



**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF BIBLE THEOLOGY**

*Life Management God's Way*

*CED - 111*

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## **For Your Consideration**

Many times when we read material or study in an area, it seems that the subject matter does not apply to us. This can be because we do not fit the particular age group, gender, or situation that is being talked about. However, there is good reason to learn from any materials that we study; especially the Bible and Bible-based study courses, such as you are embarking on now.

Paul wrote to us in First Corinthians, chapter ten (10) and verse eleven (11), "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." What Paul is saying here is that God had a purpose in everything He had the writers record for us. Everything that is written down will apply to us in some way or another, whether as a warning, as material for future ministry to someone who needs it, or simply to help us avoid a pitfall that the enemy places in front of us.

The same is true in the Bible courses of International Institute of Bible Theology. However, there is a possibility that some might think that something does not apply to them, because of the way the materials are written, when we use words that appear to refer to a particular gender. At times the material does apply to gender, as when it is talking about marriage relationships, or possibly the rearing of children. However, there is one area that does not refer to gender, though it may appear so.

In the courses, as well as the Bible, there are areas where the word "he" is used extensively. This is not necessarily designed to refer to gender. God is certainly no respecter of persons, and neither are we. The King James Bible especially, has a myriad of references that use the word "he" which are in no way gender significant. For instance, the Scripture that says, "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: The soul that sinneth, it shall die" Ezekiel 18:4. We all know that women have souls, the same as men. However, the use of the words "father" and "son" here would seem to imply that women are left out. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Also, there is the use of "he" and "she" in terms of natural things. For instance, the Church is continually referred to as "she" in the Scriptures. "She" is pictured as the Bride of Christ. Isaiah 61: 10 speaks of the Bride who has adorned herself with her jewels. Of course, this does not preclude the male gender from being a part of the Church and those who are delivered from the destruction of the end times, the Great Tribulation (Re.21:2).

Ships are referred to as "she," airplanes as "she," yet Pastors and Elders as "he." Does this mean that women cannot be Pastors or Elders? No. It simply means that for ease of reference, there has been a gender applied to some words.

No one should feel left out or slighted because of this nuance in the English language. You will find that both genders are not referenced every time in the course materials you are studying, and will study through International Institute of Bible Theology. It is double referenced in some places, and in some it is not. It is by no means meant to leave out some precious souls, just because we did not double reference every time a gender was referred to.

## Life Management God's Way

5 pages of Commentary  
1 Homework Assignments

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire Commentary

Do Homework I – which covers pages 1-5 in the commentary.

### HOW TO ACCESS THE HOMEWORK AND QUIZZES

1. Click on the **GO TO HOMEWORK BUTTON** at the top of the page.
2. Complete the required field.
3. Your homework assignments will be available when you click continue.
4. Quizzes and exams are locked until you have completed the required homework (see above). Once the homework has been completed, please email IIBT and the relevant quiz or exam will be unlocked for you.

**ALL TERM PAPERS MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED IN TO THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE THE FINAL EXAM. NO GRADES WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE COURSE WITHOUT THE COMPLETION OF THE TERM PAPER**

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## **I. SHAPING OUR DESTINY**

As Christians we need to make decisions that will change our lives. These decisions are threefold:

1. When we decide to give our lives totally to Christ.
2. When we decide to be all we can be in life. This is when we refuse to settle for less than we can be.
3. When we decide to raise our standards, our values and our expectations in life.

This will be the beginning of an exciting journey towards our destiny, a journey that could take us to many nations around the world. These decisions could enable us to meet people who can help change us and bring new adventure and excitement into our lives.

There is power in making a decision. Everything that happens in our lives, including success or failure, begins with a decision. Our destiny is shaped by our decisions. The decisions we make today will determine our tomorrows, the future. For example, what we are today is the result of our past.

We may have decided to go to high school, college or Bible school, or perhaps not to. We may have decided to get married, have children, or perhaps not to. We may have decided to buy or to build a house, or perhaps not to. We may have decided to make a career move, go into business, or perhaps not to. We may have decided to get into debt, or perhaps not to.

Every decision we make has an outcome. The decisions we make, not our environment, will determine and shape our destiny. There are thousands of testimonies of men and women who have succeeded in life despite their limitations, poor environment and disadvantages. There are those who have become failures in life in spite of all the advantages they had. Our decisions, not our environment, will determine our destiny.

### **A. Taking Action**

When we make a decision, that decision has to be followed by action. It is our action, not mere words that make our decisions powerful. Every action we take produces either a positive or negative result. We reap what we sow. If we want to change our lives, we must take actions that will produce the kind of result we desire. Different actions produce different results. We can become what we want by paying the right price. If we are not happy with what is going on in our lives, then we need to stop what we are doing and start doing things differently. We need to change our actions and start sowing a different kind of seed.

We have learned that most things in life are attainable and possible if the proper

price is met. Most people would attain what they desire if they would learn to focus their attention on those things that are important and if they were willing to consistently improve themselves by developing new skills and friends.

We have lived long enough to see people who had humble beginnings make it to the top because they refused to allow their devastating backgrounds hold them back. By the same token, we have seen people born into privileged environments, with every good opportunity for success; end up in defeat and frustration. Life is what we make of it.

In order for us to shape our destiny, we must learn how to deal with today. We must fill our today with things that will change all of our tomorrows. We must learn to expand, grow, learn new things, ask the right questions, and spend our today with the right people. We must be willing to change, not just any kind of change, but the right kind of change.

Knowing what we can do in life is not good enough. We must act upon our knowledge. We must take action. When the appropriate actions are taken in specific areas of our lives, we can create lasting improvements in shaping our destiny.

## **B. How to Shape Our Destiny**

1. We must have a goal.

If we want to shape our destiny, we must have a goal or a dream of what we would like our future to be like. For example, five or ten years from now, what would we like to see happening in our lives? What would we like to have accomplished? What changes would we like to see?

2. Please consider the following questions.

- a. What can we do today, this month, this year, which would help in changing our future (Pr.27:12; 16:3, 9)?
- b. Is there a habit in our lives that is hindering us from becoming all we can be?
- c. Is there a course, a seminar, a training class, a lesson or an action we should take to help us move from this level of our lives to the next level?
- d. Is there a person(s) we should meet or get to know who will be a positive influence and help us redirect our lives?

3. We must take appropriate actions at appropriate times.

To shape our destiny we must learn to take appropriate actions in the

appropriate time.

4. It is important to use God's standards.

We need to set our standards, according to the Word of God. We have to know what to expect from ourselves. This will help us to raise our standards higher and act accordingly, to have higher aspirations. We have to discover the things or the habits we can no longer entertain in our lives. This process is coming to believe in God's power in our lives.

The standards we set will limit or release our possibilities. They will shape our thoughts and our actions. They will produce results. People without set standards live their lives below what they could attain. These people do not know what to expect from themselves, or from life itself.

5. Meditation is important also.

We should discipline ourselves to meditate on things that matter in life. This is to concentrate our efforts on those things that count. It is investing our available resources where they will be more productive. There are some steps we can take here that will impact our future:

- a. Be sure to not major in minor things.
- b. Be sure to walk in the plans of God.
- c. Be sure to expand our lives by learning new things, growing in new areas and friendships.
- d. Be sure to increase our knowledge, being innovative and creative.

6. The conditions we face do not matter.

Always remember, it is not the condition of our lives that matters, but the decisions we make. If we make the right decisions, they will change our conditions. We must avoid making excuses for our failures. Excuses can be destructive and will limit our productivity.

Some people blame their failures on lack of a good education, opportunity, or the way they were treated by their parents. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and making the right decisions, one can rise above the misfortunes of the past.

It is not where we start in life that matters, but where we are determined to end up. Our decisions matter.

7. It is critical for us to follow through.

We should not make decisions when we do not intend to follow through on them. We should be committed to our decisions. We must cut ourselves off from anything that will obstruct or hinder us.

8. We should always think long-term.

We cannot change our lives overnight. We must have a long-term focus in our lives. The small decisions we make along the way will eventually mature and produce fruit. So always remember, failure or success is not made overnight, but is a product of those seeds that we plant in life's garden along the way.

9. We should avoid short-term gratification.

We should avoid making decisions that are based on short-term gratification. Short-term solutions can become long-term problems.

- a. We should be committed to long-term results.
- b. We should avoid short-term fixes.
- c. It is good to recognize that God's delays are not God's denials. God thinks long-term. When God does something in our lives, it affects our entire life.
- d. There are things that are impossible in the short-term, but possible in the long term.

10. This too shall pass

Failures, obstacles or adversities are not permanent. They will pass. Persistence can change a lot of things.

11. We must be willing to change.

We can change almost anything in our life if we have enough motivation. To change, we must have motivation and a sense of urgency to get started. Some people want to change, but they do not know what they want to change to. They should know what they want and what is hindering them from getting it.

12. It is good to have a plan.

We must have a sense of direction, setting our sights on the things that are worthwhile in life. It is necessary to have a workable, practical plan to help us achieve our desired goals. As we work toward our desired goal, we should keep a proper perspective in every area of our life. For example, we must not neglect our spiritual life when we are pursuing our

financial goals.

13. It is necessary to protect the mind.

Our thought-life is very important because we become what we think. To succeed in life, we must develop right thinking. This may take days, weeks, months, or even years to develop and establish new thought patterns. Try to avoid negative environments and negative people.

## II. SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT

Read: Matthew 16:24-26. According to God's Word, our spiritual life is of the utmost importance and should be given priority above everything else. True spirituality is learning to manage our lives according to the paradoxes of the Kingdom of God. For instance:

1. We have to lose our life for Christ in order to find it.
2. We must learn to give ourselves to God and to others before we can truly receive God's blessings.
3. We have to die to ourselves before we can truly become alive and live a fuller life.
4. We have to become a servant in order to be a leader.
5. We have to grow to become a child in order to inherit the Kingdom of God.

Spiritual management, like any other management task, demands time, energy, resources, and above all, a dedicated heart which is committed to pursuing spiritual growth, will find peace and assurance.

True spirituality helps us to explore our barriers and limitations realistically as mortal beings and, in turn, brings us to a point of contact with our Creator. At this point of contact, we learn what the true meaning of life is and what true success is. Here, we become sensitive to the Spirit of God, our own inner spirit, and the spirits of our fellow sojourners.

We then learn how to set our spirits free from greed and the unnecessary accumulation of false wealth. We stop being masters and, instead, seek to be servers. Contentment becomes our virtue. We learn to slow down and stop rushing after the world. We enter a life of serenity, of silence, solitude and inner prayer where the shackles of bondage are cast off, and we pass through the prison walls to a deeper life with Christ where intimacy with God is established.

It is through our growing spiritual experiences that we learn to overcome the despair and meaninglessness of life, which are brought about by the complexity and boundless weariness in our society today.