

IV. Ministry Series: Love, Humility, Service

Directions for the student of The Ministry Series: Focus on one question at a time. Read the question and answers. Look up scripture whenever possible, because reading the bible passages will help you understand the concepts and remember them more clearly. Learn the underlined parts of the answers. Be able to say the underlined parts, either in your own words, or by quoting word-for-word. When learning scripture, be able to say the scripture reference and the underlined parts, using either the NKJV (quoted here), or another translation (show your tester). Repetition aids memorization. Therefore ask three different people to test you, so that you are tested three separate times on every item. You may study the questions in any order you want. You may answer a question a little at a time, with study intervals between test sessions. If you answer a question a little at a time, ask your tester to check the parts of the answer you know with small check marks (and put their small initials on their check marks). Ask your tester to sign the left margin when you know all the parts of a question. You have completed a question when it has three different signatures in the margin beside it. Have fun!

1. How can you delight God's heart--and make yourself more fit for use?

(Know all three points plus the underlined portion of scripture.)

a. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength:

Mark 12:29-30 *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."*

(Jesus was quoting the Sh'mah, Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

b. Be humble.

Isaiah 66:1-2 *Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you would build for Me? And where is the place of My rest?...But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."*

c. Be a servant.

Matthew 20:25-28 *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

Mark 12:31 *"And the second [commandment] like it is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

2. What can you do to help yourself love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? (Know all five of these, plus one scripture for each.)

a. Focus on Christ. Purposefully change your life so that you can have time alone with Him. (Advice given by a godly minister: "Too busy to pray? Too busy.")

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Colossians 3:1-3 *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

- b. **Take up your cross daily and follow Him.** Realize this is an honor.
Mark 8:34 ...He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
- c. **Realize that He has chosen you for ministry—but you need to choose Him back.** Choose Him back by spending time with Him everyday in the Word of God and prayer. Love Him. Obey Him.
Matthew 22:14 [Jesus said] "...Many are called, but few chosen."
Ask: He has called me, He has chosen me. Am I choosing Him back?
 I once asked the Lord why, although many are called, only few are chosen. He said that many are called, but very few choose Him back. If there is a call on your life, you must choose Him back by loving, following and obeying Him.
- d. **Realize that the Kingdom of God is taken by force—by force of will:**
Matthew 11:12 [Jesus speaking] "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."
>>>Be willing to be focused, persistent and diligent. This requires sacrifice and force of will.
- e. **Realize that if you truly love God, you will obey Him:**
John 14:15 [Jesus speaking] "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

3. What else does God's word say about humility? (Know two of these.)

- Proverbs 22:4 *By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life.*
- Matthew 5:3 [Jesus said,] *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
- Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*
- James 4:10 *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.*
- Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.*
- 1 Peter 5:5 *... Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*
- Proverbs 3:34 (Amp) *Though [God] scoffs at the scoffers and scorns the scornors, yet He gives His undeserved favor to the low [in rank], the humble, and the afflicted.*

4. What else does God's word say about being a servant? (Know two of these.)

- Matthew 23:11-12 [Jesus speaking] *"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant, and whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*
- Mark 9:35 *And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."*
- Romans 12:9-11 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.*
- 2 Timothy 2:24 *...a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition....*

5. Bible study. Why is it so important? (Know all five of these. Challenge yourself to know the scripture as well.)

a. Reading the bible increases your faith:

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

b. Reading the bible enables you to know the truth which sets you free:

John 8:31-32 [Jesus speaking] *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

c. Reading the bible converts your soul: it changes your mind, your will, and your emotions, and enables you to become more like Christ:

Psalms 19:7 *The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.*

d. Reading the bible enables you to know God personally

John 14:21 [Jesus speaking] *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

e. Reading the bible increases favor and blessing upon you, as you walk in obedience to its commands.

James 1:25 *But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

6. How can you make your bible study time better? (Know all eight plus Prov. 6:23)

a. Read daily, as early in the day as possible,

b. Always pray before you read. Ask the Lord to teach you, because He promised He would, John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27

c. Have a plan as you read. Ask the Lord to help you read systematically through the bible. For example, start at the book of John and read one chapter a day. Then read Matthew, Mark and Luke. Then read the rest of the New Testament. Then read Psalms and Proverbs. Last of all read the Old Testament. Once you have done this, seek the Lord for another plan. For example, read some of Psalms and Proverbs everyday, plus two chapters in the NT, plus two to four chapters in the OT. Read, reread, study. Don't be in a hurry. Meditate on it, think about it, absorb it.

d. Read actively. Mark your bible up, write in the margins, color code verses.

(J. Vernon McGee used to say that if you can't write in your bible, you had better throw that one away and get yourself a bible you can write in!)

e. Ask God to explain verses. He will. When God speaks to you, write it down! (Write in the margins of your bible, or get yourself a bible study notebook where you can write down what you have read that day, verses that particularly spoke to you, and anything God said to you.)

f. Never substitute reading devotionals for reading the bible. God's word is living, not other people's words about His word. God wants you to read and study for yourself. He wants to teach you, and He will, if you are actively reading His word.

g. Don't just read, ask the Lord to help you apply what you read. There are many blessings for those who apply what they read, James 1:22-25.

h. Allow the word of God to correct you. Remember that correction is a blessing, always:

Proverbs 6:23 *For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light. Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.* (also see Psalm 141:5)

7. Prayer. Why is it important? (Know all four.)

- a. God who made you and who suffered on the cross for you, longs for your fellowship with Him. He made you so that He would have the praises of His people, 1 Peter 2:9. He calls you to Himself because He loves you and longs for time with you. If there is no other reason to pray, then pray for this reason. Your Father's heart is hurt when you ignore Him.
- b. God cannot move unless you ask Him to move. As the saying goes, "He will not without you, and you cannot without Him." The sovereignty Satan stole from Adam has been restored to you through Christ. It is your responsibility and privilege to ask, to stand, and to declare the word as God leads you.
- c. Jesus asked us to follow Him,
John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me, and where I am, there My servant will be also...." How can you follow Him if you are not spending time with Him?
- d. The secret of powerful ministry is to seek God and FOLLOW HIM. Do you want a powerful ministry? Then follow these four steps:
1) Seek God. 2) Hear Him speak to you. 3) Don't move until you hear Him speak.
4) Follow Him.

8. How can you make your prayer time better? (Know all four.)

- a. Have a regular prayer time everyday, as early in the day as possible.
- b. Start with praise, worship and thanksgiving. Then do the three C's for daily prayer, followed by the two D's. The three C's are: be clean, be covered by the blood of Jesus Christ, break curses against you. The two D's are: declare victory against the enemy (for example, Luke 10:19), then declare God's blessings on you and your family, (for example, Psalms 18:1-3).
- c. Pray for yourself first, then for your family (remember that Job prayed for his family with awesome results, Job 1:5, 10). Do the three C's and two D's for your family. Remember that as an intercessor you can ask God to forgive your family, cover them with the blood, break curses against them, declare that the attacks against them are broken in Jesus' name, and declare God's blessings upon them.
- d. Once you have prayed for yourself and your family, move outwards to pray for others: the body of Christ, your pastors, your church family, your leaders, your city and country, other nations. There is great blessing for those who pray for others. Encourage yourself to do this!

9. Why go to church? (Know four of these.)

- a. Because we are commanded to love the Lord and keep the Sabbath holy, Ex. 20:8
- b. Because we are commanded to not forsake assembling ourselves together, Hebrews 10:25
- c. Because when we are together, we help stir each other up "to love and good works," Hebrews. 10:24
- d. Because the body of Christ is meant to help each other, Ephesians 4:11-16
- e. Fellowship enables you to grow, Ephesians 4:11-16..
- f. It's not just about you—think of fellowship as a time to serve others, especially as you grow in the Lord. There are things only you can do, words only you can say. Other believers need you, and your church needs you!

There are two areas almost every Christian is challenged by as they grow in love, humility and service. For this reason, these last questions are included here.

10. Speech. Why is it so important to guard your speech? (Know all five.)

- a. Because “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit,” Proverbs 18:21. We will eat either good fruit or bad fruit depending on how we use our tongue!
- b. Because a Christian has tremendous power to bless or curse--more than any unbeliever, Matthew 18:18; James 3:5. So then let us bless!
- c. Because we cannot bless our Father in heaven after we have cursed His children. This worship is not accepted by God! James 3:2-12 God doesn't want our praise after we have cursed His sons or daughters. He wants our repentance!
- d. We are held accountable for every idle word, “*For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned,*” Matthew 12:36-37.
- e. Slander and bitter words defile anyone who partakes of them, Hebrews 12:15.

11. Forgiveness. Why is it so important to forgive instantly and continually?

(Know all five.)

- a. Because if we do not forgive others, we will not be forgiven ourselves, Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35; Mark 11:25-26.
- b. Because if we do not forgive others, we will have no power in prayer, Psalm 66:18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.*
- c. A heart full of bitterness brings a trap which can defile everyone around them, Hebrews 12:15 *Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*
- d. A heart full of bitterness is like an open door for the enemy. It gives the enemy a right to successfully attack, Psalm 94:20.
- e. Demons feed on bitter words and unforgiveness, Proverbs 4:16-17. They inhabit the negative atmosphere these generate!

12. How to forgive someone—five steps plus something to realize: (Know all six.)

- a. Choose to forgive and verbalize your forgiveness. Every time thoughts of anger rise up within you, take a deep breath and say, “I choose to forgive.” This above all is the most important step. Choose to forgive. Remember Matthew 11:12—the kingdom of heaven is taken by force of will. Choose to forgive by force of will.
- b. Pray blessings on that person. If there is an opportunity, do something good for them. Study Romans 12:14, 17-21. Also look at what Jesus said, Luke 6:27-28 *“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who spitefully use you.”*
- c. Pray for God to turn your enemies away from sin, and to turn them to Him instead: Acts 3:26 *To you first God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.*
- d. Give the whole situation to the Lord and ask Him to handle it. Realize that only God can judge correctly--you can't, Luke 6:37. Let Him vindicate you, Psalm 7:10; 26:1.
- e. Stay out of the way! God will not act if you are trying to handle the situation yourself—or vent, or take revenge. He's waiting for you to forgive, 2 Corinthians 10:6.
- f. Realize that forgiveness is a walk. It almost never happens overnight. Keep forgiving. Keep going through these five steps. Walk in forgiveness.