

Personal Growth Resource

Including

- Personalized Discipleship Plan
- Journal and Discussion Guide

For

The Complete Disciple

© 2003 by Dr. Ron Habermas

How to Use *The Personal Growth Resource*

This Resource has two complementary parts:

- A Personalized Discipleship Plan
- A Journal and Discussion Guide

First, the Personalized Discipleship Plan (P.D.P.) offers a practical tool to help saints specifically identify individual growth, whereas the Journal and Discussion Guide offers numerous reflective questions for each of the twelve chapters in *The Complete Disciple*.

The *Personal Growth Resource* has been purposefully created to promote Christlikeness. Besides this Resource's potential to be used by *individuals*, I also encourage discipleship teams to work together for Christlike results. I suggest that either a *one-on-one relationship* be created (between a more mature believer and a less mature Christian) or a *small group relationship* be formed (consisting of a mature leader and five to seven disciples). *Larger groups* may also benefit from using this Resource, but such groups are most effective when they are subdivided into smaller units, for greater interaction and accountability.

My prayer is that this Resource will promote authentic Christianity within those who utilize it—that God's Image inside each of His children will be consistently restored and that our Creator-Redeemer will be glorified.

Ronald Habermas
Spring 2003

Personalized Discipleship Plan

Explanation of Your *Personalized Discipleship Plan* (P.D.P.)

1. Date of Entry—These are dates when your specific discipleship plans are recorded. It helps to have *consistent times of entries*—I suggest at least one or two entries per week.

2. Specific Discipleship Focus—It is extremely important to emphasize a particular area of your life where you desire Christlikeness. For example, is it godly thinking patterns? Is it commitment to a godly vocation? Is it a focus on Christ-like relationships?

3. Pertinent Challenges—Prayerfully list key barriers to your P.D.P. What may keep you from maturing in the specific areas of your life recorded in your Focus above? Is there a sin you must confess? Is there a bad habit you need to stop?

4. Spirit-led Strategy—After personal reflection, prayer, and godly counsel from Christians committed to you, identify an initial strategy you believe the Holy Spirit is encouraging you to make. (This P.D.P. may be modified in the weeks to come, as you sense the subsequent instruction of the Spirit.) I have listed six components below, which have helped other disciples in their Christian growth:

- a. **Reread** the portion of *The Complete Disciple* that deals with the area of your life you want to grow. (If your Plan lies outside the contents of this book, refer to the general areas in the book that are associated with your plan—for example, the three Eden Legacies).
- b. **Scripture Passage**—What truths or promises from God’s Word pertain to your specific desire to mature in Christlikeness? (More than likely, you will find several verses to choose from in the book portion you have reread.) I strongly encourage you to memorize at least one verse that connects with your discipleship Focus.
- c. **Prayer Commitment**—Create a concise, yet meaningful, petition you can pray several times a day. If it helps, complete this sentence, for your prayer: “Father, I want you to restore Your Image in me. I humbly ask that You mature me in (List the Focus area you identified earlier). I thank You for your help, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

Be sure to record God’s specific answers to your prayers.

- d. **Accountability Partner**—Who can you count on to pray for and to encourage you in your discipleship plans? Enter his or her initials. Write out the specific ways this person actually helps you in your spiritual pilgrimage throughout your P.D.P.
- e. **Other Resources**—Complement your Plan of Christlikeness by listing a couple resources that will enable you to live a godly life. This “resource” could be almost anything: a favorite cassette or CD; a treasured devotional; a useful radio broadcast—anything that motivates you to be faithful in your discipleship goals.

- f. **Plan of Action**—To meet your goal, definite changes in your life (toward Christlikeness) must be noted. For example, Colossians 3:9-10 state that—besides emphasizing the “new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”—we disciples must also attend to the “old self.” To that end, the Apostle Paul simply commands, “Do not lie to each other.”

So, this particular *negative* “action plan” in Colossians 3 (there can also be *positive* “action plans”) requires disciples to “*stop lying*” to fellow saints. Remember that such action plans may include selfless acts of service to needy people.

Again, if it helps, complete this sentence: “One of the changes I must make—whether its positive or negative—to reach my Spirit-led strategy is to (list the specific change you believe God wants you to make in your thoughts, attitudes, values, or behaviors).”

5. Signs of Godly Maturity (Image Restoration)—What “Fruit” of the Spirit do you see (read Galatians 5:19-26)? By God’s grace, what evidences of growth are present in your life and faith? Be sure to have patience—“fruit” isn’t produced overnight or even in a few weeks. Also, ask your accountability partner to offer his or her insight on this issue.

6. Additional Evaluation—Eventually—possibly after several months or a year—you need to step back and make a *full* and *thorough assessment* of your discipleship Plan (*Less* thorough evaluation should be made on a monthly basis). First, ask “big” questions (e.g., “Did I fully and accurately describe the Focus area of Christlikeness where I need to grow? Could I now state that Focus better, or clearer, or more concisely?”) Then, ask “small” questions (e.g., “How can I improve on my specific strategies to attain my Focus goal? Which parts of my Plan were useful? Which parts need to be omitted or modified?”).

Be sure to ask for God’s wisdom in this evaluation. Also, ask for input from your accountability partner.

7. A “New” Discipleship Focus—Return to the beginning of these guidelines. Now you are ready for one of two options: (a) Pursue a thoroughly revised P.D.P. in the *same* Focus area of your life, or (b) Devise a brand new Plan with *another* Focus of your life and faith.

Three copies of P.D.P. forms are provided for you.

Your Personalized Discipleship Plan (P.D.P.) – #1

| | 1. Date of Entry | |
|--|------------------|--|
| 2. Specific Discipleship Focus | | |
| 3. Pertinent Challenges | | |
| 4. Strategy a. <i>Reread the Specific Portion of the Book</i> | | |
| b. <i>Scripture Passage</i> | | |
| c. <i>Prayer Commitment</i> | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| d. <i>Accountability Partner</i> | | |
| e. <i>Other Resources</i> | | |
| f. <i>Plan of Action</i> | | |
| 5. Signs of Maturity (Image Restoration) | | |
| 6. Additional Evaluation | | |
| 7. A “New” Discipleship Plan (P.D.P) | | |

Your Personalized Discipleship Plan (P.D.P.) – #2

| | 1. Date of Entry | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| 2. Specific Discipleship Focus | | |
| 3. Pertinent Challenges | | |
| 4. Strategy <i>a. Reread the Specific Portion of the Book</i> | | |
| <i>b. Scripture Passage</i> | | |
| <i>c. Prayer Commitment</i> | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| d. <i>Accountability Partner</i> | | |
| e. <i>Other Resources</i> | | |
| f. <i>Plan of Action</i> | | |
| 5. Signs of Maturity (Image Restoration) | | |
| 6. Additional Evaluation | | |
| 7. A “New” Discipleship Plan (P.D.P) | | |

Your Personalized Discipleship Plan (P.D.P.) – #3

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| | 1. Date of Entry | |
| 2. Specific Discipleship Focus | | |
| 3. Pertinent Challenges | | |
| 4. Strategy a. <i>Reread the Specific Portion of the Book</i> | | |
| b. <i>Scripture Passage</i> | | |
| c. <i>Prayer Commitment</i> | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| d. <i>Accountability Partner</i> | | |
| e. <i>Other Resources</i> | | |
| f. <i>Plan of Action</i> | | |
| 5. Signs of Maturity (Image Restoration) | | |
| 6. Additional Evaluation | | |
| 7. A “New” Discipleship Plan (P.D.P) | | |

Journal and Discussion Guide

Chapter 1: A New Way to Look at Discipleship

- I. Review—Reread the opening illustration of Helen and Howard. Knowing what you now know—heaven is like the best of earth, but far better—write your own epilogue: What experiences do you imagine this couple will face next?
- II. Reflections on Image
- A. What’s one significant fact about God’s Image that influenced or motivated you from this chapter?
 - B. Pretend you were introducing the idea of Image to a *non*-believer you knew and loved. What would you want to be sure to emphasize? Why?
 - C. Respond to those same two previous questions, but pretend the person you are now speaking to is a fellow Christian you know and love.
- III. Breath of Heaven
- A. Review this chapter’s phrases that use the word “breath” (e.g., “hold their breath” or “out of breath”). Add your own contributions to this list.
 - B. What comparisons between Image and God’s Breath confused you?
 1. What would you like to see further explained or studied?
 2. Added or omitted?
 - C. What comparisons between Image and God’s Breath were helpful for you? Briefly describe how your selections were useful.
- IV. Discipleship as Conspiracy
- A. Explain how Christian discipleship is, essentially, a “conspiracy.”
 - B. Provide three personal examples—using this “conspiracy” analogy—one for each *level* used in this chapter. Here’s a review:

Level #1—Mostly *reactive* experiences, like being caught off-guard by a gorgeous sunset.
...*Your Experience*:

Level #2—Mostly *proactive* experiences, like deliberately seeing the Creator in other people.
...*Your Experience*:

Level #3—Mostly *imaginative* experiences, like contemplating what heaven will be like (“unknown”) after gratefully experiencing earthly blessings (“known”).

...*Your Experience*:

V. Personal Assessment

Of these three *levels*, within which one do you find yourself most often?

- _____ A. Level #1
- _____ B. Level #2
- _____ C. Level #3
- _____ D. Somewhere between Levels #1 and #2
- _____ E. Somewhere between Levels #2 and #3
- _____ F. Other (Explain)

VI. For Further Study

- A. Review the content of endnote #14 in Chapter 1. How does the Greek word in 2 Timothy 3:16 (*theopneutos*) for “God-breathed” enable you to better understand discipleship a “conspiracy?”

- B. Read John 17:6-19—with this 2 Timothy 3:16 passage in mind—Jesus’ High Priestly prayer to His Father. What do Jesus’ particular “God-breathed” words here tell you, regarding:
 - 1. Obedience (John 17:6)?
 - 2. Belief (v. 8)?
 - 3. Glory (v. 10)?
 - 4. Protection by God’s name (v. 11a)?
 - 5. Unity (v. 11b)?
 - 6. Joy (v. 13)?
 - 7. Association with the world (v. 15-16)?
 - 8. God’s Word as truth (v. 17)?
 - 9. Sanctification (v. 18)?

Chapter 2: Our Way Back Home Through Eden

I. Returning Home

- A. Review this chapter's formula: Everything *good* in our present life matches the same category of something *better* back in Eden—which will eventually be *best* in heaven. Identify a simple personal experience of yours (e.g., enjoying a sumptuous meal or a meaningful friendship), then describe that experience in *all three* of these settings—as you would imagine them:
1. In this Present Life—
 2. In pre-Fall Eden—
 3. In Heaven—
- B. Everybody longs for Heaven's Home. Based upon this chapter, record at least two personal illustrations that defined your own "homesickness" for heaven. Then prescribe a helpful remedy for yourself—to get the most out of life *now* (e.g., your remedy might relate to a more Christlike attitude, behavior, etc.)

Homesickness for Heaven

Remedy While on Earth

- 1.
- 2.

II. Image Restoration

- A. If you had the task of telling a mature, older teenager about the three Eden Legacies that all people received, what would you say? (Be sure to avoid "church jargon" and try to keep your comments short). How would you explain:
1. The *First* Legacy?
 2. The *Second* Legacy?
 3. The *Third* Legacy?
- B. Write out *one* New Testament verse (including its reference)—for *each* Legacy category—that specifically instructs Christians towards the Image restoration in their Character, Calling, and Community obligations.
1. Character—
 2. Calling—
 3. Community—

III. Breath of Heaven

- A. Respond to this chapter's proposal: "Nobody can ever get Eden out of her breath."
- B. At this place in your spiritual pilgrimage, is that proposal "good news" or "bad news" for you? Why?
- C. How does this truth give you hope for loved ones you know who haven't yet trusted in Jesus?

IV. For Further Study

- A. Paraphrase your understanding of the golden thread called "paradise," which connects Genesis with Revelation. How does this concept motivate you or encourage you?
- B. Study Table 2.1.
 - 1. What is most striking to you about this comparison?
 - 2. What may be confusing?
 - 3. What does this chart mean for your Christian life today?
 - 4. What particular future promise (in Revelation, chapters 20-22) are you especially anticipating? Why?

Chapter 3: Making Way for God's Image

- I. "Everything We Need"
- A. Review the opening illustration in this chapter, then respond to the question: "What would I do if I *really did* get a check for \$1.5 million each day for the rest of my life?" (Identify some of the positives and the negatives you would anticipate)
 - B. What are your first impressions, after reading the Apostle Peter's related promise that we believers *have already been given* "everything we need?"
 - C. If you were really honest with yourself, what would you admit are two or three personal ways you exhibit symptoms of the "Yates' Syndrome"—how you regularly fail to use *all* God's heavenly riches at your disposal?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- II. Reflections on Image
- A. This chapter describes our Three Legacies of Family *Name*, Family *Business*, and Family *Ties* as a "partnership" with our Maker.
 1. What does this concept of "partnership" mean to you, as it relates to your daily walk of faith in Jesus Christ?
 2. Which one of these three Legacies provides you with the most hope, encouragement, or enthusiasm—in light of your present pilgrimage? Briefly explain your selection.
 3. Which one of these three Legacies furnishes the most conviction or challenge for you? Again, explain your choice.
 - B. Without reviewing the book, list as many of the Super 9 Gifts you recall (even if you don't use the exact words). Try to arrange your responses according to their particular Legacies
 1. Family Name (Character)
 - a. Gift #1—
 - b. Gift #2—
 - c. Gift #3—

2. Family Business (Calling)

- a. Gift #4—
- b. Gift #5—
- c. Gift #6—

3. Family Ties (Community)

- a. Gift #7—
- b. Gift #8—
- c. Gift #9—

(After completing all you can by recall, review this chapter and fill in the ones you might have forgotten.)

- C. Which one or two of the Super 9 Gifts especially motivates you to do some further study and/or to contemplate its potential in your life?

III. Personal Life Application

- A. Reread the last two sections (“Gift-Giver” and “Conclusion”).
- B. Describe a “White Elephant” gift you have either given or received over the years.
- C. Answer this question: “What is the Creator prompting me to do, based upon the many awesome Gifts I have received from Him?” Jot down a ways you could begin to follow up on your reply.

IV. For Further Study

- A. Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and identify at least a half dozen specific treasures this Apostle lists, which validate how we have been given “everything we need” (see verse 3).
- B. Select one of those six treasures (e.g., “election” or “calling”) and—using a concordance—conduct a more thorough study of God’s gracious presents.

Chapter 4: The Way Out of Paradise

I. Review

A. Review this Chapter's opening quotation (epigram) by Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

B. Complete the following sentence with your first three impressions: "There are many illustrations in everyday life that remind me 'things...are *not* as they *ought* to be.' Lately, I have personally been troubled by

_____."

1.

2.

3.

II. Reflections on Image

A. Chapter 4 emphasizes the *deformation* of our Image, which resulted from our own personal sin. Read Sidebar 4.1, especially the section on Cain's testimony. In your own words, based upon the three Legacies, summarize *both* what Cain's parents *once had* (before sin) *and* what this first murderer acknowledges he *now has*, regarding:

1. Family Name

2. Family Business

3. Family Ties

B. In brief, what does Cain's three-part confession mean to you? How does it affect you right now?

C. Review this chapter's list of five words that start with "un"—how sin continues to *undo* us, to make us more *unhuman*.

1. Add a few more of your own "un" words to this list, along with a brief explanation for each entry.

2. Using this concept of sin as *unraveling* our Image, provide your own one sentence definition of sin—a definition you could use with a non-Christian—without any "church jargon."

III. Personal Life Application

- A. Write a prayer of thanks to God (using three or four sentences), expressing your gratitude for the peace (*shalom*) He provides us through Christ's sacrifice.
- B. Contemplate the truths that Samson's life still teaches. Specifically, ask yourself, "In what parts of my life do I tend to take God's blessings for granted (e.g., health, finances, etc.)?"
1. List a couple of these areas.
 2. Select one category from your list, and then offer yourself a one sentence piece of advice, so you won't be as presumptuous about God's presence.

IV. For Further Study

- A. Review Table 4.1, which analyzes how sin affects every Super 9 Gift inside every individual.
- B. Select *three* of those nine categories and personalize each selection. For example, if you choose the *first* Gift, offer a specific illustration of *spiritual-physical* distortion (e.g., "I tend to put myself up as an 'idol,' not asking for anybody's help, including God" or "I have real problems with self-control, when it comes to eating, watching, or reading things I know I shouldn't"). List your three selected Gifts and give personalized illustrations here:
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- C. Isolate just one of the items you listed and really get serious with God. Provide a personal plan to gain victory, by listing several strategies to confront your struggle. (For example, you might list one pertinent verse to memorize, and one person to be your accountability partner, and so on).
- If this workbook is *not* private enough for you, *don't* detail your plan here—but provide these details elsewhere. When you have completed this personal plan, enter your initials here: _____
 - Be sure to note appropriate future dates in your personal plan following a spiritual victory, along with specific answers to your prayers, etc.

Chapter 5: Paving the Way from Sinai to the Cross

- I. Review of the Law
 - A. The first part of this Chapter's summary truth says: "God's Design for Discipleship is far more connected than compartmentalized." Using that fact—and the other key chapter points—provide a three to five sentence "testimony" about how God's Law continues to assist you in your Christian walk.
 - B. The two extreme perspectives of the Law cited in Chapter 5 were *legalism* and *antinomianism*. Provide your own illustration of each extreme—either using a personal example or another situation you have encountered (if necessary, create a hypothetical example).
 - 1.
 - 2.
- II. Reflections on Image and the Decalogue
 - A. Paraphrase the meaning of the "Creation Equation" in your own words.
 - B. Review the passages from Table 5.1, which support this Equation. What insights are especially powerful to you from these verses? Provide some commentary about your discoveries.
 - C. List a couple points of how the Creation Equation engages you—how it "makes sense," convicts you, bothers you, etc.
 - D. Reread this chapter's paraphrase of the Ten Commandments, which features truths and implications about Image.
 1. Which one of these Ten imperatives enabled you to understand God's Law in a refreshingly-new and/or helpful way?
 2. Which paraphrased imperative may have raised question marks in your mind? Explain.
 3. Using your response to the previous inquiry, write out your own paraphrase—in a way that makes more sense to you.
 - E. How does the Prologue/Introduction to the Decalogue deliberately "set the stage" for these Commands? What do you find that's useful in these opening Scriptures—to (particularly) endear you to the Ten Commandments, as well as to (generally) aid you in your Christian walk?

III. Personal Life Application

- A. Review Table 5.2 and study its first two columns. Pretend someone says to you: “The Old Testament was based on Law, and the New Testament is based on Grace. That’s the message Jesus provided—in fact, He often broke the Law of the Sabbath.” Write out your personal response (in about six sentences), especially based upon Jesus’ life and teachings.
- B. Pretend this same individual says to you: “C’mon you can’t really believe this ‘Law’ stuff! The Bible doesn’t tell Christians to follow the Law—now that Jesus has come!” Again, provide a full paragraph response, especially citing portions of Romans 13:8ff and Colossians 3:1-17.

IV. For Further Study

- A. Select one of the Ten Commandments for additional investigation. With your selection:
 - 1. Analyze all Old Testament verses you can find on your directive.
 - 2. Analyze all references (even implied) that Jesus made to this topic.
 - 3. Analyze all other New Testament passages on your subject of choice.
- B. Synthesize your studies and create a one page paper on your selected Commandment. Be sure to cite points of relevance for today’s saint.
- C. As time permits, select a second Commandment, and follow the same procedures.

Chapter 6: No Way in a Manger

I. Negative Reflections About Image

- A. Review the opening illustrations of Jill the librarian—especially noting her perceptions that students and professors are inherently different kinds of people.
- B. Based upon your own personal experiences, identify other similar “people distinctions” that are popular in our culture. Fill in the six spaces below, following the example given in the first category.

“Perceived People Differences Between...”

1. Doctors and Patients
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

- C. In three or four sentences, describe what it felt like when *you* were included in a comparable “people” judgment like this—whether you were included in the *over-valued* (O.V.) or the *undervalued* (U.V.) group of contrast. (If you can’t recall a personal example, either recall a situation you heard about or create one that is real to life.) In your story, be sure to *add one* of these two initials (O.V. and U.V.) to identify which group you were supposed to represent.

II. Image as Portrayed by Christ

- A. For each of the *last four* heresies analyzed in this chapter, provide a real (or a potentially real) illustration of how a believer could still be tempted to view Christ in these inappropriate ways.
1. Arianism (Superman)—
 2. Apollinarianism (Frankenstein)—
 3. Nestorianism (Batman)—
 4. Eutychianism (Incredible Hulk)—

- B. Ponder the traits of Jesus found in the two illustrations from Sidebar 6.1.
 - 1. Add two or three more characteristics of Jesus (in the space below) to those found in Illustration 6.1, which you think most Christians *would* initially recognize or express.
 - 2. Add a couple more qualities (below) to the list in Illustration 6.2—traits that Christians would normally *not* cite.

- III. More “Image” as Portrayed by Christ
 - A. In your own words, define what Jesus’ *kenosis* means, based upon the Bible.
 - B. Summarize two or three key points that can be extended from Jesus’ *kenosis* (e.g., how He faced temptations).
 - C. What does Jesus’ *kenosis* personally mean to you—how does it influence your daily faith?

- IV. Personal Life Application
 - A. Review—and then make a few personal responses to this chapter’s summary statement. What does this statement *mean* to you?

“Those who knew the Man of Galilee *best* (from their historical day-to-day interactions in the Holy Land) *never*, ever questioned His *humanity*. Yet all doubted His *divinity*. We who *never* knew the Lord in His earthly life have just *the opposite problem!*”
 - B. What *difference* does this statement *potentially* make in your faith? What are *two* or *three* daily life implications?

- V. For Further Study
 - A. List at least a dozen of the total traits from Illustration 6.1, and then add a corresponding Bible verse that supports each trait you selected.
 - B. Do the same for Illustration 6.2.

Chapter 7: A “Handy” Way to Recognize the Last Adam

- I. Reflections on Image: The Hand Model
 - A. How does the Hand Model enable you to better understand Jesus’ total humanity? Be specific in your comments.
 - B. How does the Hand Model help you to also know yourself better? Give at least two examples.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - C. In what ways does the Hand Model permit you to comprehend the fuller meanings of God’s Image inside all people?
- II. Reflections on Image: the First Legacy of Character (especially see Table 7.1)
 - A. Paraphrase each of the first three Gifts in your own words
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - B. Select a *couple* names/traits of Jesus (from the last column in Table 7.1)—*for each* of these three Gifts—which are particularly meaningful to you, assisting you as useful expressions of each Gift. Briefly explain why you made your selections.
 1. Gift #1
 - a.
 - b.
 2. Gift #2
 - a.
 - b.
 3. Gift #3
 - a.
 - b.

III. Reflections on Image: Morality and Spirituality

- A. Review Sidebar 7.2, which compares and distinguishes “morality” and “spirituality.”
- B. In what ways does this Sidebar encourage or confuse you?
- C. Explain the statement that Cornelius (when compared to the Young Ruler) is a “more complete person.”

IV. Image Restoration

- A. Select just one of the five domains (each matched with Communion) of Jesus’ earthly life, from the Hand Model. In three or four sentences, summarize several of the key traits (in your selected domain) from Jesus’ life, which you think are especially valuable to disciples today.
- B. Identify at least one “transferable truth or trait” that you can apply to your life, from Jesus’ life, and list it here: _____.
- C. Now, with God’s help, create a brief but do-able strategy to imitate Christ, using the truth/trait you have listed.

V. For Further Study

- A. Conduct your own Bible study of Jesus’ *physical* testimony of Image, using Sidebar 7.1.
- B. Based upon your personal study of His life, what new-found appreciation do you have for Jesus in His physical domain? Create your personalized response through a written prayer, a poem, or a song (perhaps identify a familiar tune for your lyrics).
- C. As time permits, study the other four domains of Jesus’ life, using the corresponding Bible studies found in the *Supplemental Resource*.

Chapter 8: Honoring the Ways Jesus Worked for Restoration

I. Review of Biblical Vocation

- A. Distinguish the following three words from this chapter, which are often used synonymously:
1. Job—
 2. Career—
 3. Calling—
- B. In your own words, briefly describe—from Church history: (1) how vocations were first *separated* into “sacred” and “secular” categories, and then (2) how they were *reunited* in their meanings.
- C. This Chapter analyzes three types of advice that John the Baptist gave regarding “vocation.” Summarize his contributions in the chart below:

| Advice John Did <i>Not</i> Give | Advice John Gave to <i>All</i> People | Advice John Gave to <i>Tax-Collectors and Soldiers</i> |
|--|--|---|
| | | |

- D. Record two or three sentences of personal reaction to John’s advice, asking: “How can I benefit from this prophet’s vocational counseling?”

II. Personal Life Application

- A. Pretend you were invited to speak to the high school seniors in your church on the topic: “Jesus’ Teachings about Vocation and Calling.”
1. Review the six categories of “conspirators” from this chapter;
 2. Review Sidebars 8.1 and 8.2; and
- B. Prepare a ½ to ¾ page outline of what you would plan to say to these seniors.

III. Reflections on Image

- A. In at least eight to ten sentences, summarize the key points of *what* Jesus *did* as a *Carpenter*; *why* those behaviors are important to the comprehensive topic of Calling; and *how* His testimony should influence Christians today.
- B. Repeat this same exercise, inserting Jesus' witness as the *Great Physician*.
- C. Combine these two questions and answer this question: "What does Jesus' *total life* teach us about what we disciples are supposed to do with our lives?"
 1. Provide a concise and creative reply (e.g., possibly create a bumper sticker or a logo for your response); and
 2. Provide a more detailed response—in a couple paragraphs—describing our role as "junior partners in the Family Business" of *both* the Cultural and the Gospel Mandates.

IV. For Further Study

- A. Analyze Luke 3:10-14 for yourself. Then create additional vocational guidance principles that you find in these verses.
- B. Study Table 8.2, especially the Names of Jesus (and their references) listed in the last column. What additional insights does your study reveal about what Christ's disciples are to *be* and to *do* in God's Family Business?

Chapter 9: Following Our Beloved Brother’s Maturing Ways

I. Review of Foundations for Growth

- A. Review the concept of “Crossroads’ Moment.” Paraphrase that term in your own words.
- B. Besides Mary, identify at least two other Bible characters who experienced a “Crossroads’ Moment”—along with what they decided and how they matured.

| | Person | Their Decision | Their Growth |
|----|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |

- C. Record one of your own “Crossroads’ Moments,” also providing your corresponding decision and growth.

II. Jesus’ Personal Testimony of Image

- A. Review the four key verses from Hebrews 2 (verses 11, 12, 14, and 17) that are featured in Chapter 9. Briefly explain (in four or five sentences) how those verses help today’s disciples to better understand Jesus’ deliberate attempts to relate to people as a fellow human being.
- B. Summarize Jesus’ Model of “three loves” (for self, others, and God), using the pertinent portions from Chapter 9, including Figure 9.1.
- C. Summarize Jesus’ Model of suffering and growth—from Chapter 9, including Figure 9.2 (which is based upon 1 Peter 2:23).
- D. Repeat this same exercise, but analyze Jesus’ Example of trust and maturity.
- E. In four or five sentences, explain why it was (and is) important that Jesus deliberately modeled for us a human Example that matured, just as an ordinary person does.

III. Imitating Jesus' Trust and Maturity

- A. Study Table 9.2, focusing on the trust in God that was displayed by both Jesus and by godly men and women.
1. Add other categories you recall, besides the seventeen in this Table.
 2. Add other Bible characters—especially women—to the middle portion of this chart.
- B. Review the two verses at the very top of Table 9.2 (Acts 10:38 and 4:13). What do these verses have in common? How do they encourage you to expect more Power in your daily faith?
- C. As you contemplate Table 9.2, think about what application it has for your personal life.
Complete this sentence: “The one prominent lesson that this chart has taught me for my own pilgrimage is _____.”

IV. For Further Study

- A. Take time to study the details from each of the three passages found in Sidebar 9.2:
1. 1 John 14:16b-21
 2. Ephesians 5:28-33
 3. Philippians 2:3-5
- B. Based upon your study, write out a prayer of praise and commitment to God, which you believe the Holy Spirit is prompting you to make:
- C. In a few sentences, how would you respond to the believer who says: “Any Christian who loves themselves is selfish”?

Chapter 10: The Complete Way to Believe in Jesus

I. Reviewing the Importance of Jesus

Pretend your unsaved friend, whom you know and love, says to you: “Look, why do you keep ‘pushing’ Christianity? Aren’t all religions alike?”

Taking the key thoughts from Chapter 10’s section “What’s So Special About Jesus?”—and a couple *key* verses that *you* suggest—answer your friend in a lengthy paragraph or two (about eight to ten sentences).

II. “Believing” and the Peace of God

A. Respond to this Chapter’s proposal that the biblical meaning of *shalom* shares synonymous traits with the Good News of the Gospel.

B. Take each of the four symbolic measurements from Ephesians 3:18 and explain its meaning; then, describe how those truths assist you as a growing disciple:

1. The **Height** of *Shalom*—
2. The **Width** of *Shalom*—
3. The **Length** of *Shalom*—
4. The **Depth** of *Shalom*—

C. Spend a little more time concentrating on the “*Depth of Shalom*”—personalizing these questions:

1. Provide at least one example in your own life of how and where you have accepted “The Cod Liver Oil View of Faith.”
2. Respond to Yancey’s “problem of pleasure” category. How will this provocative concept influence the way you think, feel, and behave in the future?
3. Review 1 Timothy 6:17, then explain what the last phrase in that verse says to you.

III. Image Restoration and Marriage

- A. Analyze Table 10.1, and then add at least one more paired entry to *all three phases* in that chart.
- B. In sum, how does this comparison practically affect your views of *marriage*?
- C. How does this comparison enable you to better comprehend the three phases of *faith*? In what ways you feel compelled to make any particular commitments, to strengthen your faith?

IV. For Further Study

Read all the passages from the eleven sections found in Sidebar 10.1. Choose three or four (of the eleven) and add your own personal commentary to each of the sections you consider. What difference should these verses make in your life, as a faithful disciple?

Chapter 11: The Complete Way to Follow Jesus

I. Reviewing the Review

- A. Reread the review of Chapters 1-10 at the start of this Chapter.
- B. Using your *own words*, create a brief outline that illustrates how *each* of these first *ten* chapters contributes to the disciple’s comprehensive need to “follow” Jesus (e.g., “Chapter 1 helps lay the foundation for our faith by actually linking discipleship with our Life Source—literally sharing the Breath of our Creator—in this way, ‘Faith’ and ‘Life’ are inseparable”).

II. Image Restoration and Five Discipleship Phases

- A. Review the five phases of following Jesus, including Table 11.3.

- B. Complete every section in the chart below, by inserting *your suggested synonyms* for each of the specific terms found in Table 11.3:

| Phase | Key Concept | Challenge for Growth | Age Group |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|
| #1. Observation | | | |
| #2. Continuation | | | |
| #3. Experimentation | | | |
| #4. Imitation | | | |
| #5. Transformation | | | |

- C. Analyze all of these five phases in greater detail, answering these questions:

1. What contribution does each phase play in Image restoration?
 - Observation—
 - Continuation—
 - Experimentation—
 - Imitation—
 - Transformation—

2. How is each phase sensitive to the human maturity level it represents?
 - Observation—
 - Continuation—
 - Experimentation—

- Imitation—
- Transformation—

3. How do Phases #2-#5 build upon the *previous* phase of discipleship?

- Continuation—
- Experimentation—
- Imitation—
- Transformation—

III. More Consideration of “Continuation”

A. Study the sections in this chapter (including Table 11.1), which speak about the need for disciples to continue Jesus’ work—which continued the Father’s work.

B. In three or four sentences, explain why this strategy is so important.

IV. More Consideration of “Experimentation”

A. Reread Sidebar 11.1 regarding “followers of the Way.” List all five passages, identifying its Acts’ reference *and* summarizing its content:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. As a whole, why is this description of the Christian life—“the Way”—so important for disciples? Respond in about six sentences.

V. For Further Study

A. Review Table 11.2, especially focusing upon Jesus’ names.

B. Select—then study—at least *two* names *per nine* categories:

1. How do each of your selected names complement its Super 9 category?
2. What did you learn about Jesus from your selections?
3. What did you learn about the disciple’s potential, from your choices?

Chapter 12: The Way Home is Closer Than We Think

- I. Review of Heaven
 - A. *Before* you ever read Chapter 12, what were two or three of your primary understandings of heaven? If someone would have requested: “Tell me about heaven,” what would have initially come into your mind?
 - B. *Following* your reading of Chapter 12, what would you *now* say to this same individual? Why would you emphasize the points that you selected?
 - C. What confused you about this chapter and/or what additional information would you want to see included on this subject?
 - D. What insights were particularly helpful to you—at this point in your pilgrimage? How did these insights specifically help you?
- II. Anticipating Our Heavenly Homecoming
 - A. Study Sidebar 12.2—“Ten Promises about Eternal Life We Can Bank On”
 1. Which of these ten promises have you been taught before (just list the numbers)?
 2. Which of these ten promises are new—or fairly new—to you?
 - B. Of all these ten promises, which one would you like to study more—or like to invest in? Briefly explain.
- III. Image Restoration Through Heavenly Investments
 - A. Respond to the phrase “What we do on earth affects heaven.” What does that *mean*? And what does that *mean for you today*?
 - B. In the same way, respond to the second and the third principles, drawn from Matthew 25:
 1. *Principle #2*—“Faithfulness on earth yields greater benefits and duties in heaven.”
 2. *Principle #3*—“Storing treasures in heaven should be a virtually unconscious act.”

- C. Using the word “Works” as an acrostic, create a five-point summary outline of this chapter’s focus on the future *judgments of* and the *rewards for* each individual’s works. Also, provide a brief explanation. An illustration for the letter “O” is given, which you may want to use.

W—

O—Obedience—All people will be judged by how faithful they were with what they received.

R—

K—

S—

IV. Personal Life Application

- A. Reflect upon one key theme from this book: “Everything *good* now was *better* in heaven, and it will be *best* in heaven.” What particular details of Chapter 12 enable you to better comprehend and/or apply this theme to your life?
- B. Chapter 12 concludes with a personal family illustration of this good-better-best theme—emphasizing the Super 9 Gift #6 “Artists and Scientists.”
1. Select one of the Super 9 Gifts you want to *personally* concentrate on.
 2. In one paragraph (five or six sentences), describe what your selected Gift “looked like” in Eden *and* what it might look like in Heaven.
 3. In one more paragraph, describe what *you can do now*—to consciously link *yourself* with that Gift to Eden and to Heaven. (It will help if you think in terms of deliberate strategies to work with the Creator to restore His Image through your selected Gift).
- C. Review the portion (in the Conclusion) that asks: “What if the Return of Christ depended upon you?”
1. Identify one or two ways you could “speed up” His return, through holy living and personal revival.
 2. As you get serious with God about this goal, write out a very brief phrase or prayer to continually remind you about this significant, on-going life purpose.

V. For Further Study

- A. Study Sidebar 12.3, including the verses that are featured.
- B. Taking Hegeman’s perspective, write a one-page summary on the subject: “How to Literally Transport Earthly Treasures to Heaven.” Be sure to include a substantial section on how the believers’ Cultural Mandate fits into this topic *and* how this topic personally affects you.