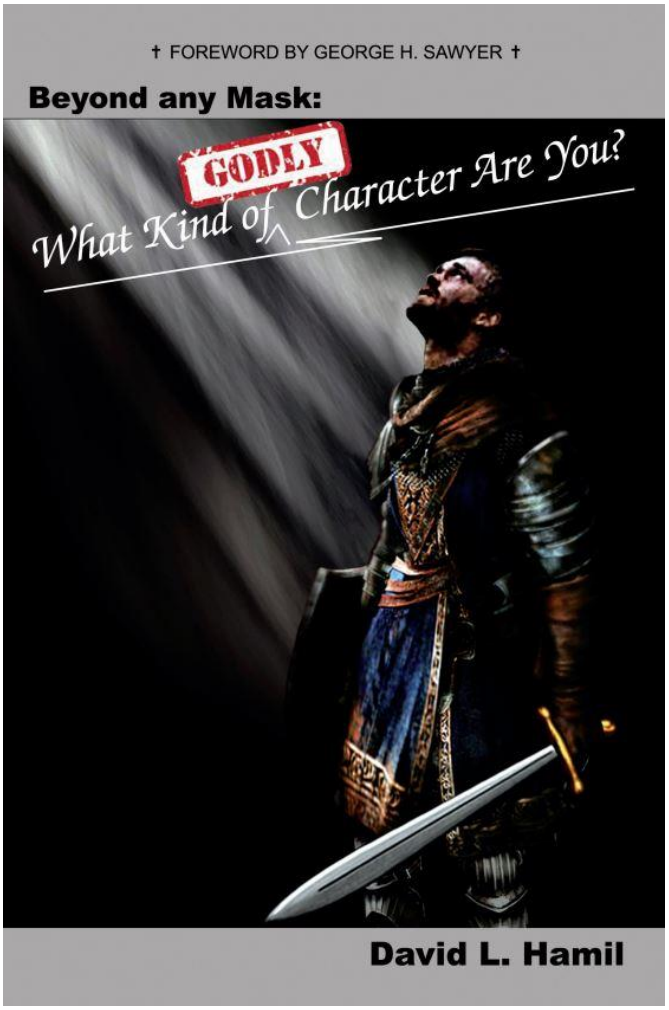
Study Guide

for



Version 1.0

24-Dec-2017

Reference Book: *Beyond any Mask: What Kind of Godly Character Are You?*

Author: David L. Hamil
Publisher: CrossLink Publishing
ISBN: 978-1-63357-107-5
Official Trade Release Date: September 5, 2017
Format: Paperback and eBook

Supporting References:

- "2 Hearts for Integrity Ministries – http://www.2HIM.org/
- CrossLink Publishing – http://www.crosslinkpublishing.com

This Study Guide can be downloaded, "free of charge," as a PDF file from either of these Web sites.

Topic: Having, restoring (if needed) and maintaining Godly character / integrity.

Purpose and Use:

This guide has a dual purpose:

1. To aid the Topic facilitator (e.g., small-group leader) to present the Reference Book's (hereinafter, "**Book**") contents in a structured manner over the course of N sessions, and
2. To help the reader follow along with a Topic facilitator and/or study the Topic's material on her/his own time.

It is the Author's opinion that this study guide and Book information is presented and discussed in eight (8), thirty (30) to forty (40)-minute sessions (e.g., Sunday school class, discipleship class, or other small-group (**SG**) class). Beyond this, the Author and his bride (Marina), is prepared to share the Topic in a conference or seminar-type setting (e.g., Friday evening and Saturday or all-day Saturday event). All-in-all, the Topic should be covered in approximately four (4) to four and one-half (4 ½) hours, regardless of how the information is shared.

Assumptions:

- The SG leader (**SGL**) and each session attendee have access to both The Holy Bible (in a format and version of her/his choosing) and the Book.

Study Guide Author: David L. Hamil

Acronyms Used in this Study Guide:

ARC – Action Reaction Consequence
DP – Discussion Point(s)
KJV – King James Version
NASB – New American Standard Bible
NIV – New International Version
NLT – New Living Translation
SG – Small Group
SGL – Small Group Leader
SGP – Small Group Participant(s)

Conventions

- Specific discussion-point (**DP**) actions (e.g., reading session material, leading the fill-in of blanks) for the SGL will be prefaced with the words, "**SGL Action:**".
- Specific DP actions (e.g., discussion, fill-in blanks) for the Small Group Participant (**SGP**) will be prefaced with the words, "**SGP Action**:".
- Optional discussion point(s), prefaced with either "**[Optional DP]**" or "**[Optional]**", are provided in some sessions. These can be used to elicit additional group discussion or they can be used during personal study, depending on SG time constraints.

Scripture Versions

- Scripture quotations marked "**KJV**" are taken from the *Holy Bible, King James Version* (Public Domain).
- Scripture quotations marked "**NASB**" are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.
- Scripture quotations marked "**NIV**" are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ All rights reserved.
- Scripture quotations marked "**NLT**" are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Notes

- The name satan and related names are not capitalized. I (your author) choose not to acknowledge him with a proper name (unless his name starts a sentence), even to the point of violating grammatical rules.
- An "Answer Key," for the session discussion points can be found in Attachment A.
- It is recommended that the SGL print and hand-out material for a single session, to each SGP at the start of the session, versus printing and handing out the entire Study Guide (minus the "Answer Key") at one time.

Revision History:

Version | Date	***Content Change***	***Revised By***
1.0 | 12/24/2017	Initial release	D.L. Hamil
n.n | mm/dd/yyyy	???	???

CONTENTS

Author's Note 6

Session 1: Introduction 7

Session 2: Part I – Character Recognition Introduction and Strengths & Weaknesses (in part) 13

Session 3: Part I – Strengths & Weaknesses (complete) 20

Session 4: Part I – Opportunities & Threats (in part) 26

Session 5: Part I – Threats (complete) 30

Session 6: Part II – Character Restoration 32

Session 7: Part III – Character Maintenance (in part) 35

Session 8: Part III – Character Maintenance (complete) 40

Attachment A – Answer Key 46

Author's Note

First off, I welcome and commend you for taking this journey with me, a journey where we will allow the Holy Spirit to analyze and help us correct any chinks (i.e., weaknesses) in our spiritual armor. Once this takes place (if/as necessary), then we're in a perfect spot for Christ to work in and through us to touch other's lives for His glory. That's our mission, and a spiritual quest that we should take daily, as the Holy Spirit empowers us to be more like Christ today, than yesterday, and more like Him tomorrow than today.

"Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless (i.e., of integrity) lives and do what is right (i.e., righteous), speaking truth from sincere hearts" (Ps. 15: 1-2, NLT).

Christian integrity can be defined as the absence of compromise and the presence of Biblical convictions. In the words of the psalmist, it is to work righteousness and to speak truth from the heart.

This is an especially timely topic for our day because the spirit of compromise is flourishing all around us: in politics, in sports, in business, and sadly, even in the church. But Scripture calls us to an uncompromising standard that reflects the integrity of Christ Himself. As the Apostle John said, "Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did" (1 Jn. 2:6, NLT).

I encourage you, as I'm encouraged, to strive under Holy Spirit power to live a no compromise lifestyle of Godly integrity.

In Christ's love,

David

P.S. *Please read the Book's information for the sub-Topic area(s) presently under Session discussion, along with God's Word. If you are using only this Study Guide for coverage of the Topic, then you're missing out on a wealth of information. I can't adequately cover all the various facets of the Topic material without repeating most of it herein, and I can't do that due to my contractual obligations with CrossLink Publishing.*

P.P.S. *<u>All</u> Book profit coming my way is promptly sown into other Christian ministries (e.g., Samaritan's purse, Servant Rider Ministries (i.e., prison ministry), Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA), The FIX 91.3 (Christian radio) and others).*

Session 1: Introduction

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 1 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information, to this specific group, as our Lord would have you do so, realizing that we're all a work in progress until He takes us home with Him.
2. Read the Book's *Preface* and *Introduction*, and jot down notes from it, and whatever else the Holy Spirit lays on your heart, to share, that's related to the Topic.
3. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
4. Read various accounts from Scripture where women and men exhibited either Godly or unGodly character traits, and be prepared to share and briefly discuss one or more of these during Session 1 (reference Table 1).

Table 1. Scripture Refs. – Women & Men Exhibiting Godly and UnGodly Character Traits

Individual(s)	***Scripture and Notes***
Joseph	Genesis 37-50. Joseph displayed at least the following character traits: Godly love, hard work, self-control, forgiveness, blessing others, hope and patience.
Samson	Judges 13-16. Samson exhibited at least the following, albeit mixed, character attributes: righteousness (i.e., Spirit of God on him from birth), his lust for women, he did not live up to his training and dedication as a Nazirite, unholy anger and revenge versus a desired motivation to establish the cause of a Holy God, he flirted with and gave into temptation from Delilah (a Philistine woman), unrighteousness (i.e., Spirit of God left him), glimpses of trusting faith in God, and then his right standing with God restored just before his death.
Ruth	Ruth 1- 4. Ruth displayed at least the following character traits: faithful, kind, Godly love, hard work, respectful, modest, courage, courtesy, grace, gentle, determination and endurance.
Queen Esther	Esther 1-10. Esther exhibited at least the following character traits: obedient, courage, strong stand for God and what was right, respectful, faithful, reserved, modest, quiet, humble and self-controlled.

Individual(s)	***Scripture and Notes***
Daniel	Daniel 1-7. Daniel displayed at least the following character traits: humble, Godly intelligence (i.e., knowledge and understanding), true to convictions, trustworthy, man of prayer, and no corruption found in him.
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego	Daniel 3. These Hebrew young men exhibited at least the following character attributes: faithful, courage, strong stand for God - righteousness and hope.
King David	Various scripture references, including but not limited to: 1 Sam. 16-19, 23-24, 26, 30, 2 Sam. 1-2, 5-8, 11-12, 22-23; Ps. 51: 1-17; Acts 13:22. David displayed at least the following, albeit mixed, character attributes: dependence on God, trust, loyalty, righteous, courage, adultery, murder, repentance, possessed Godly wisdom, leadership, respectful, humble, loving, devoted, faithful and obedient.
Rahab	Joshua 2-6. Rahab exhibited at least the following, albeit mixed, character attributes: harlot (prostitute), idolater, faith, courage, receptive to God's grace and salvation, repentance and compassion. We also know from Scripture that Rahab is in the family lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ (ref. Matthew 1:1-6).
King Saul	Saul (subsequently King Saul) had a good and Godly start but he did not finish well, to say the least. Refs.: 1 Sam. 13:9-12, 1 Sam. 15, 1 Sam. 18, 19:1-15, 24, and 26. King Saul portrayed at the following character traits, during his downfall from God's grace: disobedience, rebellion, self-serving destructive pride, fear, unGodly anger, untrustworthiness, jealousy, evil behavior and hatred.
Ananias and Sapphira	Acts 5. Ananias and Sapphira displayed at the least the following character traits: dishonesty and lying,

In addition to the Table 1 individuals, the twenty-eight Acts of the Apostles provide a wide variety of compelling characters, both good and bad. The book is filled with some of the finest saints ever to live, and some of the evilest enemies of the cross ever to trouble the church. For example, Luke and Theopholus, Apostle Peter, Apostle Paul, Philip, Barnabas, Stephen, Aquila and Priscilla, Timothy, the Jewish rulers, and the Roman rulers are several individuals you will find interesting here.

Can you think of some modern-day men and women who have shown, or who currently show Godly integrity? Several that come to mind are: Corrie Ten Boom, Rev. Billy Graham, Mother Teresa and Franklin Graham. Let's not forget Columbine teen martyr Rachel Scott and Heisman trophy winner Tim Tebow in the mix. I'm certain you can think of others to add to this list.

5. The SGL should not assume the SGP have read the Book's *Preface* and *Introduction*, prior to Session 1 start. The SGL should be prepared to bridge any gaps in information the SGP may have as you navigate through the Session 1 discussion points.
6. Print N copies of the Session 1 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
7. This Section 1 Topic material should be covered in at least thirty (30) minutes, but this one may run an extra ten+ (10+) minutes.

Session 1 Start:

1. Pray first!
2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 1 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 1 Discussion Points:

1. SGL Action (read or paraphrase the following): If you look at the Book's cover you'll see a warrior with helmet off who is looking heavenward toward the light of God's presence. God is asking the warrior, and he is asking you and me (i.e., your author), "Beyond any Mask: What Kind of Godly Character Are You?"

   The Book's author candidly shared with the world, his fall from grace (with God, with his wife, and others in his immediate family). He was a wayward, backslidden Christian for a dark season in his life. He made statements in the *Preface* that there are some percentage of professing Christians who are not only away from God but they are masking (i.e., covering up) who they really are from the people around them. In addition, there are others whose blatant conduct suggests the individuals (e.g., new Believers) may not know or fully appreciate that God has shared in His Word, character-trait standards that you and I are to live by.

   SGP Action: Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Why?

2. SGL Action: What's the big deal – why all the fuss regarding my being a [young] woman or a [young] man of character (of integrity)?

   SGL & SGP Actions: The Book's epigraph contains the following quotes:

   > *True character is revealed by your typical choice of self-initiated _____ and situational _____, and*

- _____ is something done by you. I.e., Deed.
- _____ is an action or behavior that is done in return to other action or behavior. I.e., Answer.

Your character drives your _____.

- _____ is something to which a person or thing is directed to accomplish, for good or for bad. I.e., Forecast.

We also know from Scripture, "a man reaps what he sows" (Gal. 6:7, NIV).

a. SGL Action: "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life" (Prov. 4:23, NLT). The NIV reference for the same Scripture verse reads, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

The word, *heart* in this verse refers to your _____ / your _____.

SGP Action: The SGL might consider having a couple of SGP share the same verse from other Bible versions, and/or give their perspective on the meaning of the verse.

Author's Note: Your character (or heart) is foundational to who you really are, and it drives your direction (i.e., action(s) and reaction(s), which are borne out of either Godly or unGodly plans).

SGL Action: Pick out one or two individuals from Table 1, maybe one with Godly character qualities and the other with unGodly character attributes (e.g., King Saul), and highlight how their heart led them along a path of Godly or unGodly living.

SGP Action: Any comments on what the SGL shared? Does this give you a better appreciation or understanding of how critical it is that we carefully guard our heart (i.e., character, integrity)?

b. SGL & SGP Action Beyond how our character affects our own lives, we (as Christians) are responsible to be _____ and _____ to the lost and dying world around us. Jesus said this in Matthew 5: 13-16. For good or for bad, people around us (e.g., family members, friends and strangers) are watching us, and they are observing more than just our words. They are witnessing if our actions do or do not line up with our words. I'm sure you've heard the saying, "Does our walk match our talk?" The basis for this question is another question: "Are you and I positively impacting the lives of the people we encounter daily by our being Christ like?" Said another way, "Can they witness Jesus in us or will they keep searching for the solution to their

problems, and answers to their questions elsewhere?" We'll talk more about being "salt" and "light" in this world, in Session 8.

SGL & SGP Action: Think about your actions or reactions over the past week and introspectively consider these: if what you watched, how you drove on the highway, how you responded to your mate, your child, your manager, employee, or other, if they portrayed character traits of a Godly lifestyle or not. The bottom line question for you and I is: "Who am I beyond the church building or beyond my Christian brothers and sisters?" If you're like me (your author), you're saying "oh me" on some of the questions I posed, or others you may have on your mind, and "thumbs up" (good) on others. These questions are not meant to be judgmental on my part or on the part of the SGL, and they are certainly not meant to lay a guilt trip on you. The "oh me" items, including possible others, are simply areas where the Holy Spirit needs to work in you, so you more consistently act and re-act as Christ would each day. I'm a work in progress along with you.

3. [Optional DP] SGL Action: To help reinforce the importance of our having a Godly character, let's look at some other, yet related, elements of our nature that affect our direction.

   SGL & SGP Actions: The strength of your (or my) overall Christian character is rooted in the depth of your (or my) _____. _____ include your _____, your _____, and your _____. Your _____, along with your underlying character traits, determine your _____. They motivate you to take a stand – right or wrong – and to act according to your _____.

   Our having strong Biblical _____ (or beliefs) are a necessity so we can be a light to the dark (spiritual) world we live in. What is funny – yet very sad – nowadays is that we quite often have strong _____ about weak issues (like collegiate football, motorcycles) while having weak _____ about significant issues, like what is right and what is wrong in God's eyes.

   My friends, please begin thinking about your walk with Jesus, and make a mental list of the _____ you now hold. Are any of your _____ weak on any major issues (i.e., those that are sin in God's eyes)?

Satan will make a double-down effort to exploit _____ (or chinks), if any, in your Spiritual armor, and if you are unsure if you have any _____, he will gladly help you find them. Let's be pro-active and allow the Holy Spirit to change us. if and as needed.

4. SGL Action: Christ set the bar (or the measure) that you and I are to emulate. His example, established the virtual line, if you will, of how you and I are supposed to live. We won't be spending time on the convictions aspect of your conduct, but we will spend considerable time on the other facet of why you conduct yourself in the manner that you do; your character attributes. Throughout this study, we'll use the words: traits, attributes, features and qualities interchangeably.

   SGL & SGP Action: As we're working through this guide, we'll refer to character traits as either _____-____-_____-_____ or _____-_____-_____ behavior, _____ and _____ traits, respectively.

   Author's Note: Like Christ, you too can have a strong, Christian character with deep-rooted convictions that stand firm and are co-aligned with God's Word in every facet of our life.

   SGL & SGP Action: I know what you are thinking, "living like Jesus Christ is a really **TALL** order!" I hear you, but that is really our goal as Christ follows: to talk the talk and walk the talk. In your and my own power, we're unable to live as Jesus did, but when we live under the power of the _____ _____ "all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26, NIV).

SGP Actions ("Homework" for Session 2, if you will):

1. If you did not have access to the Book prior to Session 1 start, I encourage you to read the Book's *Preface* and *Introduction*. The study will be more meaningful if you utilize each of the following materials: The Holy Bible, the Book, and this Study Guide.
2. Read *Chapter 1 - An Introduction to Character Recognition and Personal SWOT Analysis*, part of *Chapter 2 – Personal SWOT Strengths* (i.e., up to and including the self-control strength), and part of *Chapter 3 – Personal SWOT Weaknesses* (i.e., up to and including the self-indulgent weakness).
3. Read Matt. 22:36-39, and 1 Cor. 13, in a Bible version of your choice.

Session 2: Part I – Character Recognition Introduction and Strengths & Weaknesses (in part)

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 2 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information.
2. Read the Book's *Chapter 1 - An Introduction to Character Recognition and Personal SWOT Analysis*, part of *Chapter 2 – Personal SWOT Strengths* (i.e., up to and including the self-control strength), and part of *Chapter 3 – Personal SWOT Weaknesses* (i.e., up to and including the self-indulgent weakness). Please jot down notes from your study, including whatever else the Holy Spirit lays on your heart to share, that's related to the Topic.
3. Read Matt. 22:36-39, and 1 Cor. 13, in a Bible version of your choice.
4. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
5. The SGL should assume some of the SGP have not read any of the Book's material yet, especially if they are new to the SG. The SGL should still be somewhat prepared to bridge any gaps in information the SGP may have as you navigate through the Session 2 discussion points. The SGP should plan to catch-up on the material as soon as possible.
6. Print N copies of the Session 2 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
7. This Section 2 Topic material should be covered in thirty (30) to forty (40) minutes, as follows: fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes for the Character Recognition Introduction and fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes for part of the Strengths and Weaknesses' chapters.

SGP Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 2 Start):

1. Read the Book's *Chapter 1 - An Introduction to Character Recognition and Personal SWOT Analysis*, part of *Chapter 2 – Personal SWOT Strengths* (i.e., up to and including the self-control strength), and part of *Chapter 3 – Personal SWOT Weaknesses* (i.e., up to and including the self-indulgent weakness).
2. Read Matt. 22:36-39, and 1 Cor. 13, in a Bible version of your choice.
3. You're encouraged to take your Bible to each session. Taking your Book to any session is optional, unless the SGL or this Study Guide states otherwise.

Session 2 Start:

1. Pray first!

2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 2 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 2 Discussion Points:

1. SGL Action: In this session and several following, we'll make use to the popular business process tool (used principally by marketing personnel) called, "Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. We're employing the use of this analysis tool, on a personal level, so under counsel of the Holy Spirit we can scrutinize the following: your and my internal strengths and weaknesses (based on God's Word), opportunities based on our strengths, and threats based on any weaknesses (see Figure 1).

P o s i t i v e	**Strengths** What are your Godly character traits that are an asset (i.e., of *value*) to your life and to His kingdom? That is, those traits that can be leveraged as "salt" and "light" to the world.	**Opportunities** Leveraging your existing strengths or potential new strengths (i.e., former weaknesses), what opportunities can be of *value* to help you fulfill God's plan and purpose for your life?	**P o s i t i v e**
N e g a t i v e	**Weaknesses** What are your unGodly character traits that are a liability (i.e., *costly*) in your life and to His kingdom? That is, those traits that are "not salt" and are "darkness" to the world.	**Threats** We've established that your weaknesses are a liability to your life. Given this, what pitfalls / dangers could be *costly* to you if the situation or event were to occur?	**N e g a t i v e**
	↑ Internal Factors ↑	**↑ Internal Offensive or ↑ External Factors**	

Figure 1. Personal SWOT Analysis Template

SGL and SGP Actions: Read the various Figure 1 components, noting the following:

- Strengths and Opportunities are both positive (good)
- Weaknesses and Threats are both negative (bad)
- A solid "bar" line separates the good from the bad. In other words, your and my strengths and opportunities are Top-of-the-Line (Godly) character traits or behaviors, as referenced in Session 1. Conversely, your and my weaknesses and threats (if any) are Below-the-Line (unGodly) character attributes and risks, respectively.
- The description within each S, W, O, and T quadrant

SGL & SGP Actions:

- Top-of-the-Line "strength" character traits that you and I can (and should) exhibit are the _____ of the _____, and others found in Scripture.
- Your _____, if channeled righteously, can open Top-of-the-Line, God-blessed _____ in your life; far beyond anything that you can hope or imagine in the natural realm. Doors can be open in the _____ realm when we walk daily in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, speaking through Apostle Paul, says: "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires, what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh" (Gal. 5:16-17, NIV).
- Below-the-Line weakness character attributes are shown in Scripture to exist (i.e., if they do) in our carnal or fleshy, sinful nature. They, if exist, are _____ of the _____. Your (and my) Holy Spirit-led goal here is to remedy the weaknesses, including repenting of those that are sin in God's eyes.
- Your _____ (if any) are to be transformed into strengths versus their providing the devil with the ammunition to turn a _____ (or risk) into a reality.

[Optional] SGL and SGP Actions: Can you circle the nine (9) Fruits of the Spirit within the list below?

Hopeful	Truthful	Humility	Peace
Gentleness	Servanthood	Kindness	Obedient (Godly)
Patience	Forgiving	Love	Fear (Godly)
Friendly	Joy	Compassionate	Faithfulness
Goodness	Perseverance	Self-control	Worker / Doer

SGL and SGP Actions: Figure 2 is filled out based off the Figure 1 diagram and the Word of God as a basis. Read the various Figure 2 components, noting:

- The strengths quadrant contains the Fruits of the Spirit, along with additional Godly character traits
- The weaknesses quadrant contains the Fruits of the Flesh, along with additional unGodly character attributes

- Several example opportunities are shown based from Godly strengths, which are channeled righteously, under Holy Spirit direction.
- Several example threats are displayed, which could come to fruition if one does not ask God's forgiveness of, and repent of sinful weaknesses in their life

P o s i t i v e	**Strengths** – Loving – Joyful – Peaceful – Patient – Kind – Good – Faithful – Gentle – Self-controlled – Hopeful – Truthful – Forgiving – Compassionate – Humble – Angry (Godly) – Persevere – Friendly – Servant – Worker / Doer – Fearful (Godly) – Obedient (Godly) – Speech (Godly) – Thoughts and Plans (Godly)	**Opportunities** **Examples:** – Exercising his compassion, friendly, worker and servant strengths, Clint would likely interrupt his schedule to help someone who has broken down on the side of the highway. – Exercising her various Spirit-filled strengths, Anne would speak the Word of God to ward off unGodly advances made by a man who is not her husband. – Exercising his good, humble, truthful and obedient strengths, Javier would not accept a promotion if it meant by doing so he would sin against God. He understands that declining the promotion could cost him his job.	**P o s i t i v e**
N e g a t i v e	**Weaknesses** – Unloving – Sorrowful – Turbulent – Impatient – Unkind – Evil – Unfaithful – Harsh – Self-indulgent – Hopeless – Deceitful – Unforgiving – Unsympathetic – Boastful – Angry (unGodly) – Give Up – Unfriendly – Speech (caustic) – Lazy – Fearless (unGodly) – Disobedient (unGodly) – Jealousy (unGodly) – Drunkenness, Drugs – Sorcery – Liar – Thoughts and Plans (unGodly)	**Threats** **Examples:** – Using his friendly strength, man W might wield his unfaithful and self-indulgent weaknesses to make unGodly advances to a woman who is not his wife. – Leveraging his hopeless, give up and lazy weaknesses, man X might choose to beg for money versus going to work. – Based on her past lifestyle and self-indulgent weakness, out-of-work woman Y might steal from family members to support her drug habit, a practice she has not surrendered to God. – Using his lying and deceitful weaknesses, man Z might cheat on his tax return.	**N e g a t i v e**
	↑ Internal Factors ↑	**↑ Internal Offensive or External Factors ↑**	

Figure 2. Personal (Biblical) SWOT Analysis

2. a. <u>SGL and SGP Actions</u>: Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is. He replied, "You shall love the _____ your _____ with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your _____ as yourself" (Matt. 22:36-39,

NASB). Jesus went on to say (paraphrased), "If you fulfill these two commandments, then you've covered the bases for all others" (see Matt. 22:40, NASB). What Jesus said can be summarized as follows: Love _____ and love _____.

Author's Note: When (not "if") you and I can truly understand this to the extent that we're able to walk in (i.e., exercise) such love daily, then we're really like Christ. I've certainly not arrived. I know under Holy Spirit direction and power that having such Godly love positions us in right standing with God and with others, despite my or your feelings (including how others may have treated us). In our natural, fleshy (or carnal) state, we can't love others as we're expected to, but supernaturally (i.e., Jesus living in us) it is possible. Also, our living supernaturally does not necessarily occur by "flipping a switch" (so to speak) where one day your mode of operation with everyone around you is unGodly, then it is totally Godly the next. I want to set you expectations correctly. This is a faith walk, and our flesh must be crucified with Christ daily (as Scripture reads). As a Believer, you know your sinful nature wants to surface early and often, but when you are living close enough with our Lord, the Holy Spirit will tell you right from wrong, including how you are to act or react to any given situation. Our choosing to LOVE, no matter what, is the key. It's easy when things are going our way, but when life is difficult / challenging (e.g. certain persons are unloving), then choosing to love is not natural behavior for any of us. It is during these times that we must supernaturally submit our fleshy will to God's will. Depending on the situation or set of circumstances, this can be very difficult to do, but we know (and will continue to learn in our walk with Christ) that "with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26, NIV). "Love never fails" (1 Cor. 13:8 (in part), NIV).

b. SGL and SGP Actions: Before we leave the love[1], Fruit of the Spirit, let's see how Scripture characterizes the other eight (8) Fruits[1]:

- Joy is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.
- Peace is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.
- Patience is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.
- Kindness is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.
- Goodness is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.
- Faithfulness is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.
- Gentleness is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.
- Self-control is characterized in Scripture as love's _____.

[1] Scripture references for Godly strengths (e.g., love, joy, …) can be found in Table 1 of Book's Endnotes.

Regarding Self-control: As humans, we're selfish by nature and desire to gratify the five principal senses in our nervous system: sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch. God gave us these senses to enjoy life, but they too must be kept in check by and with the Holy Spirit or we run the risk of giving into temptation. Love's victory includes and extends the proverb in Japanese culture as follows: "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil, taste no evil, smell no evil, and touch no evil." Such behavior identifies the quality of a self-controlled individual.

3. SGL Action: This DP briefly addresses the central Fruit of the Flesh trait, "unloving.[2]" We know from the strengths section of the Book and from God's Work, how important love is to God. Scripture reads, "God is love" (1 Jn. 4:8, NIV). Since God/Jesus (as light) is love, then satan (as darkness) is the absence of all love: nothing, zippo, nada, nil or zilch.

   SGL and SGP Actions: An honest-to-God (and to others) Christian walks in love, but being human we, unfortunately, will have instances of unlovingness. Being unloving is, of course, unGodly and not how we are expected to act or react to and with others, under any circumstance. When our flesh rears its ugly head, we are to remember what the Holy Spirit spoke through apostle Paul when he said to the Galatians, "My old self has been _____ with _____. It is no longer I who live, but _____ lives in ____ …" (Gal. 2:29 (in part), NLT). Since Christ is of and in the Father God, and God IS love, then when we get to the place where Christ lives and reigns in us, then what will arise and overflow from you and I is Godly love. I (David) make it sound so easy, don't I? Ha, I know it's not. As David is reminded, so I remind you too of how we are to walk. Walking unlovingly is satan operating in and through me. That's my old man, my old nature. Scripture reads, "Anyone who _____ to _____ has become a new person. The _____ life is gone; a _____ life has begun" (2 Cor. 5:17, NLT).

SGP Actions ("Homework" for Session 3, if you will):

1. If you did not have access to the Book prior to Session 2 start, I encourage you to read the Book's *Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1 - An Introduction to Character Recognition and Personal SWOT Analysis*, part of *Chapter 2 – Personal SWOT Strengths* (i.e., up to and including the self-control strength), and part of *Chapter 3 – Personal SWOT Weaknesses* (i.e., up to and including the self-indulgent weakness). I believe the study will be more

[2] Scripture references for unGodly weaknesses (e.g., unloving, sorrowful, …) can be found in Table 2 of Book's Endnotes.

meaningful if you utilize each of the following materials: The Holy Bible, the Book, and this Study Guide.

2. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 2 – Personal SWOT Strengths* (i.e., from the "Other Godly Character Traits" to the end of the chapter), and the remainder of *Chapter 3 – Personal SWOT Weaknesses* (i.e., from the "Other UnGodly Character Traits" to the end of the chapter).
3. Read Ps. 19:14, Ps. 139 and James 3:1-12. As time permits, you might look through some of the various strength and weakness Scriptures, for speech, thoughts and plans, that are found in Table 1 and Table 2 of the Book's Endnotes.

Session 3: Part I – Strengths & Weaknesses (complete)

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 3 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information.
2. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 2 – Personal SWOT Strengths* (i.e., from the "Other Godly Character Traits" to the end of the chapter), and the remainder of *Chapter 3 – Personal SWOT Weaknesses* (i.e., from the "Other UnGodly Character Traits" to the end of the chapter). Please jot down notes from your study, including whatever else the Holy Spirit lays on your heart, to share, that's related to the Topic.
3. Read Ps. 19:14, Ps. 139 and James 3:1-12. As time permits, you should also look through some of the various strength and weakness Scriptures, for speech, thoughts and plans, that are found in Table 1 and Table 2 within the Book's Endnotes.
4. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
5. Print N copies of the Session 3 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
6. This Section 3 Topic material should be covered in thirty (30) to thirty-five (35) minutes.

SGP Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 3 Start):

1. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 2 – Personal SWOT Strengths* (i.e., from the "Other Godly Character Traits" to the end of the chapter, and the remainder of *Chapter 3 – Personal SWOT Weaknesses* (i.e., from the "Other UnGodly Character Traits" to the end of the chapter).
2. Read Ps. 19:14, Ps. 139 and James 3:1-12. As time permits, you might look through some of the various strength and weakness Scriptures, for speech, thoughts and plans, that are found in Table 1 and Table 2 within the Book's Endnotes.
3. Again, you're encouraged to take your Bible to each session. Taking your Book to any session is optional, unless the SGL or this Study Guide states otherwise.

Session 3 Start:

1. Pray first!
2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 3 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 3 Discussion Points:

Author's Note: Outside of the SG, consider reading through all the Godly character strengths and unGodly character weaknesses found in the Book. In addition, if you will, look up many of the various Scripture references for the strengths and weaknesses, Table 1 and Table 2 in

the Book's Endnotes, respectively. The Book is not an all-comprehensive list of the Godly and unGodly character attributes. For the Biblical scholar or student who wants to learn more, analyze Christ's life in the Gospels, read/study the Proverbs, and scrutinize the various attributes of the men and women throughout the Bible. For good, or for bad, it is not too difficult to determine what God, our Lord Jesus, or the Holy Spirit liked or disliked as people, like you and me, lived their lives.

1. SGL Action: The focus of this session's discussion is to cover a couple of character traits where:
   - Our character will really shine, if we possess and exercise these Christ-like features (i.e., Godly strengths within us)
   - Our character will be tarnished (i.e., damaged), if we happen to possess and exercise the unGodly aspects of the traits (i.e., unGodly weaknesses) within us.

   The character traits we're speaking of are our "speech" and our "thoughts."

   SGL and SGP Actions: First up, let's complete a Scripture that will be the basis for the DPs in this session.

   Anyone up for a crossword puzzle?

   Across

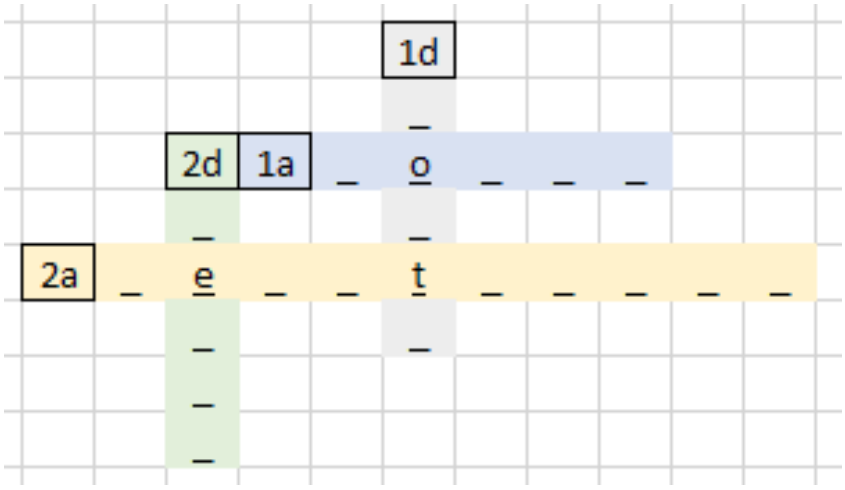
   1a – utterances or statements

   2a – contemplation

   Down

   1d – chops, kisser (slang), or yap (also slang)

   2d – character (you'd better get this one correct 😊)



Let's also fill-in-the-blanks in the following Scripture:

"May the _ _ _ _ _ of my _ _ _ _ _ and the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of my _ _ _ _ _ be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14, NLT).

2. SGL Action: Ask one of the SGPs to read the following paragraphs out loud, then open the floor to discuss any part of what is written or what is on their mind regarding this sub-topic.

   Obviously, the "words of my mouth" is my speech, but is it not also what you and I write using the following forms of written communication: letter, e-mail, text message, tweet, share on a Web site, or post on a Facebook page, etc.? Yes indeed, it IS!

   What we say verbally or what we say in writing can be a blessing or cursing to the recipient(s), depending on who is speaking through us. "Who is speaking through us" meaning, either our Christ-like spirit man/woman or our carnal (flesh) man/woman.

   Here's a test: if someone does you wrong (e.g., steals from you) what is your first reaction … imagine if you will? Reminder, we're only talking about speech (verbal and/or written) here and nothing physical. Ponder this a bit and let it play out in your mind. Would your (or could your) response improve after your initial reaction, if the first one was not so … hmm … Christ-like? Being a fellow Christian, I (your author) know how we're supposed to respond. I believe you do too, if you reflect on how Jesus responded from the point He was confronted in the Garden of Gethsemane to the point of when He said, "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30). "Ouch," you say. Me too! I / we can't do it on our own; the Holy Spirit must take preeminence, to speak through us. As shared in Session 2, the more we get used to crucifying the flesh man/woman (which seriously wants to surface) and surrender ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to come alive in and through us, then how we speak should swing to the blessing side of the pendulum. I know, easier said than done. I (your author again) do know I we cannot do it by our own power or will. Even if you can for a time, it will only be temporary. However, the Holy Spirit of Christ, living within us, is the key. Apostle John wrote, "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world" (1 Jn. 4:4, NLT).

   Before you speak (verbal or written), try your best to do at least a quick pause and listen to what and how the Holy Spirit is telling you to respond. There may be times He may be telling you not to respond at all. Recall, Jesus didn't not respond to every question or comment His interrogators (i.e., those insulting people) levied against Him following His arrest. Our speech should never poison our witness. You and I may be the only "Jesus with skin on" that some in the world ever see / witness, because most will never cross a church threshold. In addition, our speech should be sweet and pleasing to our Christian sisters and brothers too, despite how they are acting. Let's leave speech for now. We'll

touch more on this subject when we cover the Action > Reaction > Consequence scenario in Session 8.

3. SGL Action: Ask another SGP to read the following paragraphs out loud, then open the floor to discuss any part of what is written or what is on their mind regarding this sub-topic.

   We know the "words of my mouth" is my verbal and written speech, but the "meditation of my heart" may not be so obvious, unless you've already spotted the answer in the Book, or know of it from your own studies. The meditation of my heart is "my thoughts."

   Why thoughts?

   a. SGL and SGP Actions: Because thoughts can birth _____ and _____ can birth _____.

      Let's consider the writer of the reference Scripture. It was King David, supposedly a "man after God's own heart, who was overcome with lust one day as he observed Bathsheba bathing. It was that lustful meditation in his heart that led to acted sin in the flesh as he took Bathsheba for his own, and plotted (i.e., planned) to have her husband killed in battle. David did his best to keep his sin hidden and thought he had succeeded until he was confronted by the prophet Nathan. Eventually, the whole ugly mess became public knowledge and David paid dearly for his transgression.

      But to his great credit, this same David invites God to not only scrutinize his public work – he opens the door to the inner sanctum of his heart so God might listen in on his deeply personal thoughts. Talk about a dramatic turn-around!

      Why would David become so vulnerable before God?

      Well, for one thing, David recognizes God's omniscience or the fact that God already knows everything about him anyway (ref. Ps. 139).

      Secondly, I think David invites God into the deepest recesses of his heart because he understands that's precisely where God does his finest work of spiritual transformation. If David limits his exposure so that God is only invited to listen in on David's words, then God's opportunity to change him will be limited.

      So, David chooses to go deeper with God, inviting God to listen in on his thoughts so God can help him root out even hidden faults that he has buried or is not aware of. Listen to David's bold invitation to God recorded in Psalm 139, vv. 22-23 (KJV):

   b. SGL and SGP Actions: "Search me, O God, and know my _____: try (i.e., test) me, and know my _____: and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

If you really want to make progress with God, invite Him into the meditation of your heart. Yes, you will likely feel embarrassed or uncomfortable, but you will also feel loved, and God will change what you always assumed was unchangeable—the very meditation of your heart.

I would hope you're asking this question at this point in our study, "how can we deal with the unGodly thoughts, so they don't turn into plans, which lead to unGodly actions?" First off, let's look at a couple of Scriptures on the subject:

"…we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5 (in part), NIV).

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect" (Rom. 12:2, NLT).

Next, and in line with our not copying the behavior and customs of this world, we need to be careful what we feed our mind. You may be familiar with the phrase, "garbage in, garbage out." When you and I feed our minds with good things (i.e., things of the Spirit) then the outcome (or results) should be good, and pleasing to our Lord. However, if we feed our minds with garbage behavior and garbage customs, which please our flesh nature, then we shouldn't be so surprised if what comes out of us is worldly.

c. SGL and SGP Actions: To the point here, the various windows to our minds are our _____, like _____ and _____, to name a few.

You and I need to be on our guard to control what our mind takes in, with regard to at least the sight and sound senses. I won't spend much more time on this, other than to say that if you really want a holy heart after God (i.e., one that is Christ-like), then you can't expect that feeding your mind with the trash (garbage) of this world is going to come out smelling rosy on the other side; garbage in, garbage out! Recall, the ninth Fruit of the Spirit? We are to exercise self-control at all times.

I'm going to leave you with one last Scripture to close-out this Session:

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise" (Phil 4:8, NLT).

4. [Optional] SGL Action: At the end of this session, search for and pull up the Psalm 19 song from Vineyard Music Group. Look for: *Vineyard Music Psalm 19* on YouTube or other online music option of your choosing.

Ask that everyone close their eyes, and then allow the words of this song permeate the depth of their being. Some participants may want to kneel, bow down, or raise their hands in worship as the song plays. A takeaway here is that this prayer that King David prayed, also becomes one that each of us prays often.

SGP Actions ("Homework" for Session 4, if you will):

1. Read the Book's *Chapter 4 – Personal SWOT Opportunities*, and part of *Chapter 5 – Personal SWOT Threats* (i.e., up to and including the self-indulgent threat scenario).
2. Read Josh. 24:14-15 and note how many times Joshua used the word, "serve." Read Matt. 25:35-36, 40. Read Jn. 8:31-33, and Ps. 15:1-2.
3. Plan to take your Book to Session 4.

Session 4: Part I – Opportunities & Threats (in part)

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 4 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information.
2. Read the Book's *Chapter 4 – Personal SWOT Opportunities*, and part of *Chapter 5 – Personal SWOT Threats* (i.e., up to and including the self-indulgent threat scenario).
3. Read Josh. 24:14-15 and note how many times Joshua used the word, "serve." Read Matt. 25:35-36, 40. Read Jn. 8:31-33, and Ps. 15:1-2.
4. Plan to take your Book to this session, and encourage SGP to do so as well.
5. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
6. Print N copies of the Session 4 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
7. This Section 4 Topic material should be covered in thirty (30) minutes, as follows: fifteen (15) minutes for the opportunities material and fifteen (15) minutes for part of the threats' chapter.

SGP Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 4 Start):

1. Read the Book's *Chapter 4 – Personal SWOT Opportunities*, and part of *Chapter 5 – Personal SWOT Threats* (i.e., up to and including the self-indulgent threat scenario).
2. Read Josh. 24:14-15 and note how many times Joshua used the word, "serve." Read Matt. 25:35-36, 40. Read Jn. 8:31-33, and Ps. 15:1-2.
3. You're encouraged to take your Bible to each session.
4. Plan to take your Book to this session.

Session 4 Start:

1. Pray first!
2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 4 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 4 Discussion Points:

1. SGL and SGP Actions: Leveraging your (and my) _____, coupled with our God-given _____ and _____ positions us (individually and collectively (when applicable)) to serve and minister to people for God's glory.

   It's an honor that The God (our God) of all creation would consider us (His children) worthy and trustworthy to carry-on Jesus' work here until He returns to take us home.

These service and ministry activities and events are opportunities for us to fulfill the unique plan and purpose God has for our lives, as an intricate part of His master plan.

As we're able to do so, illness or other limiting factors aside, we too (like Jesus) are to be about our Father's business, and that business is interacting with and potentially impacting the souls of those we encounter daily.

Keep in mind too that the Godly strengths you possess are a blessing to your own life, as they enable you to walk with Christ-like integrity as you go about your day's activities, whether you are alone or around other people. Unless there are unGodly weaknesses weighing you down, your strength of Godly character should shine brightly (i.e., as light) for others to see/witness, and they should also attest to any Godly encounter with you as savory seasoning (i.e., salt).

2. SGL and SGP Actions: Are you using your God-given resources (e.g., _____, _____, and _____), along with your Godly gifts and talents to serve and minister to others?

   SGL Action: Ask if several SGP are willing to share how they are serving and ministering to others. Author's Note: The purpose of this sub-discussion sharing is not to glorify the one who is sharing it, but to give other SGP ideas where and/or how they may serve and/or minister too, if they are not already doing so. Also, we should never belittle how and where someone is serving / ministering. Man (in a general sense of the word) wants to compare what one person is doing versus another. God does not compare, and His is the only "stamp of approval" that counts. If your current, God-ordained, calling is watching children in a salt and light relationship, then it is just as important (in God's eyes) as an evangelist who is reaching thousands of souls from a public platform. Seriously! If you are obedient and doing for the Lord, then be happy and joyful right where God has you planted.

   If, however, you are willing to serve and/or minister to other, but you're not sure where and how to plug in, then find out where your church is serving and ministering. If you belong to a vibrate, growing church, then chances are they are limping along (somewhat) because you're missing from the picture.

   SGL Action: Ask a SGP to read aloud the example service opportunities shared in the Book, then ask another SGP to read the example ministry opportunities shared in the Book.

   SGL Action: Observe a fingerprint of yours and read the following aloud:

   Just as you (and I) have a unique fingerprint that no one else has,

   you (and I) are to leave a unique fingerprint (on others) that no one else can leave.

Thank you for giving to the Lord! Ultimately it is He who you are serving and ministering (ref. Matt. 25:40).

3. Author's Note: Leaving a discussion of opportunities (as least for now), let's turn some attention to the threat(s) (if any in your life).

   A threat is a _____ item stemming from one or more un-surrendered (to God) weaknesses. A _____ herein is the possibility of walking down an unGodly, sinful path, which would likely result in causing harm to oneself and/or others who are directly or indirectly in the path of your or my waywardness. Synonyms of _____ are: hazard, peril, danger, threat, trouble. Related words are: snare and trap. These words are obviously associated with our enemy, satan. You and I should only fear hell itself (as peril, danger, etc.) if we were to turn our back on the Lord, but that's a different subject altogether, and not where we're headed here.

   SGL Action: Break up the large group into small (2- or 3-person) sub-groups of the same gender, then instruct them that they should review and discuss (on a personal level) any applicable weaknesses from "Unloving" through "Self-Indulgent" (ref. Book, Chapter 5). Once sub-group breakout occurs, then a person from each sub-group should start by reading aloud the following excerpt from the Book:

   Excerpt from Book: "Trust me, I understand that identifying any current weakness(es) and threats is humbling and makes you vulnerable. However tough it may be for you, it is of utmost importance that you identify this information truthfully or the follow-on character restoration process may not effectively address the correct problem areas. Jesus, when speaking to the Jews who had believed in Him said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and *the truth will set you free*" (Jn. 8:31-33, NIV). Also, King David questioned God, "Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent, and who may live on your holy mountain?" The answer, "The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart" (Ps. 15:1-2, NIV). Let's be men and women of truth, even when such truth makes us uncomfortable. Such discomfort likely means the Holy Spirit has touched on a problem area that needs to be addressed. That's a good thing.

   Author's Note: Please share what you are comfortable sharing one with another. Key here is establishing accountability with both God and with trusted peers, some who may be going through (or has gone through) the same or similar stuff. Scripture reads, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT).

SGP Actions ("Homework" for Session 5, if you will):

1. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 5 – Personal SWOT Threats* (i.e., from the "Hopeless" weakness to the end of the chapter).
2. Plan to take your Book to Session 5.

Session 5: Part I – Threats (complete)

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 5 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information.
2. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 5 – Personal SWOT Threats* (i.e., from the "Hopeless" weakness to the end of the chapter).
3. Plan to take your Book to this session, and encourage SGP to do so as well.
4. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
5. Print N copies of the Session 5 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
6. This Section 5 Topic material should be covered in thirty (30) to forty (40) minutes, as follows: fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes for the remainder of the threats' scenario material, and fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes for the "Probing Threat Questions" material.

SGP Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 5 Start):

1. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 5 – Personal SWOT Threats* (i.e., from the "Hopeless" weakness to the end of the chapter).
2. You're encouraged to take your Bible to each session.
3. Plan to take your Book to this session.

Session 5 Start:

1. Pray first!
2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 5 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 5 Discussion Points:

1. SGL Action: Break up the larger group into small, 2- or 3-person sub-groups of the same gender, then instruct them that they should review and discuss (on a personal level) any applicable weaknesses from "Hopeless" through "Thoughts and Plans (UnGodly)" (ref. Book, Chapter 5). Once sub-group breakout occurs, then a person from each sub-group should start by read aloud the following note from the author.

   Author's Note: As in Session 4, share what you are comfortable sharing one with another. Key here is establishing accountability with both God and with trusted peers, some who may be going through (or has gone through) the same or similar stuff. Scripture reads, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The

earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT).

2. SGL Action: Re-group, then read the first "Probing Threat Question (from Book) out loud, pause a bit … and let it sink in yourself and with each SGP. Following this, continue to read the rest of question 1 information (i.e., "If God is not number one in your life, …"). I (your author) do not expect anyone to respond out loud, but they can. If their response is surprising / shocking, don't be judgmental, hear them out. Depending on how they respond, you may want to take this (i.e., further discussion) offline with them.

   SGL and SGP Actions: Who presently holds _____ place in your life? Depending on how you and I respond, determines where your heart is right now and the direction you are heading. As a hot-on-fire Christian, your (and my) answer should be _____.

   SGL Action: Continue by reading aloud question 2 and response info., additional question. Allow the SGP to respond out loud if they will. (Note, even if someone is not outwardly acknowledging a problem area, a seed is planted and hopefully/prayerfully the issues are settled soon. The Part II – Character Restoration / Course Correction Chapter is next up.)

   Move along to question 3, then question 4, question 5, etc. (yes, several of these questions are quite direct. Please answer the Holy Spirit honestly on each of these. Your author had to come to a place where he fessed up and repented in order to be restored in right standing with God. We were born and exist to be the "real deal" (i.e., Christ living and working through us) for this generation.

   Next up is question 6 (another probing one), then Question 7, and lastly question 8.

   Read the following excerpt from Book:

   Excerpt from Book: If our review of threats and/or walk through of probing threat questions identified some risks or weaknesses that fell below God's threshold, don't despair – it's fixable. I (your author) commend you for your honesty. Please, do not stop here! The next step for you is to move onto the Course Correction chapter.

SGP Actions ("Homework" for Session 6, if you will):

1. Read the Book's *Chapter 6 – Course Correction.*
2. In a Bible version of your choice, read the numerous Scripture references in Chapter 6 of the Book.

Session 6: Part II – Character Restoration

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 6 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information.
2. Read the Book's *Chapter 6 – Course Correction.*
3. In a Bible version of your choice, read the numerous Scripture references in the Book's text.
4. It's your call if you want to take your Book to this session.
5. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
6. Print N copies of the Session 6 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
7. This Section 6 Topic material should be covered in thirty (30) minutes, as follows: fifteen (15) minutes to cover DPs 1 – 3, and fifteen (15) minutes to complete character restoration (i.e., DP #4).

SGP Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 6 Start):

1. Read the Book's *Chapter 6 – Course Correction.*
2. In a Bible version of your choice, read the numerous Scripture references in the Book's text.
3. You're encouraged to take your Bible to each session.

Session 6 Start:

1. Pray first!
2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 6 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 6 Discussion Points:

1. SGL Action: Neither the Book's author nor me, your SGL, are suggesting a SGP needs course (character) correction. Maybe none do, maybe a few or maybe only one. Recall what we've read and studied over the past several weeks. If you "hear" the Holy Spirit telling you now that something is not right in your life (in God's eyes) please hang in here – i.e., this session, in particular – and let's get it taken care of. We won't regret any decision if we're honest to the Holy Spirit and act in obedience to His leading.

   SGL and SGP Actions:

   - God is omniscient – He is _____-_____.

- God us omnipotent – He is _____- _____.
- God is omnipresent – He _____.

In summary, there is nothing that God does not know, nothing that He cannot do (except one thing), and nowhere that He is not present.

What does God want from you (and me) that He does not have and that He did not create? The answer is your (and my) _____.

2. SGL and SGP Actions: God works in our _____ _____ and satan works in our _____ _____.

   What caused (or can cause) the gap between you (or me) and God? The short answer is: when the cares of this life (e.g., work, education, people, or worldly reputation) out-weigh the value (or stock) I (or you) put in Godly living, then "Houston (or in this case, 'Heaven') we've got a problem!"

   Satan is forever looking for a foothold to wedge his way into your and my life, if given the least opportunity. Reminder, per Scripture that, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy…" (John 10:10, NIV).

   "Does he have a foothold in your (or my) life right now?"

   Food for thought (so to speak): If you really don't know who (or whose) you are, anyone can name you. If anyone can name you, then you'll likely answer to or fall for anything (e.g., peer pressure as a teen, young adult, or as an adult).

3. SGL and SGP Actions: We know, God is love (per Scripture). God hates sin. Your or my sin _____ or causes a _____ between you (or me) and God. Although God hates sin, He still wants it from us so His Son's redemptive blood can wash us anew.

   I believe you understand that God did not cause the gap, but He most certainly desires a close relationship with you (or me) again, if disconnected.

   If you are I are away from God, even to the slightest degree, it is up to you (me) to initiate the __-_____ to close the gap between you (me) and God. God didn't move or change, you (or I) did. Doing so, your (or my) _____ re-surrenders to God's _____.

4. Author's Note: If you're away from God, then this, of all sub-Topics we've covered thus far, is the most important point in our journey. I'm sincerely pleased you've hung in here and not given up. Your and my being in right standing with God is always worth whatever it takes to get on the right course again. The right course you and I are to walk

(i.e., live) is one like Jesus Christ walked, not as our worldly (unGodly) corrupt culture/society lives. What an unGodly culture/society says is right and wrong should never be the guide to how you and I are to live. The "living" Word of God, coupled with Holy Spirit counsel, is the only roadmap to how you and I are to live as Christ followers.

SGL Action: Break up the larger group into small, 2- or 3-person sub-groups of the same gender, then have one person from each smaller group read aloud point 8 ("Decision") in the Restoration Process within the Book's chapter 6. A SGP should feel free to talk about his/her decision (if any) with their friends in the smaller group. Following this, move onto point 9 ("Repentence"). Lastly, cover point 10 ("U-turn").

At this point in your and my journey – the one where we are continuing to answer the Book title question – we should all be able to say now that "I am a woman [man] [young lady] [young man] after God's own heart." *Praise the Lord!*

SGP Actions ("Homework" for Session 7, if you will):

1. Read part of *Chapter 7 – Christian Living*; specifically, the following sections: *Introduction*, *Training for Battle*, and *Suiting up for Battle*.
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-17, Romans 3:22, Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 8:31, and Matthew 4:1-11.

Session 7: Part III – Character Maintenance (in part)

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 7 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information.
2. Read part of *Chapter 7 – Christian Living*; specifically, the following sections: *Introduction*, *Training for Battle,* and *Suiting up for Battle*.
3. Read Ephesians 6:10-17, Romans 3:22, Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 8:31, and Matthew 4:1-11.
4. It's your call if you want to take your Book to this session.
5. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
6. Print N copies of the Session 7 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
7. This Section 7 Topic material should be covered in thirty (30) minutes, as follows: ten (10) minutes to cover the Character Maintenance Introduction (DP # 1), and twenty (20) minutes to cover the Training for Battle and Suiting up for Battle sections (DPs 2 and 3).

SGP Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 7 Start):

1. Read part of *Chapter 7 – Christian Living*; specifically, the following sections: *Introduction*, *Training for Battle,* and *Suiting up for Battle*.
2. Read Ephesians 6:10:17, Romans 3:22, Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 8:31, and Matthew 4:1-11.
3. You're encouraged to take your Bible to each session.

Session 7 Start:

1. Pray first!
2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 7 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 7 Discussion Points:

1. SGL Action: Read the following … If you came to this study group having Godly character intact, and you know how to maintain it … great. If, however, you've recently undergone character restoration, then you might be wondering (correction, you should be asking), "How do I maintain my present connection to God and not lose ground to the devil?" Alternatively, you might (or should) ask, "How do I prepare for the day when my number is called (US football jargon)?" As a Christian, your number WILL eventually be called by God. When it is called, you will be expected, by God, to make offensive and/or defensive moves against our enemy (satan). For sure we're in a spiritual battle and satan

seriously wants to take you and me out of the game. He would like to do so completely (i.e., steal your soul, if possible), but if he can't have your or my soul, then his next-best option is to try and render us ineffective. Ineffective? Yes, by distracting us from what God has called us to be and to do, in God's kingdom, so that we're of little good in our witness. Careful here, such "distraction" can cause the gap between you and God that we discussed earlier in this study. Okay, let's not digress.

With Godly character in place, we're on the right track to be living witnesses who can, and will, proactively reach out (i.e., outside the walls of our church, home or other Christian group) and impact people's lives (i.e., those we encounter daily) for Christ. God purposely has us here now, in the right location, in the right vocation, and interacting with the right people that He placed around us. We're called to impact our world, for Christ, one soul at a time.

Looking ahead, in the remainder of this session and in the next session, where going to learn (re-learn or be reminded of) how to prepare for (Spiritual) battle, and then how to fight the (again, Spiritual) battle; on God's terms using His playbook, which is the Word of God.

This session, and next, we'll cover the following sub-Topics:

- Training for Battle – "basic training," if you will, for a Christian
- Suiting up for Battle – you guessed it … putting on the armor of God
- Fighting the Battle – how to live victorious, daily.

2. SGL Action: Read the following … **Training for Battle:** Just as it is important for us to keep our automobile in great working order, it's more important that we keep up, or begin, *daily* Spiritual training. Think of it as your (and my) "basic training," given its simplicity, but it is necessary and foundational to strong Christian Living.

   SGL and SGP Actions: Likely you already know the training regime, but it's good to be reminded of the "basic training" for Christian Living. The three (3) facets of this training are:

   a. _____ – talk to God *every day* via your connection with His Son, Jesus Christ. For me (your author) *each day* begins in _____ and a commitment that if He will guide my footsteps, I will follow. During my _____ time, I quite often ask that He set up the divine appointments and prepare hearts for my (author) arrival on the scene. In addition, I'm (author again) careful not to offend the Holy Spirit and I welcome His counsel in my life.

b. _____ _____ – read and study your Bible *daily*, and trust God to speak to you through His Word. At least two things will result from your *daily* _____ _____: 1) You will come to know Christ better, and 2) You will find out how He wants you to live.

c. _____ – connect with other Believers. Assemble regularly with God's people for: worship, discipleship, prayer, fellowship (e.g., eating together), and encouragement. If you don't already have one, find a _____ where Christ is taught and preached. By the way, connecting with another Believer could also include periodic sharing with your spouse, sibling, other relative, or even a Godly friend.

To summarize the results, if you _____ your _____ man/woman and _____ your _____ man/woman, you will attain and maintain Top-of-the-Line, Christian Living. Conversely, feeding the flesh man/woman results in Below-the-Line, unGodly living.

3. SGL Action: Read the following … **Suiting up for Battle:** This area goes hand-in-hand with the prior training for battle section, as both are necessary to prepare you and I to fight our Spiritual battle and successfully live as a follower of Christ. Once you're spiritually trained for battle, then you need to get your gear on (i.e., suit up) before the battle starts.

   Scripture tells us exactly how to suit up for battle; you probably know this best as "putting on the armor of God" (ref. Eph. 6:10-17).

   Here's a synopsis of the "armor of God" Scripture verses, as extracted from the Book:

   - If you want to fight and stand as our Lord and Savior did, you need to suit up for battle.
   - Struggle and battle are synonymous. Out battle is not against people, but it is against satan and his demons who work through people.
   - Twice in these Scriptures God said, "Put on the full armor of God." Emphasis is noted.
   - Scripture reads, "so that *when* the day of evil comes" – not "if" but "when." It's going to happen, so it's just a matter of "when" it will happen. Regardless of when it happens, you must be ready *beforehand* or you won't stand.
   - You're to stand your ground for Christ during the battle, and you are to stand your ground for Christ after the battle. When you do, you can declare that you (in

Christ) won the victory because you did not give any ground to the devil. It is important for you to conquer the enemy (as God said to Cain in Genesis 4:7), or it will rule over you. There are two choices: 1) You either win, or 2) You lose, because there is no middle ground with God.

SGL and SGP Actions: Let's take a high-levels look at the six (6), armor of God gear elements (note, more information on each of these can be found in God's Word and in the Book):

- Belt of _____. Recognize this one? It is one of the Top-of-the-Line character traits shown in Session 2. This character trait is attributed to a person who is honest and trustworthy.

- Breastplate of _____. Simply put, it is the condition of being in right relationship with the Lord, through our faith in Jesus Christ (ref. Rom. 3:22, NIV). Faith, you recall, is one of the Top-of-the-Line character attributes.

- Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of _____. This gear element is another one of the Top-of-the-Line character features. We should be a woman, man, girl or boy who exhibits this trait with God and others.

- Shield of _____. This, again is one of the Top-of-the-Line character traits. Recognize how clearly the Word of God (our "playbook") suits up the warrior with various Fruits of the Spirit and other gear elements so he/she is prepared to fight "not flesh and blood but principalities and powers in high places" (per Scripture).

- Helmet of _____. This one is Christianity 101. If we can't, at least, put on this gear element, then we don't have God on our side. If God is not for us, then who is? The answer is easily found by removing God from the equation (ref. Rom. 8:31).

- Sword of the Spirit; the _____ of _____. Of the six warrior gear elements, this is the only offensive weapon in her/his arsenal; all the other items are defensive elements. The best example where you will find this weapon used is

found in Scripture, when the devil tempted our Lord in the wilderness (ref. Matt. 4:1-11).

How Jesus dealt with satan is a model of how you and I should handle similar spiritual conflict.

SGP Actions ("Homework" for Session 8, if you will):

1. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 7 – Christian Living*; specifically, from the *Fighting the Battle* section to the end of the chapter.
2. You're encouraged to read the "Closing Thoughts" before you put the Book aside, but it is not necessary to have read it for the next session.
3. Read 1 Cor. 6:19, Matt. 5:28 and Luke 22:42.

Session 8: Part III – Character Maintenance (complete)

SGL Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 8 Start):

1. Pray for spiritual direction to share and discuss the Session information.
2. Read the remainder of *Chapter 7 – Christian Living*; specifically, from the *Fighting the Battle* section to the end of the chapter.
3. You're encouraged to read the "Closing Thoughts" before you put the Book aside, but it is not necessary to have read it for this session.
4. Read 1 Cor. 6:19, Matt. 5:28 and Luke 22:42
5. It's your call if you want to take your Book to this session.
6. Plan that social or fellowship time occurs before session start and/or after the session's discussion points.
7. Print N copies of the Session 8 material, based on at least the number of participants you expect to attend the SG session.
8. This Section 8 Topic material should be covered in forty (40) minutes.

SGP Preparation (day(s) or hours before Session 7 Start):

1. Read the remainder of the Book's *Chapter 7 – Christian Living*; specifically, from the *Fighting the Battle* section to the end of the chapter.
2. You're encouraged to read the "Closing Thoughts" before you put the Book aside, but it is not necessary to have read it for this session.
3. Read 1 Cor. 6:19, Matt. 5:28 and Luke 22:42.
4. You're encouraged to take your Bible to each session.

Session 8 Start:

1. Pray first!
2. SGL Action: Hand out the Session 8 material, and a pen or pencil to each SGP.

Session 8 Discussion Points:

1. SGL Action: Read the following excerpt from the Book:

   Excerpt from Book: "Once you're fully prepared for battle, then you're ready to apply best-in-practice offensive and defensive tactics so you can live victorious, from God's perspective, as a Christian."

   The Book shares well over a dozen strategies (18 to be exact) to help you be successful in your (spiritual) fight. We're not going to cover each of these due to time constraints, but

the author has selected five (5) of these for us to discuss, in no respective order. I'll (your author) leave it to your SGL to add to this list, as time permits (e.g., maybe in add-on session(s)).

2. SGL Action: We're going to spend a little time discussing the Action → Reaction → Consequence (**ARC**) scenario first.

Let's define the ARC terms:

Action – The situation or event that either you or another person initiates

Reaction – How you respond if another person acts first, or it is how another individual responds if you start the action.

Consequence – The result of outcome from the action and reaction scenario. The situation may continue or it may stop.

SGL and SGP Actions: The ARC loop teaches us something important about the way life works. You may not necessarily control the _____ in your life or directly control the _____, but you always have control over how you choose to _____. Said another way, how you _____ to an _____ means everything because it is the component in the scenario loop that you are responsible for. Your will choose (i.e., your "will") to _____ with either Top-of-the-Line, Godly character traits or with Below-the-Line, unGodly traits.

SGL Action: Let's touch on several truths about the ARC scenario that are shared in the Book:

a. Every day you (and I) make *reactive* decisions.

b. It is expected that your (and my) discipline to both training and suiting up for battle has sufficiently prepared your *reaction* to be stronger than any Below-the-Line threat that comes your (or my) way.

c. Given the situation, you (and I) are responsible for applying the correct Top-of-the-Line *response* regardless of the consequence. It should be obvious that if the action coming your way is Below the Line and you (or I) *react* Below the Line, then you can pretty much count on a Below-the-Line outcome. Think about it and you'll (I'll) realize it's true. The author shares an example in the Book to help drive this point home.

d. If you (or I) apply a Top-of-the-Line *response* to a Below-the-Line event, you (or I) have the best shot – in most cases – to defuse (i.e., ease, calm) the situation. (Author Note: I used the wrong ("diffuse") word in the Book.). Think about it, if someone is acting unGodly toward you (imagine a situation or event) and you *respond* by acting with one or more Godly character traits, then there is a chance the situation or event could be changed for the better. If, however, the action coming your way is one of persecution or abuse, then the outcome may not improve. Easier said than done, I (your author) know, but regardless of the event and possible outcome, you (and I) are still expected to apply the correct Top-of-the-Line *response*, which may include getting away from the acted situation or event, if necessary and possible.

e. Your victories in Christ are achieved by how well you (and I) – with Holy Spirit guidance – manage your (my) *reactions*.

f. You (and I) will face challenging actions that require us to elevate, or step up, our "game." Under fire, the *reaction* character traits available to you and I are the one we have purposely built into our lives. Let's build our *reaction* capacity during our daily training and suit up for battle regime, and then fight for the Top-of-the-Line *response*.

g. The most successful Christians, in God's eyes, *act* and *react* using a full suite of Top-of-the-Line strengths to capitalize on many opportunities, which help to advance God's kingdom.

3. <u>SGL and SGP Actions</u>: You (and I) are to walk (i.e., conduct our daily life) under the guidance and counsel of the _____ _____. Said another way, it's having _____ _____ awareness in your life, daily.

   To walk as Jesus walked means you and I need to interact with God throughout our day, and not just during our Bible time or during our morning or evening-time prayer. It is essential that you (and I) not only hear (listen) to Holy Spirit's instructions, but that we

heed (obey) them explicitly. Doing so will help keep us out of trouble. A church sign summarized this well: "Trying to run your own life without seeking and following Holy Spirit guidance is like an unsharpened pencil; where's (or what's) the point?"

4. SGL and SGP Actions: If you've ever travelled the London Underground (subway) system, then you're familiar with the iconic warning to rail passengers to be careful while crossing the gap between the station platform and the train door. The audible or visual warning is (anyone know?): "_____ the _____."

   SGL Action: The gap phrase is directly applicable to the Session 6, DP #2 phrase the author shared, which is, *God works in our Godly connections and satan works in our unGodly gaps*. Your (and my) "minding the gap" is simply our daily attention to how close our relationship is to God. If you (or I) find a gap has occurred, first check to see if we've slacked off in our daily reading of God's Word, prayer, and/or connecting with Believers. If all of that is in place, then are you (or am I) being influenced by worldly things? The Holy Spirit will let you know where the problem is, but will you (and I) listen? In summary, mind the gap between you and God.

5. SGL Action: The author posed the following question for you and me in the Book: "Are you totally sold out to our Lord, living a *No Compromise* lifestyle?" Let's define "No Compromise" by first stating what it is not. It is not about living our life anyway we want to live and expecting God's grace to continue to cover willful sin on your or my part. It's true that we serve a gracious and merciful God who is slow to anger, and our Lord Jesus is ever-interceding to the Father on our behalf, but we know from Scripture and studies here that sin separates us (i.e., causes a gap) between us and God. Satan, we've learned, likes to work in those gaps.

   Living a "No Compromise" is essentially about the following: a. Exercising Self-control and b. Surrendering Will Power.

   SGL and SGP Actions:

   a. **Exercising Self-control**: Scripture reads that our _____ is the _____ of the Holy Spirit (ref. 1 Cor. 6:19). This means, we shouldn't do anything to defile the temple (again, our body) where our Lord dwells. To defile (or desecrate) our temple (a sacred place) means we've done something unGodly to make the place where the Holy Spirit dwells, spiritually unclean. Recall, from the Old Testament, the purification and sanctification process the priest had to perform correctly, to prepare his entry into, and his stay within the Holy of Holies (i.e., within God's presence). If the priest did something sinfully wrong, then he died; no compromise. Drawing an

example from the New Testament, recall Jesus driving the people from the temple, who were buying and selling goods, which was a defilement of the temple. Sin cannot "stand" (i.e., remain or dwell) in God's presence. I don't know if we fully appreciate or can grasp how Holy God is. I believe if we did (author speaking to himself as well), that we would behave quite differently. Smith Wigglesworth (the 19th-century-born British evangelist), I understand, knew of, and humbly respected God's holiness.

We know that the lack of self-control is self-indulgence. Several specific unGodly weaknesses (reference Figure 2 in this SG), which can defile our body are as follows: use of drugs, drunkenness, unGodly thoughts, unGodly plans, and adultery (including Jesus' definition, which also contextually applies to women (with reference to men); ref. Matt. 5:28).

b. **Surrendering Will Power**: Jesus, hours before His crucifixion, stated it perfectly: "_____ ____ _____, but yours be done" (ref. Luke 22:42, NIV). Jesus knew ahead of time what suffering He was about to undergo to pay for your and my sins. In His blood-sweat prayer to His Father, He implored Father God if there was another way to pay for His sheep's sins, but knowing the answer (no), He surrendered His will to that of the Father. His prayer to the Father had a dual purpose: it allowed Him to (again) surrender the power of His will to that of the Father, and it teaches us how we're supposed to act. We're given a free will to choose right or wrong in every facet of our lives. God did not want or desire robots to worship and serve Him. Thus the reason why we have a "free" will, but therein is the problem. Inwardly, your and my desires are self-centered and self-serving. Satan is a perfect example of this, as the father of our fallen, un-surrendered nature. I (your author) often cringe when I see or hear Christians use the words, "free will," for now obvious reasons.

When we get to the place in our lives that every thought, every plan, and every action is subject to the will of Father God is, then we've arrived. Meaning, we're truly "walking like Christ," in every aspect of our lives. I (your author) know that's a tall order. It's how you and I are supposed to live, per the Word of God. The author admittedly states, "I'm not there yet, and I'm still very much a work in progress, like you, until my Lord takes me home."

In summary, living a "no compromise" lifestyle is one where you and I are not turning to the right or to the left (i.e., not straying off Godly course), based on what the world (our

society or culture) is, or is not, doing. Being a girl, boy, woman or man after God's own heart is His desire and our lifestyle goal.

6. SGL Action: **"Salt and Light" – Change Agent**

   In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus talked to his disciples (including us today) that we're to be both "salt of the earth" and "light of the world."

   "Salt" and "light" are powerful metaphors. Salt is a preservative that works only with it penetrates food, and it becomes useless, itself, when contaminated by other chemical substances. It must remain pure to do its job. Jesus says that Christians, likewise, must penetrate society while keeping themselves from being influenced (or polluted) by sin in the world. Similarly, light penetrates darkness. To know the truth and fail to stand for it, Jesus says, is as senseless as lighting a lamp and putting it under a basket.

   In other words, we're not just to live out our faith inside the walls of our homes and or our churches. We're not to be of the world, but we're to be "impactful" in the world. We're citizens of an earthly kingdom as well as a heavenly one. Citizens (us) have a responsibility to be proactive in society and address issues, whenever possible, before harm takes place. That means supporting and promoting institutions that are good both for individuals and for the society, like the family. That's the kind of broad view we must take to live out a Christian response in our culture.

   It seems, to the author, then, that the role of the Christian as salt and light in the world may be hindered or prevented through any choice to compromise or settle for that which is more convenient or comfortable, rather than that which is truly best and pleasing to the Lord. It is when we depart from the Spirit-led lifestyle of genuine discipleship that the distinctions between ourselves and the rest of the world become blurred and our testimony is hindered. Only by remaining focused on Christ and being obedient to Him can we expect to remain salt and light in the world.

Attachment A – Answer Key

Section 1

DP 2, quote 1 fill-in blanks: actions, reactions

DP 2, bullet 1 fill-in blank: Action

DP 2, bullet 2 fill-in blank: Reaction

DP 2, quote 2 fill-in blank: destiny

DP 2, bullet 3 fill-in blank: Destiny

DP 2a, fill-in blanks: character, integrity

DP 2b, fill-in blanks: salt, light

DP 3, paragraph 2 fill-in blanks: convictions, Convictions, values, commitments, motivations, convictions, conduct, values

DP 3, paragraph 3 fill-in blanks: convictions, convictions, convictions

DP 3, paragraph 4 fill-in blanks: convictions, convictions

DP 3, paragraph 5 fill-in blanks: weaknesses, weaknesses

DP 4, paragraph 2 fill-in blanks: Top-of-the-Line, Below-the-Line, good, bad

DP 4, paragraph 4 fill-in blanks: Holy, Spirit

Section 2

DP 1, bullet 1 fill-in blanks: Fruits, Spirit

DP 1, bullet 2 fill-in blanks: strengths, opportunities, spiritual

DP 1, bullet 3 fill-in blanks: Fruits, Flesh

DP 1, bullet 4 fill-in blanks: weaknesses, threat

DP 1, circle Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

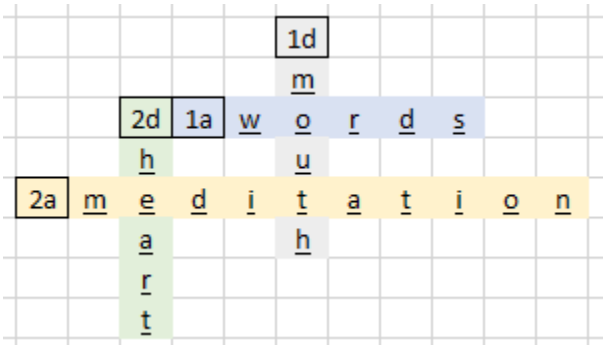
DP 2a, fill-in blanks: Lord, God, neighbor, God, people

DP 2b fill-in blanks: strength, security, endurance, conduct, character, confidence, humility, victory

DP 3, fill-in blanks: crucified, Christ, Christ, me, belongs, Christ, old, new

Section 3

DP 1, crossword puzzle



DP 1, fill-in blanks: w o r d s, m o u t h, m e d i t a t i o n, h e a r t

DP 3a, fill-in blanks: plans, plans, actions

DP 3b, fill-in blanks: heart, thoughts

DP 3c, fill-in blanks: senses, sight, sound

Section 4

DP 1, fill-in blanks: strengths, talents, gifts

DP 2, fill-in blanks: time, finances, possessions

DP 3, fill-in blanks: risk, risk, risk

Section 5

DP 2, fill-in blanks: first, God

Section 6

DP 1, bullet 1 fill-in blanks: all-knowing

DP 1, bullet 2 fill-in blanks: all-powerful

DP 1, bullet 3 fill-in blank: present everywhere at the same time

DP 1, additional fill-blank: sin

DP 2, fill-blanks: Godly, connections, unGodly, gaps

DP 3, fill-blanks: separates, gap

DP 3, additional fill-blanks: U-turn, will, will

Section 7

DP 2a, fill-in blanks: prayer, prayer, prayer

DP 2b, fill-in blanks: Bible, Study, Bible, Study

DP 2c, fill-in blanks: Church, church

DP 2, fill-in blanks: feed, spirit, starve, flesh

DP 3, fill-blanks: truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, Word, God

Section 8

DP 2, fill-in blanks: actions, consequences, react, react, action, react

DP 3, fill-in blanks: Holy, Spirit, Holy, Spirit

DP 4, fill-in blanks: Mind, Gap

DP 5a, fill-in blanks: body, temple

DP 5b, fill-in blanks: Not, my, will