

TIPS FOR JESUS' DISCIPLES

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Introduction

Part one of this booklet is a compilation of thought provoking **insights** from God's word, the Holy Spirit and life to sharpen the disciples' character, vision and ministry. Part two is comprised of spiritual **exercises** to sharpen, focus and provoke growth.

Part I:

Be Strong in the Lord

- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- I am not ashamed of Christ or His gospel.
- Desire to be to the praise of God's glory.
 - The Lord is searching for someone through whom He can show Himself strong.
 - The Lord will not leave me or forsake me, therefore I shall not fear what man shall do to me.
- The Lord is my very present help in time of trouble.
- Whatever I do, I will do it with all my heart to the Lord.
- Those who wait upon the Lord renew their strength.
 - Be strong and courageous; don't fear or be discouraged. The Lord goes ahead and is behind you preparing the way.
 - Jesus says, *"My grace is sufficient for you – in your weakness My strength is perfected."*
- It is strength to admit weakness and draw on God's strength.
- Find joy in God's presence.

He Will Direct Your Steps

- Sure, Steady, Slow Steps = Success.
- Leading or led?
- A shepherd who follows sheep steps in stuff!
- Better to step in some direction than no direction at all.
- Acknowledge the Lord in all your ways and He will show you His ways.
- Do what you know to do. What you do not know will be revealed.

- Trust the Lord, lean not to your own understanding, acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will direct the steps. God will never lead you where He has not been.
- The Lord will fulfill His plans, not mine.
- The Holy Spirit prepares things in advance.
 - Sometimes we get godly desires, but it may not be what God wants us to do.

Be Faithful to the Lord

- Faithful shepherd or hireling? – Called or hired?
- Jesus entrusted himself to His Father, not men.
- He who seeks men’s praise loses God’s praise.
- All that matters for a servant is that he be found faithful to his Lord.
 - For me to live is Christ, to die is gain – but it is helpful for others that I help them grow in God.
 - Love = Commitment, Accountability and Responsibility.
- What do you do when you are by yourself?
- Cheer the Lord on to victory!
- To live for self is to deny Christ.
- To live for Christ is to deny self.
- Obedience is better than sacrifice.
- As I go about God’s business, He will take care of mine.
- The opposite of compromise is conviction.

God Calls Us

- The Lord calls who He calls.
- The Lord equips who He has chosen.
- God confirms His Word with signs and wonders.
- God is not interested in my opinions, only His Truth.
- People follow your lead and your example.
- The Lord is who He says He is: The Great “I am.” **Are you?**
- The Lord, not the sheep, develops His shepherds.
- Fulfill your calling, not someone else’s
- The chosen are those who respond to the call.
- Stay in your calling, vision, and anointing.

- The Lord knows my beginning and my end. He knows what I will face before I face it. He has His provision already waiting.
- God will supply for what He wants.

True Ministry

- Labor in the Lord is not for nothing.
- Except the Lord build the ministry – there is no ministry.
- People and money are not what make a ministry.
- The Lord’s presence is what makes the difference.
- The servant of the Lord is not for sale. He has already been paid for.
- True ministry begins at home.
- When you stand for God, God will stand for you.
- Humility brings honor from God and man.
- Who can build a house for the Lord?
- Isolation brings desolation.
- To gather is not to scatter, except one gathers to self.
- Lift Jesus up and He will draw all men to Himself.
 - You can talk about something you do not know about, but you cannot live it.
- I must decrease that He might increase.
- The minister and ministry that gives – receives.
- *Minister to Jesus and Jesus will minister to you.*
 - The Lord saves you from the faces of man when you quit looking to them.
- You can preach with conviction what you know is true.
- Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.
- Comparison brings confusion.
- When the Lord prospers you, always remember the humble beginnings.
- **Three possible evils for ministers: funds, females, and fame.**
 - If you want to be like Jesus, you must have His fruit (*character*) and His gifts (*of the Spirit*). Lay hands on the sick in Jesus’ name. They will get delivered and healed.
 - Practice what you preach!
 - Study and meditation of the Word produces a message the Holy Spirit can bless.

The Power of God

- The Lord is my defender, protector, provider, lover.
- I will boast in the Lord who always causes me to triumph in Him.
- My God shall supply what is needed, or it is not needed.
- Fear of man or woman is a snare.
- If God cannot do it, nobody can!
- God calls things that be not as though they are and they become.
- The Lord empowers who He trusts.
- The Lord will do what brings Him glory!
- Greater is He that is in you than they that are in the world.

Actions Toward People and Creation

- Appreciation never depreciates.
- Do not love what you are doing more than the One you are doing it for.
- Love what you are doing because you love the One you are doing it for.
- Concentrate on the people you have, not the ones you don't have.
- Love the people while you have them!
- Impart and they will not depart.
- Honor those who labor with you in God's Church.
- Have nothing to hide, and nothing needs to be found out.
- Talk to and about Jesus.
- Think about Jesus – He is thinking about you.
- Life is too short for fussing.
- Bless – don't curse.
- Jesus loves you and them.
- Don't kick your dog.
 - How blessed it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity.
 - The reason people compromise is that they do not want conflict.
 - If we were not responsible for our own actions, then only the devil would burn in hell.
 - **The time to be with people is *after spending time with God.***
 - Comparing hinders sharing and caring.
 - Think about God's love, think about His goodness.

Sayings of the Wise

- Diligent hands prosper.

- Those who believe in Jesus will do what Jesus does.
- We either stand with or against, gather or scatter.
- The devil does not see me; he sees Jesus!
- When you tell the devil to get behind you, don't turn around to see where he went.
- Conviction breeds conviction.
- If you don't like what you have, consider changing who you are.
- Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.
- Cooperation, not competition = completion and compliment.
- A holy house is better than a full house.
- Conviction is better than preference.
- Do not go beyond what God has revealed.
- Do not go beyond what is written in the Word.
- Compromise leads to being despised.

Prayer and Faith Will Make a Difference

1. *Lord, grant me the hearing ear and the instructed tongue.*
2. Speak God's Word – He will confirm it.
3. Speak life, not death.
4. Salvation is free – no works attached! Now work out your own salvation (Philippians 2:12-13)
5. Rise early and meet the Lord.
6. Love is the greatest! If Christ had not first loved us, we would have no faith or hope. The Holy Spirit will give you what to say.
7. *I love you, Lord!*
8. The busier the day, the more I pray – first.
9. Stop, look, and listen.
10. To the Spirit – Through the Spirit.
11. *Thank you, Jesus.*
12. God's faith only works on what God wants to do.
13. The spirit of unbelief always comes against the move of God.
14. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it to glorify my Father.
15. God only does the things He takes pleasure in – do likewise.
16. Prayer precedes action.
17. What is it that I am really looking for?
18. *Direct my day Your way, Lord.*
19. We walk by faith, not by sight.

20. The proof of your desire is the diligence of your pursuit.
21. Do not lose your passion for the compassion.
22. The word of faith is near you, even on your tongue – speak it!
23. *Thank you, Lord, that I am not You!*
24. How can I expect people to believe if I don't believe?

The Humble Heart

- ...looks for ways to bless others.
- ...is available to people as God directs.
- ...is always available to the Lord.
- ...is not a complainer.
- ...is a proclaimer of good, God things.
- ...is not a self-promoter, but a God-promoter.
- ...is honest, patient, faithful, consistent, and has integrity.
- ...loves at all times.
- ...is teachable, wise, and does not mind correction.
- ...is obedient to God.
- ...is compassionate, giving, generous, and thankful.
- ...is full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

PART II: Growth Lessons

PRESSURE SOURCES

People

—

Expectations
Demands
Agendas
Cares
Degree of relationships

Time

—

Scheduling

- Vacation
- Availability
- Limitations

Resources

—

Facilities (rent and building programs)
Offerings
Investments
Staff and volunteers
Equipment

Self

—

Health
Emotions
Values and beliefs
Family and relationships
Spiritual
Financial
Goals, vision, expectations:

- “Save the World”
- Messiah complex
- All things to all men
- Comparison-Competition

PRESSURE SOLUTIONS

1. Seek the Lord's will and direction. Take a moment with the Holy Spirit before making a decision or response.
2. Do not entrust yourself to man (for praise or criticism).
3. Examine motivation of self and others (love, peace, righteousness).
4. Remain under God's authority.
5. Educate people in proper policy and personnel. (Psalm 127)
6. There are no emergencies with God! (People want things now.)
7. Know and maintain your vision and focus. Your belief system affects your vision.
8. Know when to "push off the boat."
9. Do not let others' vision or unbelief cause you to lose your peace or get distracted. Remain in faith and focus on God's vision for you.
10. Conflict of wills and interests bring pressure, but without pride there is no contention.
11. Selfishness and lack of love bring pressure. Being led by love, peace, and righteousness removes pressure.

PRESSURE EXERCISES

(Jesus dealt with pressures every day of His life (Hebrews 4:14-16). In this exercise match the pressure solution Jesus used to deal with the pressure situations He faced.)

- Jesus' mother and family attempted to put him away. (Matthew 12:46-50)

- Man with son: *“If you can heal my son...”* (Mark 9:22)
- Boat in the storm: *“Don’t you care if we perish?”* (Mark 4:35-41)
- James’ and John’s mother wanted positions for her sons. (Matthew 20:20)
- Woman caught in adultery: *“Neither do I condemn you.”* (John 8:11)
- Man wanted Jesus to divide an inheritance. (Luke 12:13)
- Martha: dealing with Lazarus in the tomb. (John 11:39)
- Pharisees: *“Show us a sign.”* (Matthew 12:38-45)
- 3/12/70/120/the multitudes (groupings of relationships in Jesus’ life)
- Satan: temple temptations. (Matthew 4)
- People wanted to follow: *“Foxes have holes...”* (Matthew 8:18-22; 12)
- People wanted to make Jesus king. (John 6:14-15)
- Peter: *“You don’t have to go to the cross.”* (Matthew 16:21-23)
- Peter and John (John 21:15-23)
- Pilate and the Sanhedrin (John 18)
- Judas betrayed with a kiss. (Matthew 26:47-56, Luke 22:47)
- Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-45)

Study:

Accelerated Growth into the Image of Jesus.

Study based on *Mark 4:23-25 (Amplified Bible)*. *Why do some produce 60, 80, 100 from the same seed? Increased receptivity will increase productivity which will increase growth. The Word of God is spirit and life (John 6:63)*. The natural man apart from Jesus Christ cannot understand the Word of God. He is not spiritual. The true seeker wants the truth of God (spirit and life). The goal for a Christian is to grow into the image of Jesus Christ (*Romans 8:29*).

For this increase to occur there are factors involved which must be carefully considered and developed. These are presented in *Mark 4:23-25*.

1. The person must have **“ears to hear.”** This means openness, teachability, willingness, interest, attention. The person must want to hear God’s Word, be interested in God and in becoming like Jesus.
2. Let him **“listen.”** This means receiving, perceiving, comprehending, understanding, discerning. It is one thing to hear. It is another thing to understand and receive or believe what you hear.

Faith comes by **hearing** the Word of God (*Romans 10:17*). Only those who have “ears to hear” can understand what the Spirit of the Lord is saying. They are swift to pay attention and seek to understand what God says. They ask the Holy Spirit to give understanding. They continue in God’s Word, seeking to know the truth and application for their lives which will set them free to have abundant life in Jesus (*John 8:31-32*). They value the Word of God.

The person who hears and does not understand, yet does not seek to understand, has the Word stolen from him by the devil. He lacks the interest or fails to see the importance of the Word for his life. He does not continue in God’s Word. The true motive of the heart is exposed. Such a person is not a seeker or a disciple.

Understanding occurs when one observes, ponders, reasons, learns, and reaches a conclusion for action. The word “understanding” or “sachal” is occasionally translated “prosper.”

3. **“Be careful about what you hear.”** Does what you hear produce faith or unbelief? Does it build up and encourage or tear down and

discourage? You will produce what you receive. You do not want to spend time listening to unprofitable words which do not produce faith, hope and love and do not develop God's character. The disciple wants to hear God's truth.

4. The **“measure of study”** upon the truth that you hear will determine the depth of quality of information or interpretation of the truth in your life. The truth needs to be rightly divided or interpreted. It is not natural knowledge, but spiritual knowledge. It can only be appreciated and understood by the Holy Spirit's instruction and application. The Word of God is life and food to the disciple because it is how growth in the Spirit is developed (*Hebrews 4:12*). What is determined in study is developed in meditation.
5. The **“measure of thought”** or meditation upon the truth that you hear will produce insight, conviction, and purpose of action. Revelation of and by the Holy Spirit will occur. The truth will gain rhema understanding and status as God and you personalize the truth into your life. When people keep the Word of God (truth always in thought), God's Word and wisdom comes alive in their actions and words.
6. The **“measure of virtue and knowledge”** is the increase of godly character and truth in a person's life by the measure of study and meditation, as well as obedience to God's Word which the disciple applies. More obedience to God's Word creates growth, increase, and maturity, which allows God to receive more glory. Thus it is why some produce 60, 80, or 100 from the same word of truth.
7. God's plan for **healthy spiritual growth:**

EACH WEEK

- One worship service
- One teaching service
- One opportunity for ministry
- One Day of Rest (Sabbath)

PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WANT THE TRUTH:
(fools)

are defensive.
do not want exposure.
do not want to change.
do not receive correction and instruction.
believe only some of God's Word.
like to talk much (about self).
do not like to listen.
think of themselves more highly than they should.
think they already know it all!

STEPS FOR GOAL SETTING

1. Identify what you want.
2. Write it down.
3. Spell out why you want it (motivation).
4. List obstacles.
5. Identify God's provision or resources (people, funds, etc.) that can help you accomplish the vision.
6. Develop plan of action.
7. Put date on completion.

LESSONS ON: **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- A. Convicts people of sin
- B. Comforts
- C. Counsels and guides (Advocate)
- D. Teaches truth
- E. Reveals insight into God/man/life
- F. Gives discernment
- G. Gives wisdom
- H. Gives ability to obey God and do good
- I. Gives ability to witness and do ministry
- J. Draws us closer to God
- K. Works boldness and holiness in believers
- L. Interprets God's Word and will
- M. Develops the church into maturity (unity)
- N. Carries out God's creative purpose
- O. Enables people to believe God
- P. Lifts up Jesus and glorifies God
- Q. Calls to remembrance God's Word
- R. Gives manifestations (gifts)
- S. Enables productivity (fruit) to increase in believers' lives
- T. Judges the world (unbelievers)
- U. Protects and defends believers
- V. Gives strength to the weary
- W. Enables true worship and praise
- X. Heals and restores mind and body
- Y. Loves God's people
- Z. Wants and enables God's success for His people

The Old Testament

Isaiah 4:4

- 1. Spirit of Repentance/Judgment
- 2. Spirit of Fire (purifies & cleanses)

Isaiah 11:12

- 3. Spirit of Knowledge (fear of the Lord)
- 4. Spirit of Understanding (understanding knowledge)
- 5. Spirit of Wisdom (ability to apply knowledge)
- 6. Spirit of Counsel (ability to help others apply knowledge)

7. Spirit of Power (power to change)

LESSONS ON: THE HOLY SPIRIT

New Testament

John 16:6-15

1. Spirit of Repentance and Judgment
2. Righteousness/Truth/Purifying/Cleansing
3. Counselor/Spirit of Truth/Teacher
4. Glorifies Jesus

1ST Corinthians 12:3-11 Nine *Supernatural* Manifestations of the Holy Spirit

a) Revelation Manifestations

1. Word of wisdom reveals future plan in the heart of God.
2. Word of knowledge reveals past or present situation in a person's life.
3. Distinguishing between spirits is the ability to see into the spirit realm and distinguish what is of God, the devil, or human.

b)

c) Power Manifestations

4. Faith is the supernatural ability to receive a miracle over time period.
5. Gifts of healing is instantaneous healing.
6. Working of miracles is supernatural work which goes against natural laws.

c)

d) Utterance Manifestations

7. Prophecy is the speaking forth of the word of the Lord for specific situations in understandable language and not preaching.
8. Tongues (not the same as tongues or prayer language in 1st Corinthians 14:2) is the speaking of the word of the Lord to God's people (by the Holy Spirit) in an *unlearned language*. Together with interpretation equals prophecy.
9. Interpretation of tongues is not a translation but a supernatural interpretation of the tongues in an understandable language. God is speaking to His people.

TIPS FOR PATIENCE IN TRIALS

- Find God's promise (*Romans 4:16-25*).
- Receive and believe God will do what He says (*Numbers 23:19*).
- Rejoice and thank God it is done. Thank God He is greater than the trial.
- Forgive everyone and confess any known sin in your life, receiving God's forgiveness.
- Persevere and continue in faith (*Joshua 1:6-9*).
- Act on God's Word. Go about God's daily business (*Isaiah 40:28-31*).
- Rest confidently in the Lord. Humble yourself under God's mighty hand. In due season He will bring it to pass. Cast all your cares upon Him for He affectionately cares for you and watches over you (*1st Peter 5:5-7, also 1st Peter 2:23*).
- Remember: Watch your thinking. What is intended for evil, God will turn for good.
- We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus who loves us. God loves you. He knows what you are going through (*Hebrews 4:14-16*), and He has a provision for you. Nothing can separate you from His love (*Romans 8:26-39*).
- God will not allow you to suffer more than you are able to bear and will provide an avenue of escape (*1st Corinthians 10:11-13*).
- Tell the devil, "In Jesus' name you cannot steal from me – spiritually, mentally, physically, financially, or in my relationships."
- Rejoice in the Lord always. (*Philippians 4:4-8*) Praise the Lord, and thank the Lord He is seeing you through to victory! Develop patience. Let patience have its complete work so you can be mature in Christ, not wavering, so that through faith and patience you can inherit all things in Christ Jesus (*Philippians 4:4-9, 9-12, James 1:2-12, and Romans 5:1-6*)
- God has everything under control. You must trust that your life is in His hands. It will be good. Don't be afraid or discouraged (*Joshua 1:6-9*). God is with you and will not leave or forsake you (*Hebrews 13:5-6*). God will see you through to victory. (*Psalms 46*)
- Do not look at all the ups and downs of every day, look at the finish and the finisher of your faith, **Jesus** (*Hebrews 12:2-5*). The Lord and

your faith in God determine the outcome. Ask yourself, “What is going to be the outcome of this matter?”

- When it all looks hopeless (no light at the end of the tunnel), remember there is a bend in the tunnel. Hold on to Jesus and keep going. There is a light at the end, and Jesus is your light *in* the tunnel!!!

As there is nothing new under the sun, our prayer is that this book encourages you to have a purer, holier and more productive service to God’s glory, and to the benefit of His people. Thank you for your faithfulness in serving the Lord and caring for others.