

STEPS TO SUCCESS SERIES

# JOSHUA

## SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

DR. JONATHAN C. CAREY



*JOSHUA: Six Steps to Success*, Second Edition

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible.

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## Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
 <b>Part I</b>	 <b>5</b>
<b>Step 1: Respond Rightly</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Step 2: Remove From Your Comfort Zone</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Step 3: Relocate Near Your Challenge</b>	<b>43</b>
 <b>Part II</b>	 <b>53</b>
<b>Step 4: Request Help from Others</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Step 5: Require Sanctification</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Step 6: Respect and Follow the Lord</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>107</b>



*This Series Is Dedicated To Those Desirous of God-Ordained Success*



“ *Dr. Carey has a passion to give young people and adults a footing and framework in which to flourish on life’s pathway. From his wide range of experience as a minister, teacher and Christian guidance counselor, he blends rock solid faith principles with simple practical steps. With seasoned insight, Jonathan uniquely crafts this discipleship resource as an enriching tool to shape the mind, the heart, the character and actions of all who desire a fulfilling and successful Christian journey.* ”

Dallas Elder  
*Director, Grace Covenant International*





## Preface

This book and the entire series were developed to provide steps for personal and ministry success for believers, in a workbook form. It targets two groups. Firstly, believers desiring biblically-based personal development study materials and secondly, men and women that are incarcerated as an evangelism and personal development tool.

The steps are taken from biblical characters reflecting part of their life's quest and challenges. It is hoped that the series will be welcomed not only by believers for personal study, but also by Bible Training Institutes, Mission Organizations, Sunday School Classes, Cell Groups, Prison Ministries, and all those who are involved in the maturing of the saints. Tips for instructors using this series in group settings are available in the article section on our website ([ctcnetwork.org](http://ctcnetwork.org)).

The author is available, on a limited basis, to conduct Steps to Success related workshops and seminars.

### BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Successful personal-ministry developmental steps do flow from the pages of the Bible, but are these steps applicable for believers today? Indeed they are. What then are we to do with these biblical steps to success? Perhaps the first step is the creation-maintenance of an environment in our ministries and organizations where they are recognized, taught and encouraged.

Biblical steps to success take place when believers respond in obedience to God's call. They recognize the importance of total obedience, allowing the Holy Spirit to develop their gifts and skills. They carry out their kingdom roles with a deep conviction of God's will and a heightened

awareness of the contemporary issues they and their peers face. Above all, they minister as stewards and servants.

We do not stumble across success. Success is a result of deliberate acts. To truly be successful we must fulfill the will of God for our lives!

The Bible teaches that we can be successful only when we are in right relationship with God. This right relationship is made possible by the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The plan for personal salvation is found at the back of this workbook. If you are studying this workbook as a group, your instructor will share this plan with you. If you are independently studying this material, go there first and read the plan of salvation. Then you can begin your study.

I encourage you to contact a chaplain, pastor, Christian worker or our organization ([ctcnetwork.org](http://ctcnetwork.org)) for additional help and counsel.

## Introduction

Welcome to this study of the life of Joshua. We're going to study the part that was a difficult period for him. Joshua had become the new leader of a group of demanding and sometimes obstinate people. Moses, who had passed away, had chosen Joshua to replace him.

This group of people he was now leader of, known as the Hebrews and the children of Israel, had wandered around aimlessly in a desert place for 40 years and was now on the brink of entering the land that Almighty God had promised them. In their wanderings they had experienced many self-induced emotional and physical challenges. The new challenge they now faced under Joshua's leadership was crossing the Jordan River, because of its overflowing banks.

I have attempted to compare the crossing of the Jordan to the steps that a believer will have to take in order to be successful in his or her personal and ministry life. Study the steps in their order because each one builds on the previous. If you step ahead, you will miss the intended impact.

In preparation for this study you will need to read and reread the full account of the Hebrews' crossing of the Jordan River. You'll find it in the Old Testament book of the Bible that bears Joshua's name: Joshua 1 through 4. You will begin to visualize the crossing with all its preparatory steps.

The study format will be consistent throughout. The method of study is derived from the acronym STEPS.

# STEPS

STATE THE STEP

TEACH THE STEP

EVALUATE THE STEP

PRACTICE THE STEP

SEE THE SUCCESS

## PART I

# STEPS TO SUCCESS

Respond, Remove Relocate



## STEP ONE

### Respond Rightly

*And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.*

*(Joshua 3:1)*

We see Joshua, the new leader of the Hebrews, courageously responding to the command given by almighty God. Joshua rightly responds and rises early the next morning to begin carrying out God's wishes.

To respond means to give an answer or reply. Joshua responds with a "yes" to God's request. He wants to please God and begins to align his thoughts and will with God's. This affirmative response is coupled with fear and uncertainty, but there is no procrastination on his part. He understands the theory of timing: If he allows fear to control him, it will rob him of an opportunity for success. So when God speaks, Joshua acts.

In the face of this enormous task, Joshua is determined to obey his creator no matter the personal cost it might entail. Courage, obedience, sense of timing, and the will to sacrifice are qualities successful people possess.

God did not choose Joshua because He wished to embarrass him or cause him to be a failure. God chose Joshua because He knew that Joshua was the right person for the mission. When God bids us to do something, it is because He knows that in His strength and by His provisions we are able to be successful. Joshua was hand-picked for the mission. You are also hand-picked by God for your life's purpose. God commanded Joshua and he commands us also.

Command sounds like a strong word, doesn't it? It is, but even though we were made as free mortal agents, we were made with the ability to choose to obey or disobey. God commands us to obey Him if we wish to be truly successful. We should use our free mortal status and choose to obey God. He created us and knows what is best for us. Obeying God's commands is a sign of our love for Him.

Jesus encouraged His disciples to keep His commands if they loved Him (see John 14:15). He further stated that if they were His friends they would do whatever He commands (see John 15:14). Love for God and friendship with God requires obedience.

### STATE THE STEP

Joshua is commanded to take the children of Israel across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. He responds in the affirmative and takes action at the first available opportunity.

### TEACH THE STEP

When the Lord rose up Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land, He instructed Joshua to be strong and very courageous.

This instruction holds true for us today. It takes faith to respond rightly to God's commands and it takes courage to live out the purpose. There is no other way around it. Without faith it is impossible to please God (see Hebrews 11:6). It takes faith to look beyond our insecurities and boldly go where we have never been before, completing what we never dreamed of doing. Faith not only moves mountains, it also moves believers!

It is important to note that the assignment given to Joshua was not out of his area of training. The conquest of the Promised Land was a military venture, and Joshua was indeed a military commander. However, the crossing of the Jordan River would require a miracle. This called for fresh courage, renewed strength, and an unwavering trust in the Lord. When God chooses us for a mission, often, we will have some expertise and experience in the area, but undoubtedly there will be an element to



the mission that requires us to reach beyond our gifts and tightly grip faith and courage. A new level calls for new anointing and empowerment. God uses our preparation and gifts; however, we have to exercise faith and be courageous in the stretching process.

God admonishes His new leader Joshua and gives him some fundamental instructions-promises. God told him to have courage and He would provide the wisdom through His word and victory by His hand. This is an unbeatable combination. Observe the following from Joshua 1.

1. **Transferal of the mandate to complete the work started by Moses to Joshua is completed.** The leader changed, however the purpose remained the same. Leadership is transitional. Leaders with their various strengths, personalities, successes-failures may come and go; however, God's purposes remain. In this respect the purpose of God is of greater importance than leaders.
2. **The mandate required him to move forward with all the people.** This is always a challenging command. The command given to Joshua was to bring them all across. The gifted and ungifted, the strong and weak, the rich and poor, the good and bad, the young and old, you get the picture, don't you? The people committed to the plan of God, this gave Joshua no alternative plan. He had to move forward with everyone. No wonder Joshua needed courage.
3. **What God promised to Moses is transferred to Joshua.** This is an important point. The command is transferable. The blessings are also transferable. It is important for leaders and those they lead to understand this. ?The commands and promises of God are transferable.? When you come across commands and promises for believers in your Bible, personalize them. I have developed the habit of writing my name before each command and promise.
4. **God assured him that no one could defeat him.** God announced to Joshua that he would have to fight, but that he would win them all. What a confidence booster. We have the same assurance.

5. **God assured him that he would: (a) Be with him.** It is a comfort to know that God will stay connected. He does not send us and then not accompany us. **(b) Not fail him.** Joshua received this declaration. God never fails. His timing is always right. His wisdom is heaven sent. His promises are true forever more. His counsel is sure. His weapons are mighty. **(c) Never forsake him.** This is similar to not failing him. Have you ever been in a battle for your life, family, ministry or career and needed a friend to stand up for you, and that friend bailed? Have you ever been in a fiery furnace and felt abandoned? We all have to some degree. God promised Joshua that He would never turn His back on him. That promise is applicable to us as well.
6. **God instructed Joshua to keep His law.** Obedience to God's Word would make his steps prosperous. Joshua's prosperity was wrapped up in keeping God's law. God's will is contained in His word. Joshua was to be guided by the map of God's Word. This is the word that Moses recorded and even though it is today Old Covenant or Old Wine, it was God's Word of the day. It spoke to every area of concern and laid out the precepts of Almighty God. Joshua walked in this Word and his walk enabled him to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

When tempted by Satan, Jesus responded, "*It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4).

Many Christians fail, simply because they do not obey immediately. Often this is a sure sign of unbelief, or fear of the possible consequences of doing what God has asked. They may be concerned about what others might say, or they simply do not want to experience the hardships that obedience might require. Whatever the reason, they shy away from a God-given request and experience failure.

Armed with God's admonition to be strong and very courageous, Joshua commits himself and the budding nation to the plan and purpose

of God. He looks beyond the various anticipated challenges and sees the value in obeying God—no matter what the consequences may be. Obeying God is more valuable than present comfort. Obeying God results in inner peace of the soul, and it ultimately leads to personal and corporate success.

When God reveals what we are to do and when we are to do it, we should respond without delay. Responding to the plan and purpose of God requires obedience and a mindset that accepts change. You must be willing to trust God. Change is often a catalyst for growth and success. Companies that do not change or adapt to consumer demands eventually go out of business. Ministries that are not progressive will fall behind the times and miss God-ordained opportunities. People who do not change and adapt to the new demands or challenges of life will always have the same old results. Are you willing to change? Joshua chooses to respond and face the challenge of leading the group across the Jordan River. He is aware that life will be different for him, but he prefers God-ordained challenges over personal wishes. What command has God given you and have you responded rightly? Perhaps His most recent command centered on your personal ambitions, choices, family, ministry or career. Did you respond without delay?

There are risks involved in moving forward with our lives; however, when we respond to God's commands, we are assured that God is at the end of that risk. That should give us the same courage that Joshua mustered.

Joshua puts the plan into motion first thing in the morning. If he delays, others would undoubtedly try to talk him out of the move, or his own fears might overtake him. Joshua was able to respond immediately to God's request because of the vast experiences he gained over the years. For many years he was Moses' assistant and learned a great deal under his tutelage. He was now a mature person and knew without a doubt what God's will was for him. If you don't have the same level of experience as Joshua had, you will need to share what you understand to be God's thoughts for your life with others. Your responding without delay will be to immediately consult with the right people. There is safety in the

multitude of counselors (see Proverbs 15:22), however make sure you go to the right people for advice. They ought to be spirit-filled, mature and knowledgeable of the Word of God.

It is very important with whom you share your dreams and plans with. Some people are dream killers or vision stealers. It is wise to confide in your leaders, they have a vested interest in your well-being and success. Get feedback from them before attempting anything new. Advice from the right people will provide you a safety net.

How did God communicate His request to Joshua? Most theologians believe that he felt a nudging in his spirit and God spoke to him inwardly. The way God spoke to Joshua is how He often speaks to us today. It is not an audible voice, but an inward conviction.

It is important to remember that God can speak to us in a number of ways; however, the more frequent ways are through His Word, by His Spirit in prayer, and through others. If we do not have a vibrant study and prayer time and we are not willing to heed good advice from godly people, we may be blocking God's thoughts from reaching us.

### **God's Word**

The primary way God communicates with us is through His Word. The primary source is the Bible, another source is prophecy. How we read and study the Bible is very important if we are to get a clear message. Here are some tips:

- **Hearing** - Position yourself in church, Bible class, or a cell group where you can properly hear the Word being taught and preached. Take notes of scriptures shared and look them up later at home.
- **Reading** - Read the Bible regularly, at least once a day. If you read the Bible daily, it will develop a positive habit resulting in constant communication with God through His Word. Every believer should read the Bible consecutively. There are reading plans that will take you through the Bible yearly. By following a plan you will expose

yourself to a balanced diet of the Word. Often, believers fall into the trap of just reading Scriptures on their favorite topics.

- **Studying** - This is different than daily reading. When you study for an exam you are looking to understand and retain information. This is the same for studying God's Word. It will require more effort on your part than reading, however the rewards are greater. You will understand God, yourself and others better (see Acts 17:11). A systematic study approach is the best way to study. Ask your pastor, leaders or a Bible teacher to fully explain this approach.

### SCRIPTURE TO EXPLORE

The Apostle Paul encourages Timothy to study the Word of God. What does Paul say will be the results? (see 2 Timothy 2:15)

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### PRAYER

There are many aspects to prayer. Prayer is commonly referred to as communication with God. It is not only talking to God, but also listening. It is important to fully understand the subject of prayer. I advise you to visit your local Christian bookstore and secure a good book on prayer.

You may wish also to read through the Book of Acts and take note of the many references to prayer. Many years ago I did just that and was

amazed at the following: Who prayed: individuals, groups, preachers, etc. How they prayed: standing, kneeling, walking, etc. Why they prayed: for power, direction, deliverance, etc. Where they prayed: in houses, on the beach, on the roof top, etc. What happened when they prayed: prison doors opened, Holy Spirit came, healings took place, etc. Prayer is our lifeline and access key to the divine. Prayer is to the soul, what breathing is to the body. Prayer is the key that opens the doors to God-given opportunities.

Some time ago I developed a prayer path on our ministry site and implemented four aspects of prayer. This prayer path provided me, a visual learner, with a visual reminder of the places (spiritual) of personal prayer. The path was destroyed in the hurricanes of 2005 and I look forward to rebuilding it. The aspects (places) are presented in the acronym ACTS.

**A Adoration:** This is done first. Simply put, adoration is telling God the Father how great He is. Adoration is adoring Him for who He is and not necessarily for what He does for us. This is the worship aspect of prayer. This is the way to enter His presence; it should be the response of our heart toward God. Adoring God welcomes His Spirit and anointing in our midst.

**C Confession:** This is done next. Confession is where we tell God how awful we are. We all have failed God and others. Whenever failure occurs we are to confess it. Our failures and shortcomings, which the Bible calls sin, are all known by God, because He is All-Knowing, All-Seeing, and All-Present. Why then do we have to confess? Confession is how we acknowledge that we know and understand that we have stepped outside the lines, or the standards set by God Himself. Confession and asking for forgiveness will result in God's mercy. He will forgive those who ask with sincerity.

**T Teaching:** There is a teaching component to prayer. When God answers us, He is often teaching us. He uses His Spirit, His Word, and often circumstances to teach us His ways for our lives. For

example, The Holy Spirit (The third person in the God-Head) might bring to our mind a portion of Scripture, and when we read it we better understand our circumstances and receive the needed help for success. Allow God to teach you during your prayer time.

- S Supplications:** Prayers of supplications are pleading prayers that focus on specific needs that you or others have. These prayers are emotional and have a sense of urgency.

### SCRIPTURE TO EXPLORE

Jesus told His disciples to be confident when they pray. What did He say would be the results of prayer and fellowship with God the Father? (see Matthew 7:7)

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### COUNSEL

Counsel is when you receive advice from others. Seeking good counsel is wise and essential if you are to make informed decisions. Remember you want to receive counsel from your leaders and other godly persons.

One of the skills necessary for effective communication is the listening skill. If you do not ask questions properly and listen correctly, effective communication will not happen. Many believers are guilty of

poor listening skills. They are hearing but not understanding. Effective communication is not being realized. Here are five listening skills with a continuous example:

1. **Questioning** - Is the art of getting information, “Tell me more about my choices.”
2. **Paraphrasing** - Is the art of repeating back received information in your own words. This skill is attempting to confirm understanding, “You think my choices are...”
3. **Clarifying** - Is the art of making the received information clearer. Media Reporters use this skill daily, “Are you saying my choices are...?”
4. **Understanding** - Is the art of showing that you relate to the information received and understand why the other person feels the way they do about the subject, “I can understand why you say these are my choices.”
5. **Summarizing** - Is the art of assembling all the received information, and the formulation of opinions, “Sounds like I have a lot to think about...”

If you are to make the most of the counsel received you will regularly have to employ these listening skills.



SCRIPTURES TO EXPLORE

Proverbs - Has a great deal to say about Godly counsel. Read the following Scriptures and complete the exercise:

Read Proverbs 11:14 and explain the value of counsel:

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Read Proverbs 12:15 and explain the perspectives of the foolish and the wise:

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Read Proverbs 12:22 and explain the value of counsel as it relates to one's purpose:

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### **Digging Deep**

God spoke to Joshua on an important issue that affected not only him, but an entire nation. Throughout your lifetime, God will speak to you on a number of minor and major issues that potentially affect others.

As you grow and mature the issues change. You do not have to face issues alone. You were created by a loving God who desires to be involved in all areas and stages of your life.

On your personal study time, look up and list scriptural references for the following issues and complete the exercise. This may seem difficult, but it really is not. You can get help in finding the Scriptures from a Bible concordance, a chaplain, pastor, others, or the Internet. Discuss your findings with a friend. You might want to complete the entire exercise with a friend.

#### **TIME**

1. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_
2. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_
3. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

## JOSHUA

a) What value does time have?

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b) List two rewards derived from properly investing time.

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c) Why should we redeem the time?

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## COMPARING

4. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

5. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

6. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

a) What does comparing ourselves to others lead to?

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b) If we must compare, who should we compare ourselves to and why?

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#### MONEY

7. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

8. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

9. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

a) What should be our attitude toward money?

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- b) What should be our attitude toward saving and investing money?  
Give reasons for your answers.

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WORK (LABOR, JOB, HIRE)

10. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

11. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

12. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Does God expect us to hold a job? Explain.

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b) What should happen to those who refuse to work?

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**FRIENDS**

13. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

14. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

15. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

a) Why are friends important?

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b) Which friend promised to stay closer than a brother?

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c) What is one quality of a true friend?

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### EVALUATE THE STEP

To evaluate means to look over or inspect and see the good and the bad in something. When we evaluate here, we are attempting to discover how we should view the step of responding. In this evaluation process you will also discover how you feel about the step.

### RESPONDING

What should be our response to God's commands? Give an example.

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What did God ask Joshua to do? Explain why you think God asked Joshua.

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Why should we be careful to whom we talk? Give a personal example without listing names.

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## JOSHUA

Why does God choose us to do something special? Give an example of someone you heard about other than Joshua.

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## PERSONAL DISCOVERY

What concerns you the most about responding to God's commands for your life?

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What command do you think would be the most difficult for you and why?

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Name three persons that you feel would give you Godly advice. Make an appointment to see at least one and talk about your most difficult received command to date.

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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### PRACTICE THE STEP

As we learn new steps to success, it is important for us to walk in these steps. By practicing, they become a part of our every day life. The step we have just studied is the step of responding. How can we practice this step?

We practice it daily by responding rightly in the minor and major issues. Often, people overlook the minor issues; however this results in major blunders.

I have found that it is important to respond rightly to God in all the little things (minor issues). Remember, God speaks to us through His Word, prayer, and others. If we just respond in the major areas of our lives, we will miss a lot of the success that this step offers. What are some of

those little things? I began a list of ten and you can now complete it by adding your items. If you disagree with any of my four, write yours in the provided space.

### LIST OF LITTLE THINGS

1. Saying Grace before meals \_\_\_\_\_
2. Arriving to work on time \_\_\_\_\_
3. Attending church regularly \_\_\_\_\_
4. Being courteous \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

***Practice, Practice, Practice.*** Have you ever wondered why a sports team, track athlete, actor, or others practice so much for such short performances?

It is in part because they all want to be the best they can be. Practice helps make perfect. Habits are formed through practice. When under pressure, people will do what they practice the most; therefore it is important to practice the step of responding rightly to God in the minor and major areas of our lives.

## SEE THE SUCCESS

Often we do not enjoy our present successes. We have a weakness of only considering the overall success, and seeing anything other than ultimate success as a failure. We need to change this view, and learn to enjoy each and every success. Your parents were overjoyed when you took your first step as a toddler, they didn't wait until you were able to run to celebrate. You probably had the same attitude toward your children or younger siblings. We need to celebrate the steps of success within each step. As you practice the step of responding to God in the minor and major areas of your life, take note of the successes. Celebrate and encourage yourself.

Remember to give thanks to God and others for their help. When you become discouraged, look at your successes and keep moving forward. Make the necessary adjustments and remember God commands you because He knows that in His strength you will succeed. I keep a journal and write down my successes and failures and then make the changes that are needed. I use this journal as part of my prayer time with the Lord.

Think of creative ways to see each success in your life. Perhaps in a few weeks you may wish to ask a friend, family member, or leader if he or she has noticed any changes in your behavior as it relates to the step covered.

Responding rightly will produce positive actions that will be eventually noticed. Practice your step, see your success.

## STEP TWO

### Remove From Your Comfort Zone

*And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they **removed** from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.*

*(Joshua 3:1)*

#### STATE THE STEP

Joshua is able to lead the budding nation from Shittim to the brink of the Jordan River. The account has no record of any resistance on the part of the people. It appears they all left willingly. They responded rightly to God's command.

#### TEACH THE STEP

The area called Shittim, or Acacias, was in the plains of Moab, by the Jordan River, opposite Jericho. It was a long belt of acacia groves. It was a refreshing place of *sojourn* and provided a pleasant pasture for the Hebrews' herds. For both human and beast, Shittim was a comfortable place. It was their oasis in the desert. For them, it represented the best of a bad situation.

They and their forefathers and mothers had wandered in the wilderness for many years. It was a difficult life and was the result of unbelief. The journey from the Red Sea to the Land of Canaan should have taken a few weeks; however, because they kept resisting God's plans, the journey took more than 40 years.

We have a tendency to become comfortable in our present state, whether it's our current ministry, career, or our present level of personal development. It is not wise to settle for where you are presently in your growth as a person. You remain in and become what you settle for. The biggest room in the world is still the room for improvement.

Faith in God and His promises should push us on. God's desire is to bless us and provide for us. Our responsibility is to be all that He created us to be. This is not attainable if we stay in our comfort zones. Often, in order to move forward we are asked to abandon our comfort zones, those places that bring present ease and stability to our lives.

Staying in the plains for the Hebrews would have not been the best, but it would have been the best of their present situation. We must resist settling for anyplace but the place of purpose and destiny. It does not matter what challenges we face, if we have courage we can resist settling in our comfort zone and move forward with God's assistance.

Often we feel a tug in our hearts to move forward with our lives, that inward tug motivates us to follow our dreams or dream new ones. What should we do when a tug occurs? We should begin with the first step of responding, and then when we have clear instructions or directions, move from our comfort zones. Remember you can't get to the desired places if you stay in your present place.

#### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ITS BEST

The Gospel of Luke 2:52 gives us a perfect example of positive personal development. In this Scripture we see how Jesus Christ, our example, grew and developed in all aspects of His life. He grew mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. This kind of growth and development can only be achieved when we are willing to leave our comfort zones.

*"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."*

This Scripture points out four areas that Jesus Christ grew in. They are:

- **Mentally** - He increased in wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to rightly use knowledge. Education is important for success. It is a powerful tool for fulfilling one's purpose in life. When education or knowledge is rightly used, God-honoring success will be achieved. Mental alertness is mandatory for continued success. We are encouraged to gird up the loins of our minds (see 1 Peter 1:13). As we move from our comfort zones our schedules become more hectic, thoughts become scattered, and our focus challenged. An organized mind is an essential key to ensuring success. Bring your mental state into focus, gird up your mind. Gather up all the loose thoughts. Our thoughts are to be submitted to Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- **Physically** - He developed normally as any person should. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. We are to treat them with respect. Here's a thought to ponder: "When you lose your body, you lose." We should develop good habits as they relate to our bodies. Diet, rest, exercise, stress management, and a substance-free lifestyle are some key areas. As you get older, the abuse of your body will manifest itself; however if you take care of your body now, it will take care of you later in life's journey. Remember that our bodies are temples of God (see 1 Corinthians 6:19).
- **Spiritually** - His relationship with His heavenly Father continued to mature. To be successful in life, one must develop spiritually. A person's relationship with the Lord is developed by character, prayer, and the study of God's Word. We are spiritual beings that live in bodies. A relationship with the Lord is different than religion. Religion is man-made. A relationship with God is initiated by Him and is spiritual. Our spiritual growth greatly determines our success.
- **Socially** - He understood how to respect and appropriately live among others. Remember the golden rule? Do unto others as you will have them do unto you. Your friendships also reflect the kind of person you are. It is important to choose the right types of friends.

Also understand that you will outgrow some of your friends, and some will outgrow you as well. A social life is generally needed to keep a proper perspective on life and ministry.

Removing from our comfort zones is a part of the process of growth. As Jesus continued to grow, so must we. Often we start to over-develop in one of the four areas. This is natural because of the demands of life and ministry.

However, we must strive to maintain a balance. When you see an area slipping, regain the needed balance and then work at maintaining it.

### **Digging Deep**

Look up and list scriptural references for the four above areas and answer the questions. This is a continual exercise in this workbook and at the end you will have a number of scriptural references for important topics.

Remember, you can get help in finding the Scriptures from a Bible concordance, a chaplain, a pastor, others, or the Internet. Discuss your findings with a friend, or again you might wish to complete the entire exercise with a friend.

#### **WISDOM**

1. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

2. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

3. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

a) What value does wisdom have?

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b) How does someone receive wisdom?

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PHYSICAL (TIP: TEMPLE, HOME, ABODE)

4. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

5. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

6. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

a) What is God's view of our bodies?

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b) What does it mean to fast?

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c) What is one value of fasting?

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SPIRITUAL

7. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

8. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

9. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

a) What does it mean to be a spiritual person?

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b) How does one develop spiritually? Give two examples.

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SOCIAL

10. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

11. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

12. Scripture Text \_\_\_\_\_

a) What should be our general attitude toward others?

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b) How should we respond when we are offended?

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## EVALUATE THE STEP

To evaluate means to look over or inspect and see the good and the bad in something. When we evaluate here, we are attempting to discover how we should view the step of removing from our comfort zones. In this evaluation process you will also discover how you feel about the step.

### WISDOM

What is your educational commitment? Answer the following questions.

Do you view learning as a life-long process? Explain your answer.

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How much time do you spend reading and studying each day? Write out a Monday - Friday schedule. Listing times and choice of reading and studying materials.

JOSHUA

MON

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TUE

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WED

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THU

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FRI

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PHYSICAL

Are you using wisdom in this area?

- a) Explain your eating and sleeping habits, state what changes need to be made.

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- b) What improvements can you make in developing your God-given physical talents?

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SOCIAL

Answer these social competencies questions.

- a) Can you resist negative peer pressure? Give a reason for your answer.

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- b) What is your level of competency in the skill of planning ahead? Give an example.

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## PERSONAL DISCOVERY

What comfort zone do you need to abandon?

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Describe your current spiritual state.

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Name three persons that you know or read about that had the courage to leave their comfort zones and fulfill their dreams.

1.

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2.

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3.

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### PRACTICE THE STEP

As we learn new steps to success it is important for us to walk in these steps.

By practicing them they become a part of our everyday life. The step we have just studied is the step of removing from your comfort zones. Removing from your comfort zones requires effort and consistency. Here are some ideas for practicing this step.

**Wisdom** - Always ask God and godly people for advice. Learn something new each day.

**Physical** - Maintain good health and strive for excellence in all pursuits.

**Spiritual** - Regularly attend church and actively participate in ministry.

**Social** - Keep and be good company. You are known by the company you keep.

### SEE THE SUCCESS

Develop the habit of keeping a personal journal. Record your successes and celebrate them. See the success stories that are around you and record the reasons for their successes. If you don't hang around successful believers, then start and learn from them. You will be surprised how you

life will change for the better. If you are willing to leave your comfort zones and trust the Lord, you will fulfill His purpose for your life and be a continual success story. True success is to know God's will for your life and fulfill it.

## STEP THREE

### Relocate Near Your Challenge

*And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and **came** to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.*

*(Joshua 3:1)*

#### STATE THE STEP

Joshua and the children of Israel relocated to the brink of the Jordon River for three days before crossing. The process included personal and corporate preparations.

#### TEACH THE STEP

In the morning after the return of the spies, camp was broken and the children of Israel moved forward toward the Jordon River. The distance from the camp to the brink of the river was about five miles. With the vast number of travelers they would reach the river's lower bank at different intervals.

The Jordon River has a three-fold bank; the lower at the water's edge, which, in springtime, is commonly flooded, owing to the melting of snow on Hermon; a center bank, which is draped with rich vegetation, and an upper bank, which extends beyond the river.

At the time of their arrival, it was early spring, the time of early harvest, and the Jordon had over-flooded its lower bank. It was humanly impossible for such a vast amount of people to cross over. They would now wait for instructions and God's hand in the matter. In all, they would wait and

prepare for three days. Their comfort zone was behind them, and their goal (Promised Land) before them. Their challenge stood between them and the quest. There are powerful life principles we can pull from this story. Let's take a look at them now.

## PRINCIPLES

These principles are common and relate to what we should expect in our steps to success.

- **Travelers** - Everyone left the comfort zone of Shittim, but they all arrived in different groups and at different times. We all may be moving forward in our goals, but at dissimilar paces. It is important to not pre-judge others or set our standards by theirs. Frequently, our peculiar circumstances distance us from others. Everyone who leaves a comfort zone will face a challenge; however, at different times and seasons.
- **Challenge** - The challenge of crossing was the greatest it would ever be. Things seem to get worse before they get better. The challenge was most difficult because it was spring time and the lower bank was overflowing. Perhaps here, some began to question the decision of leaving the comfort zone. If we recognize this trend, then we can stay focused through it all. It's often just a test.
- **Good** - They would have to stare the challenge in the face and see the good that it produced. (1) It kept them united. (2) Spring time meant that there was ripe fruit on the other side of the river. The greater the challenge, the greater the reward. (3) They would witness a miracle by the hand of God. Do you have the ability to see the good in a challenge? It is a mindset that we must develop if we are to have continual success. See the positive, rather than the negative. Look beyond your present circumstances and see the good that is ahead of you.

- **Death Season** - They would face this challenge for three days. Three is an important number in the Bible. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days (see Jonah 1:17). Jonah was running from God's purpose for his life. Jesus was in the earth for three days, but rose from the dead (see Matthew 27: 63). Death is not non-existence, rather it is separation. Jonah was separated from his running so he could yield to God's plan for his life. Jesus died for three days so we might live eternally. A death season is when we are in a position where we can no longer do it our way. We are at a challenge, and need to give-way to God's wisdom and provision. Success is ours when we learn to totally depend on the Lord. Vision, purpose, and plans don't live and blossom until they die (see John 12: 24). The holders of them must have a death season also.

### **Digging Deep**

**Travelers** - We all are at different levels of personal development. Do not criticize others. Criticism is fault-finding. Read the following Scriptures and complete the exercise.

1. Matthew 7:1-5

2. Romans 14: 13

3. Psalm 34:12-14

- a) By how we judge others, we will be judged. Give an example of this.

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- b) Give an example of a stumbling-block that believers put in the way of each other.

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**Challenge** - A **challenge** is anything that makes it more difficult for you to succeed. Name a challenge in each of the following areas.

4. Ministry or career\_\_\_\_\_

5. Physical attributes\_\_\_\_\_

6. Other\_\_\_\_\_

- a) Why do you see them as challenges? Be specific.

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## EVALUATE THE STEP

To evaluate means to look over or inspect and see the good and the bad in something. When we evaluate here, we are attempting to discover how we should view the step of facing our challenges. In this evaluation process you will also discover how you feel about the step.

### RELOCATE

Why is it important to face your challenges? Give an example.

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In your own words explain the concept of a death season.

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Do you think it is possible to see good in a bad situation? Fully explain.

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### PERSONAL DISCOVERY

What concerns you the most about facing your challenges?

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What challenge do you think will be the most difficult and why?

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Name three persons you know that you feel are successful in facing their challenges. Make an appointment to see at least one and talk about your most difficult challenge to date.

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2.

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3.

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## PRACTICE THE STEP

As we learn new steps to success, it is important for us to walk in these steps. By practicing them they become a part of our everyday life. The step we have just studied is the step of relocating near your challenge.

It is important to realize that challenges do not go away. Challenges have to be faced and overcome. As a teen I had a speech impediment that was a severe challenge, and, I allowed this challenge to get the best of me for a long time. I developed a shy personality to such an extent that I could go through a day without talking. Missing out on debates, friendships, and my prom, I finally got to the place of facing the challenge, and with God's help, developed a system that works for me.

## MY CHALLENGE SYSTEM

- I think twice before speaking once
- I think in pictures and then paint the words in my mind
- I ask God for help each and every day
- I try not to talk when I am tired
- I try to think on one subject at a time
- I keep my speech and vocabulary as simple and direct as possible
- I practice speaking in private

Notice "I" in each step of the system. There are things that you will have to do to overcome your challenges.

## SEE THE SUCCESS

Our successes are directly related to our challenges. Most of my adult life has been spent as a minister, counselor, teacher, coach, and public speaker. I enjoy the roles. None of these would be possible if I did not face my

challenges. Do not allow your challenges to separate you from what God has called you to do and become. Too often, we allow our challenges and people to determine our future. As the children of Israel did, we ought to look beyond the challenge and see the fruit ready to be harvested.

Read stories of individuals who have overcome their challenges. Talk with people, listen to their stories, and learn from them. Our teen daughter and a group of her friends volunteer each week at a senior citizens home. On the drive home they share stories they heard during the visit. I have noticed these girls developing a greater appreciation for life and its struggles. I have also noticed that they are developing clear pictures of what they want to become.

List your challenges, get godly advice, and develop your challenge system. With God's help every river will be crossed.

Remember, God does not play with your emotions. He will not put a goal in your heart and then set you up to fail. So, if the goal is from Him, then the provisions are from Him as well.



## PART II

# STEPS TO SUCCESS

Request, Require, Respect



## STEP FOUR

### Request Help from Others

*And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; And they commanded the people saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.*

*(Joshua 3: 2-4)*

#### STATE THE STEP

Joshua receives instruction from God. He is aware that success is a team effort; therefore he shares the received information with his leaders and mobilizes them to instruct the children of Israel on when and how they are to cross the Jordan River.

#### TEACH THE STEP

No person is totally independent. We all need others. Joshua understood that success was not just an individualistic pursuit. God had instructed him to take all the people across the river into the Promised Land; it was then to be a team effort.

It is important to know when to request help from others. If you try to accomplish your goals alone you will fail, or never reach the full potential of that goal. It is impossible to be self-sufficient. Even independent

countries realize this. Think of your country, is it self-sufficient or does it request assistance from others on certain matters? No matter how powerful we may seem, we will need somebody sometime.

All good leaders know how to solicit the help of others. The world needs leaders that are prepared to work with teams. We are provided with many opportunities in life and ministry to develop the necessary skills to become a team leader and player. Here is my definition of leadership:

- **Leader** - One that goes ahead and shows the way. The lead-ship or example. Leaders are people of influence. They are out front, not just pointing the way, but leading the way
- **Ship** - Carries others to a pre-determined destination. Leaders know where they are heading. The destination (vision) is clear and charted. They work with teams. Here's some biblical examples:

1. God as a team - Genesis 1:26
2. Moses and his team - Exodus 3:16-18
3. Joshua and his team - Joshua 3:2-4
4. David and his team - 2 Samuel 5:3
5. Peter and his team - Acts 15:2-14
6. Paul and his team - Acts 19:20
7. Timothy and his team - 1 Timothy 3:1-13

In my home country, The Bahamas, political and community organizations have many fund-raisers. A popular one is the “cruise to nowhere.” The cruise ship goes out to sea for a few hours; there is dancing, eating, gambling, and then the ship re-docks. God has a pre-determined plan for your life, and it is not a cruise to nowhere. Leaders are to lead others to God’s pre-determined ports of call, and it is meant to be a team effort.

A word of caution here! Leaders are to be the lead examples. There are many forms and types of leadership; however, we are to model Jesus Christ, our prime example. Jesus Christ was a servant-leader among His



followers and leadership team. This is seen in a number of Scripture references—one is John 13:1-20. The third verse sets the stage, it points out three important truths:

1. “Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands...” He understood that all power was His, and that His personal circumstances were no match for this power. He fully understood His power in things, and with His Father. This could only produce confidence. But how would He display this confidence?
2. “...And that He came from God...” Jesus understood His history. He knew that He came—was sent from the God-Head—he himself being a part of that tri-unity. He fully understood His position—sent from God. What attitude would this produce?
3. “...And went to God...” He understood how it would all work out. At the end of the day He was going back to the Father. He knew that His final place was back with the Father. With this knowledge how would He act?

Jesus Christ, the greatest leader the world has and will ever know, rises from the table and begins to wash His disciple’s feet. What a powerful expression of the true essence of great leaders (see Matthew 23:11). This servant-leadership example was followed by His disciples and Christian leaders then and is followed by Christian leaders today.

### IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS

All successful leaders and people build important relationships. Relationships help us complete duties, and reach goals. Relationships also help reveal blind spots. Blind spots are areas of weakness that we are not aware of. They are blind to us, but visible to others. Here are some important relationships:

- **God** - We need a personal relationship with Him. God should be our most cherished relationship. He offers advice from a unique

perspective. He is creator and sustainer of all things. His leadership is impeccable.

- **Mentor/Coach** - A mentor and/or coach will help develop your talents. Leaders both active and retired and other mature saints make great mentors and coaches. You, however, must be willing to hear about your blind spots.

Mentors and coaches have a genuine desire to see mentorees maximize their potential and will therefore be straightforward. Mentorship at times is not pleasant; you will be confronted and challenged in your weak areas.

Stretching and growth are the desired results.

- **Peers** - Your peers possess varying talents and have like-minded ambitions. Iron sharpens iron (see Proverbs 27:17). You will need pockets of them for personal and ministry growth and as teammates to accomplish mutual goals.
- **Friends** - Friendships are vital for success. The choice of friends is crucial. The right kinds of friends will encourage you in positive ways and endeavors.
- **Mentoree** - We all should pass on to others what we have learned. In mentoring you will be reinforcing the principles you have learned. Mentorees can be found in your team or sphere of influence. Mentoring can be academic, vocational, musical, athletic, behavioral, social, parenting, or spiritual in nature.

### **Digging Deep**

Now and then we all need a helping hand. Let's dig deep into the Scriptures and discover what they say about the topic of helping.

Read the following Scriptures and complete the exercise.

1. Genesis 2:18

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12, 21, 25

a) Why do you think it is not good for a person to be alone? Give an example.

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b) Explain what it means to have the same care, one for another. Give an example.

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Read the following Scriptures and complete the exercise.

3. Matthew 7:7, 8

4. John 16:24

a) Why is it important to ask for God's help?

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Read the following Scriptures and complete the exercise.

5. Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10, 12

6. Proverbs 15:22

a) Why are two better than one? Give a personal experience example.

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b) Why is counsel important?

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Read the following Scripture and complete the exercise.

7. Galatians 6:2

a) What does it mean to bear another person's burdens?

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b) A new family joins your local church and is new to the community also. Applying the above Scripture, explain how you will reach out to that family.

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## EVALUATE THE STEP

In this section we will take a closer look at relationships. Remember my definition for leadership? Here is my definition for relationship.

- **Relation** - Associations with other persons.
- **Ship** - Carries others to a pre-determined destination.

Relationships are our purposeful associations. Relationships are often goal-oriented. They exist to accomplish something, hopefully the purposes of God for your life. Are you aware of where your relationships are carrying you?

GOD

Describe your relationship with God. What do you see as its purpose?

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**MENTOR OR COACH**

Name one mentor or coach in your life, and discuss his or her value to you.

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**PEERS**

Reflecting on a recent project completed with your peers, name one positive and negative aspect.

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**FRIENDS**

Thinking about your close circle of friends, answer this question. What is common among them? Be detailed.

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**PERSONAL DISCOVERY**

Mentoring is the responsibly of everyone. Agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

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What opportunities are there in your local church or community for mentoring? Name at least three.

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Name the top three persons you presently go to for help.

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2. 

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3. 

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### **PRACTICE THE STEP**

You were just appointed as a member of the outreach ministry of your church. Your elder/pastor (mentor/coach) has assigned the group a project that you must lead. The project is the painting of four homes in a poverty-stricken area. The project has to be completed in four weeks. Using the step of requesting help, design a plan of action and outline it here.

**MY PLAN**

**PROJECT**

(NAME THE PROJECT, BE AS DETAILED AS POSSIBLE.)

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**KEY PERSONS**

(LIST THOSE YOU WILL REQUEST HELP FROM AND STATE THE HELP NEEDED.

THESE ARE YOUR LEADERS AND ADVISORS.)

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**JOSHUA**

3.

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4.

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5.

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**KEY STEPS**

(LIST YOUR ACTION STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE PROJECT.)

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4.

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7.

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## JOSHUA

### SPEECH TO PEERS

WRITE YOUR RECRUITMENT SPEECH. MAKE IT COMPELLING.  
(THIS IS GEARED TOWARD SECURING YOUR POSSIBLE WORKFORCE.)

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### SEE THE SUCCESS

As you practice the step of requesting help from others, you will see increased success in your endeavors. It is a step that has to be constantly practiced and evaluated. There will be some who are easier to work with than others. Find the common ground with all those you are in association with. Because of different backgrounds, we often do not have the same perspective on things. This is not a negative thing. Each person brings unique talents and insights to a project. A gifted leader will draw from these rich wells. As you practice the step of requesting help, remember to listen more than you speak, and make everyone feel important.

Requesting help is a sign of maturity. As this step becomes ingrained in your personality you will mature in other areas. You may want to keep a journal and write down your successes and failures in this step. It is a step that you will need throughout your life. The journal provides a great resource for your mentoring efforts. Know that the Lord has a wonderful

future for your life, and He has assigned others to help bring it to fruition.

With all of the challenges that you have and will face, God has a plan to bless you and make you a blessing. It is important to recognize the success in your life at each stage and give thanks to God for it.

I have found that if I want others to help me, I need to first help someone. Look around and see who you can help. Be supportive of your leaders. Be encouraged; the God of the universe is willing and available to help you by His power and through the help of others.

## STEP FIVE

### Require Sanctification

*And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.*

*(Joshua 3: 5)*

#### STATE THE STEP

Joshua admonishes the children of Israel that they are to prepare themselves spiritually and physically for the expected miracle of crossing the Jordan River.

#### TEACH THE STEP

“Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

This statement splendidly expresses the conditions for receiving a blessing from God. A careful study of the term sanctification reveals a twofold process. It reveals that one must separate from something and attach unto something else. Sanctification is both spiritual and temporal.

#### SANCTIFICATION

We all have items around the house or in our possessions that are used for special occasions. Objects like dishes or furniture that are separated or set apart just to be used at special family functions. We dare not use them for ordinary events. This is what sanctification means. For a Christian it means to set apart one’s life to serve and please the Lord. It is to separate yourself from your own desires and setting yourself apart unto the Lord

and His desires for your life. Our lives become vessels set aside for the master's use.

### SPIRITUAL SANCTIFICATION

The children of Israel were told to sanctify themselves. They were asked to separate themselves from the failures of the journey through the wilderness, from their unbelief and selfish desires, and cling unto God and His plan.

They could not do this in themselves. They would have to trust God by faith, believing that if they presented themselves unto Him, that He would, on His terms and by His grace, receive them. Today, God accepts us when we place that same kind of faith and trust in Jesus Christ as our personal savior.

Sanctification has two major characteristics. It is first positional. At salvation, when our sins are forgiven us by God, He then declares us holy (sanctified) and set apart unto Him. Progressive is the second major characteristic. We are to accept the process of sanctification as a life-long practice.

It is the process of growing in our separation from sin and in dedication to God. Therefore, this act was not to be a one-time deal for the children of Israel. They would be required to walk daily in this pursuit. It is the same for us.

### GOD'S WONDERS

The act of sanctification was not optional for the children of Israel. God demands the holiness that sanctification brings of those who want to see Him, (see Hebrews 12:14) or experience His wonders. They were to wash their clothes in the river as a symbol of their inner commitment to God and His will for their lives. It was a sign of faith in the All Powerful Creator God. They were literally declaring that God did not bring them this far, to now abandon them in their hour of greatest need. They were declaring that if a miracle took place, it would be the Lord's doing and not theirs. They were preparing themselves to witness the power and presence of God in



their present challenge. It was a sign of trust in God and His commands, but more so, it was acknowledging Him for who He is.

This washing of their clothes was similar to the Christian practice of water baptism. Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward cleansing. It signifies that a person is separated from sin (Acts 2:38) and identifies with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:6-11), relying on His sacrifice and power. If we are to see God's provision in our lives we must remain committed to Him.

### **Digging Deep**

On your study time, look up the listed scriptural references and answer the questions.

#### **SANCTIFICATION IS PROVIDED**

1. John 17:14-19
  2. Thessalonians 5:23
  3. Romans 12:1-2
- a) How is a sanctified life achieved?

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- b) God helps those that are failing in personal sanctification. What should be their response to God?

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- c) Romans 12:1-2 lists steps to be taken to obtain personal sanctification; what are these steps?

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SEXUAL PURITY

4. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

a) What are four reasons for sexual purity?

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b) What are some consequences of a sexually impure lifestyle?

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KNOWING VALUE

5. 2 Timothy 2:20-21

a) What does the above Scripture mean as it relates to sanctification?

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PURPOSE SANCTIFICATION

The foundation of all that is good is a spiritual one. Spiritual principles have practical applications. We can employ these principles in the pursuit of accomplishing our goals. In order to fulfill your God-given dreams you must sanctify yourself. It is necessary to separate yourself from certain things and dedicate your time and energies to reaching your goals. You have to be purpose-driven to succeed. I have found that you have to display at least three qualities to reach a goal.

- **Desire** - You have to want something. There must be hunger for it. You must want it more than the trivial things of life. You must want what God wants for you. Desire must be a drive originating from deep within your being. It is not a casual want for something, but an intense yearning. The Apostle Paul speaks to this subject in his letter to the believers in Philippi. He states that he wants to apprehend (arrest) that which Christ Jesus apprehended (arrested)

him for (see Philippians 3: 12). Paul was trying to serve God in his strength and wisdom when Jesus revealed Himself unto him. This revelation altered and forever changed his life. Paul acknowledges that he was saved for a purpose. Jesus saved him, so that he could take hold (apprehend) God's will for his life. This desire is then God-initiated. It is a desire to do the will of God for one's life. This is the essence of success. Do you have a desire for success?

- **Discipline** - You must be able to stay on course. When I was a senior in high school I was an amateur boxer. I had a desire to be a golden gloves champion for The Bahamas. Desire was not enough. I had to discipline myself, training two hours each weekday before school and three hours after school. There were days when I wanted to stay in my warm bed, but I was determined to reach my goal. I had to eat right and adhere to my self-imposed curfew. You will have to give up some things for prolonged periods to achieve your goals. The Apostle Paul states that he had not yet apprehended God's will for his life, but that he was pressing toward it (see Philippians 3:13). He could not trust in his past accomplishments, he had to keep moving forward. To be successful we must have disciplined lives. Are you reaching for the vision of God that is before you? Are you separated unto the cause?
- **Determination** - You cannot let failures and setbacks cause you to give up on your dreams. Bad things do happen to good people, but determined people push on toward the realization of their goals. I experienced boxing setbacks along the way; however, two years from when I set that goal, I won the lightweight title. Paul states the key to determination in Philippians 3:14 by saying, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." What or whom are you pressing toward? What is your motivation? Paul encourages mature believers to follow his example (see Philippians 3:15).

## EVALUATE THE STEP

To evaluate means to look over or inspect and see the good and the bad in something. When we evaluate here, we are attempting to discover how we should view the step of requiring sanctification. In this evaluation process you will also discover how you feel about the step.

### REQUIRING

Why is spiritual sanctification important? Give an example.

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Why is purpose sanctification important? Give an example.

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Why is faith in God and His promises vital to success?

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What major area of spiritual sanctification do you struggle with, and why do you think it is so?

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PERSONAL DISCOVERY

What have you learned from this step?

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What concerns you the most about this step?

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Name three persons you know that you feel have spiritual and purpose sanctification. Make an appointment to see at least one and talk about your concern(s).

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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## PRACTICE THE STEP

As we learn new steps to success, it is important for us to walk in these steps. By practicing them they become a part of our everyday life. The step we have just studied is the step of requiring spiritual and purpose sanctification. In the sixth and final step, we will discuss how to practice spiritual sanctification. Here we will design a purpose sanctification plan.

### PURPOSE SANCTIFICATION PLAN

#### DESIRE

RESPONDING — STEP ONE: STATE YOUR GOAL

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#### AREAS OF DISCIPLINE REQUIRED

COMFORT ZONES TO REMOVE FROM — STEP TWO

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES  
STEP THREE

a)

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b)

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c)

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**YOUR CHALLENGE SYSTEM**

**REFER TO STEP THREE**

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2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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**AREAS OF DISCIPLINE REQUIRED**  
**THINGS TO DO FOR SUCCESS - STEP FIVE**

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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JOSHUA

YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM

REFER TO STEP FOUR

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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**DETERMINATION DECLARATION**

**WRITE YOUR DECLARATION STATEMENT.**

**IT CAN BE A SLOGAN, POEM, OR A SCRIPTURE.**

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**SEE THE SUCCESS**

Success does not occur in a vacuum. You have to plan and pursue it. You cannot be successful by yourself. You must have help from others (Step Four). God has created you to be successful. In Him, you have the power to achieve. As a believer you would have already had some levels of success. Make a list of those accomplishments and look for the common threads in them. You will find the threads of desire, discipline, and determination.

Read about others who have achieved great feats. What did they all have in common? What can you learn from their challenges and special

circumstances? What pitfalls can you avoid? Where did they find their courage? Talk to successful people. Let them share their stories. You will be amazed at the sacrifices they have had to make for success. Success is very much a team effort. Ask about their support systems, their faith in God, and the challenges along the way.

Spend some quality time alone and jot down what you wish to have accomplished ten years from now. Then get advice from those who are successful in your desired areas. Working backwards from that point, list the steps you think will have to be made to reach those dreams. Use this formula whenever you know God's will for your life.





## STEP SIX

### Respect and Follow the Lord

*And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; And they commanded the people, saying, when ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon a heap.*

*(Joshua 3: 2-4,13)*

#### STATE THE STEP

The ark of the covenant of the Lord their God must be respected and followed. No one moves until it moves, and it will lead the way across the Jordan River.

#### TEACH THE STEP

It was humanly impossible for such a vast group of people to cross the Jordan River at this time of the year. It would require a miracle. The children of Israel were instructed to watch for when the ark moved. When the priests carried it forward they were to follow it at a distance. They were to keep it in sight, marking the miraculous path, as it was step by

step opened to them. By keeping a distance, they would come to know and understand the way forward. The emphasis is placed on the ark and not the priests bearing it. We will then study the nature and significance of the ark.

## THE ARK

The ark is referred to by a number of different names in the Old Testament. Here is a list of those names.

1. The Ark of Shittim Wood, Exodus 25:10
2. The Ark of the Testimony, Exodus 25:22
3. The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, Numbers 10:33
4. The Ark of the Covenant, Joshua 3:6
5. The Ark of the Lord, the Lord of All the Earth, Joshua 3:13
6. The Ark of the Lord, Joshua 4:11
7. The Ark of the Covenant of God, Judges 20:27
8. The Ark of God, 1 Samuel 3:3
9. The Ark of God the God of Israel, I Samuel 5:7
10. The Ark of the Lord God, I Kings 2:26
11. The Holy Ark, II Chronicles 35:3
12. The Ark of Thy Strength, Psalm 132:8

There is much significance to a name or title. Each one of these speaks of some characteristic of God. It will be rewarding to study each title. The Ark of the Covenant is symbolic of the presence of God and speaks of preservation. When we follow God, He preserves us, even through the challenges (rivers) of life. This wooden box that was overlaid within and

without with gold represented God's throne in the earth; it reminded the children of Israel of God's presence, power, and purpose in their lives.

The Ark contains The Tables of the Law, The Golden Pot of Manna, and Aaron's Rod that Budded, each representing one person of the God-Head, or Trinity. Trinity is best described as the tri-unity—three-yet-one. There are three persons in the God-Head. They are equally God, yet there is only one God. Each article in its special way describes the characteristics of a member of the tri-unity.

- **The Tables of the Law** - The Law was given by Father-God and is symbolic of all authority and power. This authority and power is in the Father's hands. There were three aspects of the Law:
  1. **The Moral Law:** The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-20).
  2. **The Civil Law:** The book of the law. It was derived from the Moral Law and applied to specific situations.
  3. **Ceremonial Law:** It had to do with the regulations for sacrifices and how to conduct oneself in the sanctuary.

The three aspects of the Law informed the children of Israel on how to please God, respect others, and the penalties for transgressing God's rules.

This knowledge is available today in our Bibles. We need to let the truth of God's Word go before us through the challenges of life. It is wise to face your challenges in God-honoring ways; when you do, all of heaven's resources are available to you. Many earthly fathers have spoken words that have fallen to the ground unfulfilled. The same is not true of Father-God.

His words are true and everlasting. Don't measure Him by what you see in others. His laws brought stability and fair-play. The children of Israel relied upon them, were chastened by them, and took comfort in them.

- **The Golden Pot of Manna** - The Manna points us to God the Son—Jesus Christ. For the children of Israel it represented God's provision in the wilderness. For more than forty years God fed them manna from heaven. For us, the manna represents Jesus Christ, God's provision for our wilderness experiences. Jesus Christ is the bread of life and of heaven (see John: 6:45-48). Jesus Christ is the only one that kept the Law without blemish. Jesus makes provision, by His work on the cross and resurrection, for us to be able to fulfill God's will for our lives.
  
- **Aaron's Rod that Budded** - Aaron's Rod is symbolic of God the Holy Spirit. He gives life and produces spiritual fruit (see Galatians 5:22-23). Read Numbers 17:1-10 to discover the significance of Aaron's Rod to the children of Israel. When we accept Jesus Christ as personal savior, The Holy Spirit comes and dwells inside of our human spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to serve God. If we yield to the Holy Spirit, He will lead us and produce godly fruit in and through our lives. He helps us to become more like Jesus. Aaron's Rod not only symbolizes the Holy Spirit but also shows how the God-Head works in unity. Observe the following:
  1. **The Bud**—Father-God—The source of life.
  2. **The Flower**—Son-God—The crushed one for our benefit.
  3. **The Fruit**—Holy Spirit-God—The one that produces fruitfulness in our lives.

This Picture Portrays the Purpose of the God-Head:

- **The bud** - God is our source for success. The bud is symbolic of the source of life. Life is God-given and belongs to Him.
- **The flower** - Jesus Christ died for our sins and gives us this eternal life. Jesus is the first-fruits of the resurrection.

- **The fruit** - Holy Spirit produces the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. He is that source of life in action. This all takes place because of divine love (see John 3:16).

The children of Israel were to respectfully follow the Ark of the Covenant that contained these symbolic articles. Obediently following, they would be assured of their much-needed miracle.

We all face challenges, and if we follow the Lord we too are assured of our much-needed miracles. The God that beckons us to respond leads the way also. Follow and trust Him and not the crowd. He not only provides the way to success, but the means too.

### **Digging Deep**

On your study time, look up the scriptural references and complete the exercise.

#### **NEGATIVE PEER PRESSURE**

1. 2 Peter 3:17

2. Proverbs 1:10

a) What causes a believer to fall from his or her steadfastness?

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- b) What should be your response if someone asks you to do something questionable?

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#### LOYALTY

3. Micah 7:5-7

4. Galatians 1:6-11

- a) Where should our loyalty ultimately rest?

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## JOSHUA

- b) What negative influences would some use to draw you away from being loyal?

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## PETER'S EXPERIENCE

### 5. Matthew 14:22-33

- a) What was the challenge that the disciples faced?

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b) Why do you think Peter wanted to come to Jesus’

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c) Explain in your own words why Peter started to sink.

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d) Why is faith needed to achieve success?

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e) What principles can we learn from this story about how to face challenges?

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## EVALUATE THE STEP

Your wrap-up evaluation exercise will be reviewing the six steps and pulling your personal responses from them. You may look over the steps to complete the exercise.

### RESPONDING

Explain what area in this step helped you the most.

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### REMOVING

Since studying this step, have you removed from your comfort zone? Explain your answer.

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RELOCATING

Explain in your own words why we must face our challenges.

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REQUESTING

Have you improved in this skill? Give reasons for your answer.

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**REQUIRING**

In what areas of sanctification have you improved?

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**PERSONAL DISCOVERY**

What concerns you the most about respecting and following the Lord?

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Do you think everyone needs the Holy Spirit? Give a reason for your answer.

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Name the articles in the Ark of the Covenant, and explain their importance:

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b)

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c)

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### PRACTICE THE STEP

You have been presented with six steps for success. It is up to you what you will do with this information. This final step of respecting and following the Lord has great value. The Lord can be seen in those who are entrusted with your grooming and development as a person. It is right to respect them.

They have traveled a path that you perhaps have yet to see. Like how the children of Israel respectfully followed the Lord, you ought to follow them. Watch their lifestyles and choices, and follow them as they follow the Lord (see 2 Thessalonians 3). Follow more than debating. When you expose yourself to information and practice sound principles, you grow into the person God desires you to be. You become what you take into your life. Take in God and godly examples.

When we take in Jesus and make Him Lord of our lives, He then becomes the foundation upon which we build our future. The foundation is all-important. Challenges will come our way. We are no stronger than our foundation (see Luke 6: 47-49). There is only one true foundation. The true and enduring foundation is Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 3: 11). If we attempt to build our personal or ministry lives on another foundation we will suffer great loss. There are many temptations to trust in other things—Jesus Christ is the only sure foundation. Resist those temptations at all cost and humbly submit to God. It is the sure path for your steps.

Hopefully, if you've reached this point in the workbook, you are practicing the six steps presented in this workbook. They are ancient and time-tested.

Why do attorneys and doctors call their professions a practice? They are ever improving and building upon their skill base. It is the same for you and me if we wish to be successful. Successful people never stop practicing!

### SEE THE SUCCESS

If you have not done so already, make a commitment to see the God-given success in your life. It does not matter how you came into this world. It does not matter where you were born. Your background is irrelevant to God. He had a plan for you before you were ever conceived. Therefore, no challenge is great enough to abort His purposes for your life. Only you can decide to live your life unfulfilled. All mountains can be climbed and all rivers crossed. The choice is yours. Take these six steps and employ them. As you become successful, remember to help someone else. Speak life and hope to others, blaze a trail—be a pace-setter. In conclusion, I invite you to email us ([info@ctcnetwork.org](mailto:info@ctcnetwork.org)) and share your success in a step. My prayer is that all God's plans for you come to fruition. God Bless!

### PLAN OF SALVATION

Accepting Jesus Christ as your personal savior is the wisest and best decision you can make. This decision results in what we call salvation.

Salvation is being saved from one's sins. Sin is anything that is contrary to God's commands and standard for one's life. I heard it explained as a person falling short of the mark. This mark is set by God and has to do with good and evil. Think of a dart game. The preferred target is the bull's-eye or the 100. Sin would be falling short of that bull's-eye.

There are three important things we need to know about a person's condition prior to salvation. These things are:

1. **Everyone is a sinner.** We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners by nature. We were born with this nature as a result of the sin of the first couple, Adam and Eve.
2. **We cannot save ourselves.** No matter what we do we can not make it right with God. We are powerless to remove the sin or control the sin nature—the tendency to want to sin.
3. **Only Jesus Christ** has the power to save us from these conditions—sin and the sin nature.

The Bible declares that “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23) and that the result of sin is death (Romans 6:23). This death is not physical, but spiritual death. Death is not non-existence, rather it is separation. Sin separates us spiritually from God. A relationship with God is not possible where sin is not canceled out. Sin is not canceled out by a person’s good deeds or thoughts. We can have sin canceled out by Jesus Christ alone.

Jesus Christ made a way for our sins to be canceled. When He died on the cross, He took our place and paid sin’s penalty and suffered our punishment. For the results of His act to be yours, you must ask God the Father to forgive you for your sins, and believe Jesus died for you. When you do this, God the Father will accept you for Jesus’ sake. Your sins will then be forgiven, and Jesus will become your personal savior. You will be alive spiritually, connected to God, and have a new nature with all its God-designed opportunities.

If you are ready for this step, you can change your life today by simply praying this prayer **out loud** before the Lord!



Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you in the name of Your Son Jesus. Your Word says that “Whoever calls on God in the Name of the Lord will be saved, and “If I will confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus, and will believe in my heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead, I will be saved”

(Read Acts 2:21 & Romans 10:9-10).

I believe your Word and confess Jesus as the Lord of my life. I believe that You raised Your Son Jesus from the dead and He is now seated with You in heaven and will return for me one day. Come into my heart and save me now from my sins and from eternal death which would separate me from You forever. I want to live my life for You. Change me now

(Read John 3:5-7,16,17 & Romans 8:9-11).

If you have just taken this step, or have questions, please contact a chaplain, pastor, or someone that you know to be a Christian.



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## About the Series

This book and the entire series were developed to provide steps for personal and ministry success for believers in a workbook format. It targets two groups. Firstly, believers desiring biblically-based personal development study materials and secondly, men and women that are incarcerated to use as an evangelism and personal development tool.

**Joshua** The first book in the series, teaches how to be successful in your personal life and leadership roles. It presents biblical and practical steps for successfully fulfilling your purpose. The six steps presented are: *Respond, Remove, Relocate, Request, Require, and Respect.*



## About the Author

Dr. Jonathan C. Carey is a minister, author, and life coach. He is president and founder of The CTC Network.

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