward people**
- B. Release others, bless them (7 X 70)**
- C. Set your will to forgive in advance**
- D. Don't nurse it, rehearse it or disperse it !**

V. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

- A. Put on the whole armor of God:**
Loins gird about with truth
Breastplate of righteousness

Feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace
Shield of faith
Helmet of salvation
Sword of the spirit

Matthew 4:1—He was led into the wilderness to be tempted (to be proven) We don't have a testimony without a test!

B. Pray a hedge of protection around you and your family

VI. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM & THE POWER FOR EVER

A. Always give Him the credit

B. Thank Him for answers to prayer

BIBLE STUDY -

For almost 2000 years since the birth of the church, believers have trusted the scriptures as our all sufficient rule of faith. It is the final authority for any belief, doctrine or conduct. It is our guide, our roadmap and our source. Thousands have suffered persecution and became martyrs because of this book. They were convinced that all people must have the right to own and study the scriptures for themselves. Men such as John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and Martin Luther gave their lives to translate the Bible into the language of the people.

This book must be considered sacred and held with the highest honor. Translations vary from King James "old English", to paraphrases in contemporary, easily understood reading. Some books of the Bible are now produced in word for word video presentations. If we do not find a good Bible and study it regularly, then the blood of martyrs and the millions spent on publishing have been in vain!

Billions have experienced the life changing power of this book. It must become our bread of life as we hunger for it's divine truth.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to (study) present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

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

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away

[2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1. **Authoritative**— Final rule, Standard, law, guide
 2. **Inspired**— Came from (breathed by) God
 3. **Infallible**— Without fault, perfect, no errors
 4. **Literal**— means what it says
- Written on papyrus (a reed made into paper) and parchment (animal skin/leather) and made into scrolls (about 35 ft. long).
 - Took the course of about 1500 years and more than 40 authors
 - Old Testament in Hebrew, New Testament in Greek

Apocrypha—15 books of O.T. era / not inspired or infallible

Septuagint—Greek translation of the O.T. Hebrew

Cannon—66 books recognized and proven as scripture

Dead Sea Scrolls—Oldest copies known of the O.T. manuscripts

Testament—tangible proof or evidence. A statement of belief. A written document providing for the disposition of a person's property after death. "a will" A covenant between human beings and God.

Covenant—A formal, binding, and sealed agreement or contract.

Major Divisions (segments)

Old Testament	39 Books	New Testament	27 Books
A. Pentateuch (torah)	5	A. History	5
B. History	12	B. Letters	21
C. Poetry	5	C. Revelation	1
D. Prophecy	17		

ANALOGY— logical similarity, comparison, "for instance"

PARABLE— A story to illustrate a message, moral, or principle

METAPHOR— Figure of speech to illustrate or make a comparison

ALLEGORY— Literary, dramatic pictorial representation

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

PRIVATELY—

1. **Observation**— What is this passage about?
2. **Interpretation**— What does it mean?
3. **Application**— How do I apply it to my life?

Avenues of Study—Book Study, Theme Study,
Character Study, Word Study

PUBLICLY—

1. **Preaching**— take notes (topical or expository)
2. **Teaching**— discussion, ask questions, keep a journal
3. **Training**— take courses or tests

HELPS— Concordance, Dictionary, other translations

A STUDENT OF THE BIBLE

1. Must be born-again

2. Must depend on the Holy Spirit for revelation
3. Must have reverence for the Scripture
4. Must have a hunger
5. Must be willing to apply himself

INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE (Hermeneutics)

1. **Consider the Context**—What else is said in this chapter and this book?
2. **Consider the Culture**—How does this apply to these people and their times or us and ours
3. **Cross References**—When does the scripture refer to this elsewhere (it never contradicts) somewhere
4. **Spiritual Revelation**—Why does God say this?

“Rhema or Logos”

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY????

THE PRAYER SHAWL ... “TALLIT”

1. Its Origin - Num. 15:37 The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD your God.' "

2. Its Purpose - A symbolic reminder of Gods protection and provision by his word.

3. Its meaning - a covering, a cloak, mantle or tunic. It's four corners were symbolic of the 4 corners of the earth, were also called wings - Ps. 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; Referred to as Hovering in Gen1:2, Duet. 32:11. It included 5 knots & 8 strands, added to 600 to remember the 613 commandments in the Torah (1st 5 books in the Bible).

4. "Tallith" - Hebrew word for little tent (the entire shawl) Paul made "tents" ... intimate, private and personal "go into your prayer closet", Tzitzit is the fringes and means commandments

5. Significant part of the burial cloth - Jn. 20:6, Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

6. Hebrew blessing on the crown - to be recited when putting it on. "Blessed art thou Lord God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with his commandments and commands us to wrap ourselves in His word"

7. Ruth was under Boaz's covering - Ruth 3:9

"Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

8. David cut off the corner of Sauls robe - 1 Sam. 24:1

" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. [6] He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed,

9. Elijah's MANTLE for Elisha - 2 Kings ch.2[8] Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. [12] Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. [14] Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it.

10. The woman with the issue of Blood - Mal. 4:2,

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.

Luke 8:43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped./

Matt. 14:35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Mark 6:56 - [56] And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

11. Davening is the rocking motion often practiced.

often seen at the wailing wall in Jerusalem

12. Pharesees showed off with it - Matt. 23:5 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

13. The angel told Peter to get up and put it on - Acts ch. 12 :8 Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him.

14. His robe and vesture - is enscribed - Rev. 19 [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

A guide for growth

TIME

“Our personal resource” - wasting time is just as sinful as wasting money.

James 4:13-15

—our time is given by God

Exodus 9:5

—God’s appointments

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

—A time for everything

Eph 5:16 / Col 4:5

—Redeem the time

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

—Our time is short

Luke 9:51

—Jesus respected His limited time

The average person works 8 hours a day, sleeps 8 hours a day, 8 are discretionary . . .(we must **BUDGET** our time)

In our lifetime, the average person spends 6 years eating food, 7 years in the bathroom, 9.5 months waiting on someone else, and only 8 months at church!

Each week has 168 hours, is it possible to tithe our time?

1/10 = 16 hours a week . . .

2 hours Sunday morning, 2 hours Sunday evening, 2 hours personal Bible study, 2 hours prayer, 2 hours visitation, 2 hours choir practice or other ministry, 2 hours witnessing.

IDLE—Lazy, not employed or busy, not in use,

Wasting time (idle hands are quick to find mischief/devil’s workshop)

Proverbs 31:27—the virtuous woman is not idle

Ecclesiastes 10:18—a man’s house will come to ruin if he is idle

Matthew 12:36—Judgment for idleness

What is Time?

1. Irreversible, continuous space between the past, present and future
2. The interval which separates two points in a continuum.
3. A system of seconds, minutes, days, months, or years which creates duration
2. The boundaries of a presented opportunity

TIME MANAGEMENT SURVEY

1. Do I concentrate on things URGENT, or things IMPORTANT?
2. Do I set priorities and stick to them?
3. Can I say No, and set boundaries with people?
4. Am I best described as a fireman or a planner?
5. Do I often experience anxiety even after my tasks are complete?
6. Do other peoples' CRISIS, create a CRISIS for me?
7. Do I often regret Not doing things I want to, need to, should do?
8. Do I know where I'm at, where I'm going, and how I will get there? (personally, family, job, ministry)

JESUS WAS AN EXAMPLE OF DOING THE IMPORTANT THINGS INSTEAD OF THE URGENT THINGS

1. Waited to resurrect Lazarus— John 11:3-6
2. Asleep in the boat during a storm— Mark 4:36-41
3. My time has not yet come— John 7:6
4. He finished the work— John 17:4
5. When He died, there was still multitudes who needed healing, teaching, etc. but he had priorities.

HOW TO BUDGET GOD'S TIME:

Set Priorities: Having precedence, order of importance, rating things that get prior attention.

1. **God**— Prayer, Bible Study
2. **Family/Home**—Meals, school activities (relationship building)
3. **Job**— Mon—Fri 9-5 ?
4. **Ministry / Church**—Regular and special activities
5. **Personal Time / Leisure**—Vacation, recreation, hobbies, etc.

24 Hour Day:

8 hours sleep	8 hours work
1 hour God	2 hours family
1 hour Ministry	2 hours driving, prep
2 hours personal	

TALENT

Ability, skill, special use or purpose, gifted

- 1. Use your abilities to serve God**
- 2. Apply your skills for God's work**
- 3. Thank God for His gifts, they are His resources**

Exodus 31:3-6	—As the Lord supplies, for His work
1 Kings 5:6	—Special Jobs
1 Kings 7:14	—Expertise
1 Chronicles 22:14,16	—Given for the Lord's work
1 Chronicles 25:6,7	—Cooperation of like talents
1 Peter 4:10	—Use your gift/talents to bless others
Romans 9:20,21	—Some have ordinary, some special

DEVELOP—Process of improving quality, the progress of increasing ability. Acquire, strengthen, make better

DISCIPLINE AND PRACTICE—

After a spectacular performance at the symphony hall, a woman rushed up to famed violinist Fritz Kreisler and cried: "I'd give my life to play as beautifully as you do." Kreisler replied, "I did."

TREASURE

Money—a commodity given in exchange for goods or services, a measure of trade for something of value

Budget—Itemized summary of expenses by priority and availability. Spending within limits or boundaries

\$\$\$ Spent On . .

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Shelter (including utilities) | 30% |
| 2. Government / Taxes | 25% |
| 3. Transportation | 13% |
| 4. Food | 12% |
| 5. Giving (how much to whom?) | 10% |
| 6. Clothing | 5% |
| 7. Debt | 5% |
| 8. Recreation / Entertainment | 5% |

Larry Burkett . . .The Old Testament tithe was given twice a year and 1/3 was given every 2 years, this meant you gave 23 & 1/3 % of what you have. New Testament is based on the need, (10% is a rule of thumb)

Priorities—

1. You must first take care of your own house
(1 Timothy 5:8)
2. Your primary giving should be to your “storehouse”
3. Other giving / extra offerings:
 - a. “para-church” ministries
 - b. People in financial need

Abraham tithed to Melchizedek -	Gen. 14:18-20
Give as God enables you—	Duet. 16:7
Give God your best—	1 Chron. 21:24
Don't rob God—	Mal. 3:8-10
Give cheerfully—	2 Cor. 9:7
Share everything to meet others needs—	Acts 2:42-45
Set money aside for Gods work—	1 Cor. 16:1,2
Give when your in need—	Matt. 26:7
Sacrificial giving—	Luke 21:1-4

STEWARDSHIP QUIZ

1. The resources we use do not belong to us. They belong to _____
2. The 3 areas of focus are _____, _____, & _____
3. (T) (F) We are responsible and accountable for how we manage God's property.
4. (T)(F) If we are wise and faithful, God will increase our resources
5. In Romans 12:11 (KJV) the Bible says NOT to be _____
concerning the Lord's work.
6. Romans 14:12 says that each man will stand before God and give
_____.
7. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says that it is required for us to be found _____
8. (T) (F) wasting time is just as sinful as wasting money
9. (T) (F) God often sets appointments

10. (T) (F) It is not possible to tithe our time
11. (T) (F) If other people control our time, we are not wise stewards
12. (T) (F) We have time for whatever is a priority
13. Jesus always did the important things, not always the _____ things.
14. Everyone has a special skill, ability, or gift to use for God. It is what we call _____.
15. (T) (F) The process of improving quality, and the progress of developing talent is not our responsibility.
16. (T) (F) We are not expected to cooperate with others of similar talent as long as we do our personal best.
17. (T) (F) Budgeting our money is just as important as giving it away
18. Who should receive priority in your tithes and offerings? _____
19. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we are told to give in what manner? _____
20. In Acts 4:32-35 the believers gave money according to the _____.