

DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS AND PLACE IN MINISTRY

(Ask three questions)

1. What am I good at?
2. What am I passionate about?
3. What is my opportunity?

- ◆ Start with opportunity because that's how you find your hidden gifts!
- ◆ Maintain a proper attitude of a servant or you'll act like an expert and order people around!
- ◆ Evaluate how you feel after serving your opportunity!

If you're on the sidelines...

1. You don't know what your spiritual gift is (or)
2. You're not taking advantage of your opportunity.

Remember

- ◆ The cross (and the death of God's Son) has established your worth!
- ◆ Using your gifts in serving others establishes your usefulness!

In other words

- ◆ God's gift to you makes you worthy!
- ◆ Your service to God makes you useful!

And

Fact: Serving is the only antidote to selfishness!

Fact: There are no unemployed people in the kingdom of God!

Fact: You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give!

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The Top “3” (Poor Listening Behaviors)

I. Interrupting With Words or Actions!

- ◆ Clicking your pen is distracting.
- ◆ Looking at your watch is disrespectful.
- ◆ Looking at your cell phone conveys that you are not truly present.

II. Asking Closed End (Yes/No) or “Why” Questions!

- ◆ Asking “why?” makes people feel judged
- ◆ Asking “why?” puts people on the defensive
- ◆ Asking “why?” infers “you should have known better”

III. Giving Advice That’s Unsolicited!

- ◆ Unsolicited advice is seldom appreciated.
- ◆ People venting need to be heard and validated for the reason of being understood.
- ◆ Defenses come down when people feel that you are understanding them; not just listening to reply and rebuttal.
- ◆ “What do you think may help you?” is far better than saying, “I think this is what you need to do.”

Remember

- ◆ Hearts are opened with questions and held with listening!

And Never Forget

- ◆ Interrupting others translates to, “What I want to say is more important than what you are saying!”

Nuf Sed!
Bill Kirk

Truth To Remember About Your Seasons

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

1. Every Season Is Different Than The Previous Season!

- ◆ Seasons can be the result of something new, something lost, or any type of change in your life.
- ◆ Wisdom is: to recognize when the seasons of life change and anticipate that things will be different.
- ◆ It's okay for this season to be different from the last one, so don't try to make every season the same – they aren't and never will be!

2. Every Season Requires Something Different Of Me!

- ◆ In summer we mow grass, in winter we shovel snow, in spring we plant flowers, in fall we rake leaves.
- ◆ Some seasons require more from us than other seasons. These are times that require us to stand closer to certain people and reliable sources of support.
- ◆ Some seasons enable us to move faster and stand stronger. Don't expect that what you did in the last season, will be what is needed for this season.

Case In Point

- ◆ **In Numbers 21:9**, "Moses made a serpent of brass and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."
- ◆ It was God (in V.8) who told Moses to make the serpent and put it on the pole.
- ◆ **But in 2 Kings 18:4**, "Hezekiah broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made."

In Other Words

- ◆ What God had told Moses to make, He told Hezekiah to destroy, why? Because it became an idol and didn't serve God's purpose anymore.

3. Every Season Is Only A Season!

- ◆ Good seasons don't last forever, and bad seasons don't last forever!
- ◆ This truth keeps us from doing two things:
 1. In the best of seasons, we should not place our hope in the season – because it will eventually give way to a different season (and)
 2. In the worst of seasons, we don't lose our hope because of the season – for it will also eventually end. It's only a season!

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Question: How does this truth guard us and protect us?

Answer: In the pleasant seasons we will stay humble, in the painful seasons we will find grace to hold steady (humility in the good, hopeful in the difficult).

4. Every Season Is Orchestrated By The Same Faithful God!

- ◆ The same God who causes the flowers to bloom in the spring, and the harvest to grow in the summer, is working as well in the dreariness of winter.
- ◆ God is so faithful that he never leaves the work of His hand, never!
- ◆ You may see death, decay, or decline – but beneath it all, God is redeeming, repurposing, and restoring.

Question: Know why tree roots go downward in the wintertime?

Answer: It's to gather energy for the next growing season!

Question: Why is it so very, very important that we grasp this point #4?

Answer: Remembering this will protect our hearts from any resentment or anger towards God! Remember:

“For the Word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything He does.”(Psalm 33:4)

5. Every Season Is Preparing You For The Next Season!

- ◆ There are certain seeds that only fully germinate in the wintertime (to reach their fullest potential in the spring and summer).
- ◆ This teaches us that God doesn't waste anything in your life and in His church.
- ◆ It also teaches us that, where you have been will be useful in going to the next level.

But Don't Forget

- ◆ Every level will require a different you that is willing to grow and stretch beyond previous boundaries.

And Never, Never, Never Forget:

- ◆ What happens **in** you, is far more important than what happens to you!
- ◆ Tough seasons are not always about leaving something, they are more often about **learning** something!
- ◆ Running from your problems doesn't **solve** your problems!
- ◆ When you cannot trace God's hand, you can always trust His **heart!**
- ◆ Wishing you were somewhere **else**, will waste the season you are in!
- ◆ If we **knew** what God knew, we wouldn't resent what God does!
- ◆ **God** has information that we are not aware of!

Nuf Sed!
Bill Kirk

“Time (Self) Management”

“Make good use of your time” (Ephesians 5:16)

1. Make To-Do Lists!

Write out what you want to accomplish; what needs to be done.

2. Establish Your Priorities!

Put the most important items at the top of the list (prioritize).

3. Avoid Perfectionism!

Do everything with excellence, (yes), but perfectionism may be an extreme that you need to avoid if it takes too much time.

Remember: If perfectionism is your god, you will beat yourself to death.

4. Question Everything!

Don't allow habits or emotion to keep you from eliminating items from your calendar and to-do lists. If it doesn't work and it's counterproductive, get rid of it.

5. Welcome Tension!

Don't let stress paralyze you; let it move you to your goal. Often tension can improve your focus and enable you to do the job more effectively.

6. Remove the Clutter!

Clutter will get in the way of what you are doing. Don't waste time searching for things; put everything in its proper place where it is easily retrievable.

7. Despise Procrastination!

First things are first; easy things and fun things come afterward. Pay now – play later.

8. Control Interruptions and Distractions!

Minimize the amount of time that people take away from your main objective.

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9. Delegate Your Weaknesses!

Know your strengths as a leader and recruit others who are gifted in the areas of your weaknesses. This is the beauty of the body of Christ.

10. Use a Calendar!

Organizing your days will save you time and help you to prioritize your tasks. Poor planning will result in crisis management and panic decisions.

11. Use Time Twice!

Waiting rooms, lines at the store, time on the subway, sitting in the airport – provide opportunities to read, study and grow. Examples: shine your shoes while watching the Yankees game, memorize scripture while waiting for the doctor, listen to leadership messages while driving alone on trips.

12. Overcome Media Misuse!

Do you feel guilty when you don't respond immediately to your cell phone? Are you tempted to answer (right now) every incoming call, text, email, and facebook post? Do you fail to be truly present with the people who you are with?

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at S. Bones

2 Thoughts:

- ◆ You don't need more time; you need to choose!
- ◆ If there is something that needs to be done, make an intentional decision to:
 1. DO it, or
 2. DELAY it, or
 3. DELEGATE it, or
 4. DISCARD it!

Nuf Sed!
Bill Kirk

“If the light that is
_____ you, is not
greater than the light
that is _____ you, then
the light that is on you
will _____ you.”

Christine Caine

Nuf Sed!
Bill Kirk

THE DREAM TEAM'S “LIMITS”

I Chronicles 17:1-5



Could Less Be More and More Be Less?

- ◆ What David Said
- ◆ What Nathan Said
- ◆ What God Said

“Go tell my servant, David, “You are not the one to build me a temple to live in”: (v.4)

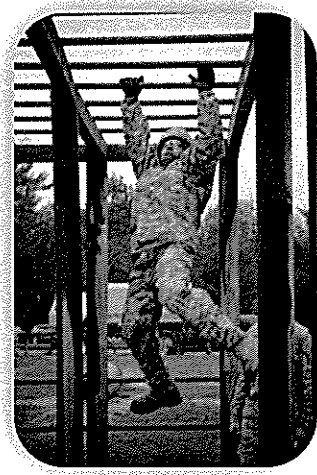
Bill Kirk

Why Does God Give Us Limits?

- 1. Maybe because He _____ us more than we realize!**
 - 2. Maybe so we will learn to ask for _____!**
 - 3. Maybe so we'll learn that God knows _____ than we do!**
 - 4. Maybe so we can actually accomplish what _____ designed us to do!**
 - 5. Maybe because it's possible to neglect our _____ care and those _____ to us!**
 - 6. Maybe because all of us are tempted to validate our self-_____!**
 - 7. Maybe because we can easily forget that we have nothing to _____ and no one to _____!**
 - 8. Maybe we'll believe the big lie that we _____ what we do!**
 - 9. Maybe to remind us again, that we are only _____ and not owners of His Grace and Giftings And Church!**
 - 10. Maybe so we'll never forget who the real _____ of our story is!**
- Fact:** All of us will minister out of a _____ or a _____, so lets take time for prayer, reflection and personal renewal!

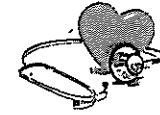
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WHAT'S THE LIFE LESSON FROM THE MONKEY BARS?



1. You can't go to the bar in front of you without letting go of the bar behind you!
2. You can't stay in the middle and just "hang on" very long (it's go forward or go back).
3. As long as I "hold on" to what's behind me I can never move ahead to what God has before me.

Question: What do you need to let go of - to move forward in your journey?



15 THINGS THAT HEALTHY PEOPLE DON'T DO

1. They don't dwell on the past!
2. They don't waste time feeling sorry for themselves!
3. They don't worry over what they cannot control!
4. They don't believe that the world owes them anything!
5. They don't try to please everyone!
6. They don't blame other people for what's inside of them!
7. They don't harbor unforgiveness towards those who have hurt them!
8. They don't allow impatience to derail their future!
9. They don't trust in their performance but "His" performance!
10. They don't live with unconfessed sin in their hearts!
11. They don't speak without listening first!
12. They don't let their priorities get out of balance!
13. They don't ignore the counsel of the wise!
14. They don't live for the approval of others!
15. They don't make big decisions when they are tired, hurried, or angry!