



TRINITY

Equip | Engage | Evangelize

DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Equipping Christians with Spiritual Habits to Work
Toward the Goal of Becoming like Christ

OVERVIEW

DISCOVERING
SPIRITUAL
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Session 2: **Prayer**, pgs 10-23

Session 3: **Giving and Service**, pgs 24-30

Session 4: **Fellowship and Sharing Your Faith**, pgs 31-39



SPIRITUAL HABITS (DISCIPLINES)

DISCOVERING
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“But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”

--1 Timothy 4:7



SPIRITUAL HABITS (Disciplines)

- **Habits are learned**
- **Spiritual habits must be exercised regularly**

DISCOVERING
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SPIRITUAL HABITS

The Habit of Bible Study

“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’”

--John 8:31-32

DISCOVERING
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**SPIRITUAL
HABITS**

**THE HABIT
OF BIBLE
STUDY**

**DISCOVERING
SPIRITUAL
MATURITY**

**WHY SHOULD I STUDY
THE SCRIPTURES?**



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF BIBLE STUDY

DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY

WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

1. To know God

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

--John 17:3

“You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me.”

--John 5:39



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF BIBLE STUDY

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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

2. We are commanded to know Scripture well

*“Be diligent to present yourself
approved to God as a workman who
does not need to be ashamed,
accurately handling the word of
truth.”*

--2 Timothy 2:15



SPIRITUAL
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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

3. For joy and peace

*“How blessed are those who observe
His testimonies, who seek Him with
all their heart.”*

--Psalm 119:2



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF BIBLE STUDY

DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY

WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

4. For your spiritual growth and vigor

“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”

--1 Peter 2:2

*“All **scripture** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

--2 Timothy 3:16-17



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

5. To help others

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

--Colossians 3:16



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

6. To know God's will

*"I delight **to do** Your will, O my
God; Your Law is within my heart."*

--Psalm 40:8



**SPIRITUAL
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**THE HABIT
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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

7. To increase your faith



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

8. To keep you from erring

“But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not understanding the scriptures nor the power of God.”

--Matthew 22:29



SPIRITUAL
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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

9. For freedom

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

-- John 8:32



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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WHY SHOULD I STUDY THE SCRIPTURES?

10. For victory in spiritual combat

*“And take the helmet of salvation,
and the **sword of the spirit** which is
the word of God.”*

--Ephesians 6:17



**SPIRITUAL
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**THE HABIT
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**HOW DO I UNDERSTAND
SCRIPTURE?**



**SPIRITUAL
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HOW DO I UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE?

- 1. Normally (literally)**
- 2. Contextually**
- 3. Grammatically**
- 4. Historically**



**SPIRITUAL
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HOW DO I UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE?

5. Analogically

6. Spiritually

7. Practically



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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DISCOVERING
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PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- 1. Observation - What does it say?**
- 2. Interpretation - What does it mean?**
- 3. Application - What does it mean to me? How do I put this into practice?**



**SPIRITUAL
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BASIC METHODS OR APPROACHES TO STUDY

1. Biographical Bible Study

With this method you study a portion or all of the life of a biblical character such as Moses, Joseph, Peter, Martha, etc.



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BASIC METHODS OR APPROACHES TO STUDY

2. Topical Bible Study

This method helps you look at a subject or theme such as divorce or faith.



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BASIC METHODS OR APPROACHES TO STUDY

3. Book Study

This method allows you to explore the teaching of an entire book as it was received by the original recipients, such as 1 Kings, Ephesians, Philippians, and so forth. This is the best approach for determining the meaning of the Word of God and safeguarding proper application.



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BASIC METHODS OR APPROACHES TO STUDY

4. Passage Study

With this method you delve into the meaning and application of a passage such as a verse, paragraph, or chapter.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

The Habit of Prayer

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

--John 15:7-8

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SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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Prayer is Expected

“Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.”

--Luke 18:1

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.”

--Colossians 4:2

“Pray without ceasing.”

--1 Thessalonians 5:17



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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Prayer is Learned

1. By practicing it
2. By studying it
3. By example



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

1. Developing the Habit of Devotional Prayer

Develop a pattern of daily Bible reading/meditation and prayer with the purpose of growing in your **knowledge** of God.

As much as possible have a routine **time** and **place**. Use a reading and a prayer plan well suited to your interests and personal needs. If you encounter an interruption to the routine, resume it as soon as possible.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

1. Developing the Habit of Devotional Prayer

If you find boredom setting in, feel free to be flexible and creative in order to keep your time fresh and stimulating.

Fundamental to your devotional time is your fellowship with God, not the particular method or routine you follow.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

1. Developing the Habit of Devotional Prayer

A. Prayer Lists

B. Praying Scripture

This simple yet powerful method of praying allows the words and phrases of the Bible to guide your praying. As thoughts come to your mind turn them into prayers.

Some verses may suggest little for you to pray. That's fine, just move on until you find a word or phrase that does.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

2. Developing the Discipline of Praying Without Ceasing.

In 1 Thess 5:17 Paul instructs us to “pray without ceasing”. Simply stated, praying without ceasing is a mind that naturally and **routinely** goes to God in prayer amid the duties, opportunities, and frustrations of a day.

How then does a Christian develop a habit of praying ceaselessly?



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

2. Developing the Discipline of Praying Without Ceasing.

A. Begin your day by committing to pray
throughout the day

B. View your day as a continuous
fellowship with God

“You might think of praying without ceasing as communicating with God on one line while also taking calls on another. Even while you are talking on the other line, you never lose your awareness of the need to return your attention to the Lord.”



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

2. Developing the Discipline of Praying Without Ceasing.

C. Getting in the Habit

- Develop the habit of **meditating** on Scripture throughout the day



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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

2. Developing the Discipline of Praying Without Ceasing.

C. Getting in the Habit

- As you walk in this attitude of reliance, obedience, and prayer, you will be aware of the leading of the Holy Spirit.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

2. Developing the Discipline of Praying Without Ceasing.

C. Getting in the Habit

- Be alert to impressions, thoughts, or assurances in your conscience. Make certain they are consistent with the word of God. Then, by faith, follow through with what the Lord has led you to do.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

2. Developing the Discipline of Praying Without Ceasing.

C. Getting in the Habit

- See each temptation as a springboard to prayer.



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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

2. Developing the Discipline of Praying Without Ceasing.

C. Getting in the Habit

- Claim His forgiveness and cleansing based on the promise of 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

3. Developing the Habit of Extended Time in Prayer

A. Prayer Retreats

B. Prayer Walking



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

A. *“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

--Acts 2:42



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

1. Have defined leadership.

If you are leading the group:

- i. Get the meeting started on time
- ii. Create a comfortable atmosphere characterized by freedom, affirmation, and acceptance.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

2. Give an overview of the direction for the meeting.
 - i. This helps people know what to expect.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

3. Initiate the group's prayer.

i. Take a moment to bring the group into an
attitude which encourages their prayer.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

3. Initiate the group's prayer.

ii. Sing a praise song together.

iii. Read a Psalm or Scripture promise.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

3. Initiate the group's prayer.

iv. Give your group time to meditate on
God's goodness, His power, His eagerness
to answer, His glory.



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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

3. Initiate the group's prayer.

v. Give the group time to silently confess
any known sin or to cast any personal
burdens on the LORD.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

4. Next, give the group a simple plan for
praying over the matters outlined at the
beginning of the meeting.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

5. What to do with silence?

- i. He should then help the group recognize that silence does not mean there is something wrong. Nor does it mean someone has to make noise by making up a prayer. Rather, the group should cherish the silence as a time to focus on the Lord.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

B. Five Elements For Leading Effective
Small Group Prayer

5. What to do with silence?

ii. Instruct group members to use silence to
evaluate the motives of your heart.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

C. Praying in a Small Group

1. Pray concisely – honor the others in the group by not dominating the time by going on and on and on.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

C. Praying in a Small Group

2. Pray authentically and earnestly – pray in a way that is passionate and is consistent with your personality.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

C. Praying in a Small Group

3. Pray one point at a time.

4. Pray clearly – pray loudly enough that others can hear you, and use statements that help everyone know what you mean by what you say.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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FOUR BASIC PRAYER HABITS

4. Developing the Habit of Corporate (Group) Prayer

C. Praying in a Small Group

5. Don't allow prayer to become a form of gossip - don't verbalize confidential information.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

DISCOVERING
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Why Are So Many Christians such Wimps when it comes to Prayer?

1. Sometimes the problem is primarily a lack of discipline.

A. We fail to plan to pray.

B. We give up and fail to persist in prayer. In other words, we quit too easily.

2. We doubt that anything will actually happen if we pray.

A. We don't understand God's ways.

B. We don't have patience and persistence.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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Why Are So Many Christians such Wimps when it comes to Prayer?

3. We lack a sense of the nearness of God, and thus we become discouraged with prayer.
4. We see little real need (i.e. “I can handle this on my own.”), thus there is little real prayer.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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Why Are So Many Christians such Wimps when it comes to Prayer?

5. When our awareness of the greatness of God and the gospel is dim, our prayer lives will be small.
6. Busy: the barrenness of a busy life.
7. We don't see prayer as a "guy thing".
"Real Men" don't need to pray.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

DISCOVERING
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PRAYER ESSENTIALS

1. You must be saved

“The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.”

--Proverbs 15:29



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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PRAYER ESSENTIALS

2. Desire God and His will

“But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”

--Deuteronomy 4:29



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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PRAYER ESSENTIALS

3. Confession of any known sin

"If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear."

--Psalm 66:18



SPIRITUAL
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PRAYER ESSENTIALS

4. Thankfulness for God's provision

"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

--1 Thessalonians 5:18



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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PRAYER ESSENTIALS

5. Faith that God will answer

“But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

--James 1:6-7



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

DISCOVERING
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Prayer is developed by meditation on Scripture

Meditation may be the most fruitful way to grow in prayer. You combine meditation on God's Word—which is God **speaking** to you—with prayer—which is you (primarily) **speaking** to God. This allows your prayers to be in response to what God is saying to you or to have your prayer requests answered more thoroughly.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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Prayer is developed by meditation on Scripture

“The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

--Psalm 19:7-11



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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Prayer is developed by meditation on Scripture

“Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not rule over me; then I shall be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.”

--Psalm 19:12-14



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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Prayer is developed by meditation on Scripture

“Meditation is the missing link between Bible intake and prayer.”

“And our speaking to ourselves in meditation, should go before our speaking to God in prayer.”

“David’s prayers were not his words only, but his meditations; as meditation is the best preparation for prayer, so prayer is the best issue of meditation. Meditation and prayer go together.”

“Meditation is a middle sort of duty between the word and prayer, and hath respect to both.”



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

DISCOVERING
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First, study and meditate – then, pray in response

William Bates, called ‘that most classic and cultured of the later Puritan preachers’ said, “What is the reason that our desires like an arrow shot by a weak bow do not reach the mark? But only this, we do not meditate before prayer...The great reason why our prayers are ineffectual, is because we do not meditate before them.”



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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First, study and meditate – then, pray in response

William Bridge, one of the best of practical Puritan writers, penned the following about meditation. “As it is the **sister** of reading, so it is the **mother** of prayer. Though a man’s heart be much indisposed to prayer, yet, if he can but fall into a meditation of God, and the things of God, his heart will soon come off to prayer... Begin with reading or hearing. Go with meditation; end in prayer... Reading without meditation is unfruitful; meditation without reading is hurtful; to meditate and to read without prayer upon both is without blessing.”



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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First, study and meditate – then, pray in response.

A modern British writer, Peter Toon, in his book *From Mind to Heart*, summarizes the teaching of the Puritans on these things, “To read the Bible and not to meditate was seen as an unfruitful exercise: better to read **one** chapter and meditate afterward than to read **several** chapters and not to meditate. Likewise to meditate and not to pray was like preparing to run a race and never leaving the starting line. The three duties of reading Scripture, meditation, and prayer belonged together, and though each could be done occasionally on its own, as formal duties to God they were best done together.”



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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First, study and meditate – then, pray in response.

“Before this time my practice had been, at least for ten years previously, as an habitual thing, to give myself to prayer after having dressed in the morning. Now, I saw that the most important thing was to give myself to the **reading** of God’s Word, and to **meditation** on it, that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reproved, instructed; and that thus, by means of the Word of God, whilst meditating on it, my heart might be brought into experimental communion with the Lord.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

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First, study and meditate – then, pray in response.

“Now what is **food** for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and here again, not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water passes through a **pipe**, but considering what we read, pondering over it and applying it to our hearts.”



**SPIRITUAL
HABITS**

The Habit of Giving

**DISCOVERING
SPIRITUAL
MATURITY**



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF GIVING

DISCOVERING
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1. The basic principle behind the *Habit of Giving* is that everything belongs to God.

“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.”

--Psalm 24:1

2. He entrusts some of His property to you and to me to be properly administered for His purposes. In that sense we are stewards.

The owner will ask the steward to give an account of how he **managed** the resources entrusted to him.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF GIVING

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3. There are three broad purposes which guide the use of the property and money entrusted to us.

First, to use it to **worship** God.

“But I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.”

--Phil 4:18 (NIV)



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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3. There are three broad purposes which guide the use of the property and money entrusted to us.

Second, to meet your needs.

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

--Phil 4:19 (NIV)

Third, to meet the needs of others.

“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.”

--Phil 4:14-16



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF GIVING

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Nine Biblical Insights into the Habit of Giving

1. Give from a Heart Submitted to God

“And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.”

--2 Corinthians 8:5



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF GIVING

DISCOVERING
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Nine Biblical Insights into the Habit of Giving

2. Give with Spiritual Benefits in View

“You will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all.”

--2 Corinthians 9:11-13



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3. Give Anticipating an Abundant Return

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.”

--2 Corinthians 9:6



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4. Give Sincerely.

“I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also.”

--2 Corinthians 8:8



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5. Give Cheerfully.

“Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

--2 Corinthians 9:7

6. Give Quietly.



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7. Give Sacrificially.

“Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well.”

--2 Corinthians 8:1-6



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8. Give Routinely.

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.”

--1 Corinthians 16:1-2



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9. Give Spontaneously

“You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.”

--Philippians 4:15-16



**SPIRITUAL
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SPIRITUAL HABITS

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- **You are called and gifted to serve**

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” --1 Peter 4:10

“For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”

--Luke 22:27

- **Every Christian is expected to serve**



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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THE SIX MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

1. I serve out of an obedient heart

“You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”

--Deuteronomy 13:4



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THE SIX MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

John Newton, the slave trader who became a pastor following his conversion to Christ and wrote such hymns as “Amazing Grace,” illustrates obedient service as follows:

“If two angels were to receive at the same moment a commission from God, one to go down and rule earth’s grandest empire, the other to go and sweep the streets of its meanest village, it would be a matter of entire indifference to each which service fell to his lot, the post of ruler or the post of scavenger; for the joy of the angels lies only in obedience to God’s will.”



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THE SIX MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

2. I am grateful

“Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”

--1 Samuel 12:24

3. I am glad

“Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.”

--Psalm 100:2

“What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?”

--Psalm 116:12

“So this joy of mine has been made full.”

--1 Samuel 12:24



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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THE SIX MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

4. I am forgiven

“Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!””
--Isaiah 6:6-8

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”
--Ephesians 4:31



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THE SIX MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

5. I serve out of humility.

“So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.’”

--John 13:12-16



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THE SIX MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

5. I serve out of humility

Richard Foster talks about “self-righteous service”: “Self-righteous service requires external rewards. It needs to know that people see and appreciate the effort. It seeks human applause—with proper religious modesty of course. . . . Self-righteous service is highly concerned about results. It eagerly wants to see if the person served will reciprocate in kind The flesh whines against service but screams against hidden service. It strains and pulls for honor and recognition. It will devise subtle, religiously acceptable means to call attention to the service rendered.”



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THE SIX MOTIVATIONS FOR SERVING

6. I serve out of love

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

--Galatians 5:13



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SERVING

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THE SERVANT IN ACTION

1. Be Alert to and Concerned for the Needs of Those You Serve

“But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion.”

--Luke 10:33

Essential Attitudes and Qualities

- Attentiveness
- Value others above yourself. Look past what annoys you and look for the image of God in them.
- Be Humble — [see yourself as the servant]

Questions that Communicate Concern

- “How are things going?”
- “How can I help?”



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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THE SERVANT IN ACTION

2. Be Flexible with Your Schedule so You can Meet Needs

Essential Attitudes and Qualities

- Make people, not tasks, your priority.
- Build a margin in your schedule.
- Trust God to get the work done you feel obligated to do.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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THE SERVANT IN ACTION

3. Take Initiative to Meet Needs

“And came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

--Luke 10:34

Essential Attitudes and Qualities

- Flexibility —a basic factor in flexibility is setting your affections on the needs of others rather than on your own interests and preferences.
- Joy
- Hard work
- Laying up treasures in Heaven—serving, as Jesus imagined it, requires us to live this life with the future life in mind.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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THE SERVANT IN ACTION

4. Make the Success and Well-being of Others Your Priority

“On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.’”

--Luke 10:35

Essential Attitudes and Qualities

- Faithfulness
- Persistence
- Endurance
- Sacrifice



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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How to Develop a Lifestyle of Service

- Begin praying
- Get involved



**SPIRITUAL
HABITS**

The Habit of Fellowship

**DISCOVERING
SPIRITUAL
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SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP

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What is fellowship?

Fellowship (koinonia) means **communion** partnership, to share in something. In the New Testament it speaks first of a believer's relationship with **Jesus Christ**:

"God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

--1 Corinthians 1:9



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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Second, fellowship among Christians speaks of our relationships with other **believers**. All fellowship among Christians is based on the fellowship we have with God through Christ.

This is portrayed clearly in 1 John 1:3, *“What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”*



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John MacArthur wrote, “Anybody in fellowship with Jesus Christ is also in fellowship with anybody else in fellowship with Jesus Christ. This is our common ground. It is not social, economic, intellectual, cosmetic, or anything else superficial. Our common ground is that we possess a common eternal life and are children in the same family.”



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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**When we fellowship with other believers,
we are sharing our spiritual life**

- Socializing is sharing the common things of human life, or **earthly** life.
- Fellowship involves the sharing of **spiritual** life.

Fellowship always takes place in the context of **socializing**, but not all socializing is fellowship.

The church too often **substitutes** socializing for fellowship.



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“Then at the end of the day, having merely socialized, we think we have had fellowship. Only Christians can have the rich **banquet** *koinonia*, but too often we settle for little more than the **fast-food** kind of socializing which even the world can experience.”



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“Fellowship can happen simply by two or more believers in Christ talking with each other from their knowledge of and experience with God and His Word. It can happen almost anywhere at almost any time. A type of fellowship occurs when Christians listen together as God is revealed through His Word preached. *Koinonia* takes place when believers pray with each other. Fellowship should always grow in the soil of small group Bible study.”



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**When we fellowship with other believers,
we are sharing our spiritual life**

- Fellowship is intentional, and should result in spiritual growth

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”

--Hebrews 10:24-25



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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A List of Some “One-Anothers” of Fellowship:

- Love one another (John 13:34)
- Admonish and encourage one another (Romans 15:14; Hebrews 3:13)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Speak truth to one another (Eph 4:25)
- Rejoice with one another (Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26).
- Weep with one another (Romans 12:15)



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A List of Some “One-Anothers” of Fellowship:

- Greet one another with holy greetings (Romans 16:16)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Seek after that which is good for one another (1 Thess 5:15)
- Forbear with one another and forgive each other (Col 3:13)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Don't judge one another (Romans 14:13)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP

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Seven Basic Heart Attitudes which Foster Fellowship

**1. I will put the goals and interests of others
above my own.**

*“Do not merely look out for your own personal
interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

--Philippians 2:4



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Seven Basic Heart Attitudes which Foster Fellowship

2. I will live an honest, open life before others.

“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

--Ephesians 4:25



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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Seven Basic Heart Attitudes which Foster Fellowship

3. I will give and receive correction within Scriptural limits.

“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”
--Hebrews 3:13



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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Seven Basic Heart Attitudes which Foster Fellowship

4. I will clear up troubled relationships.

*“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also
has forgiven you.”*

--Ephesians 4:32



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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Seven Basic Heart Attitudes which Foster Fellowship

5. I will participate in the ministry of my church.

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

--1 Peter 4:10



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Seven Basic Heart Attitudes which Foster Fellowship

6. I will support the ministry of my church financially.

“Contributing to the needs of the saints.”

--Romans 12:13



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Seven Basic Heart Attitudes which Foster Fellowship

7. I will follow spiritual leadership within Scriptural limits, and make it a joy to them.

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

--Hebrews 13:17



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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THREE STEPS TO CONNECTING WITH YOUR CHURCH

1. Attend the main meetings of the church
2. Join a small group that meets regularly for fellowship, prayer and Bible study
3. Participate in a ministry for which you have a passion



**SPIRITUAL
HABITS**

The Habit of Sharing Your Faith

**DISCOVERING
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SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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*“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,
always being ready to make a defense to
everyone who asks you to give an account for
the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and
reverence.”*

--1 Peter 3:15



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

1. Requirements for telling someone about Jesus Christ.

- a. You have personally experienced salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
- b. You are excited and want others to know about what you **have**.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

2. Requirement for being believed when you witness.

Live a life that reflects what you're talking about.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

3. Five ways of sharing your faith

a. Witnessing

Testimony: Telling what Christ has done and is doing in your life.

Vital Skills

- Learn to share your testimony in five minutes
- Learn to share your testimony in two minutes
- Learn to share your testimony in one minute



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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**We are called to serve and commanded
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3. Five ways of sharing your faith

a. Witnessing

Components of your testimony

- Pre-salvation: Share what life was like before you became a Christian
- Salvation experience: Describe how you came to faith in Christ
- Post-salvation: Share evidences that Christ is living in you and changing you



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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**We are called to serve and commanded
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3. Five ways of sharing your faith

b. Evangelizing

Explain the **gospel**: Sharing Scriptures that convey the gospel.

c. Speaking the truth in love

- Sharing the mind of God on the topic of conversation.
- Learn to be conversant on everyday events.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

3. Five ways of sharing your faith

d. Example

- Live a life that is **consistent** with what you say.
- Vital Skills

Your example is not a replacement for sharing the truth of Scripture since “faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17); however, it is essential in giving credibility to what you say.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

3. Five ways of sharing your faith

e. Apologetics

- Share **why** you believe what you believe
- Vital Skill: Be able to give a reasonable explanation for your faith



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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We are called to serve and commanded to share our faith

Summary:

Witnessing requires an experience, Evangelizing requires an experience and knowing the gospel, Speaking the truth in love requires concerted effort to know the Scripture and the culture you live in, Apologetics require considerable effort and concern for answering the tough questions, all of these require supernatural love for Christ and others.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

4. Maintaining motivation for sharing your faith

5. Personal styles of evangelism

a. The Inviter

Characteristics: People with this style are hospitable, relational, and PERSUASIVE. They enjoy meeting new people and are often seen with new friends.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

5. Personal styles of evangelism

b. The Testimony Giver

Characteristics: They can draw clear connections between the situation the hearer is facing, and his/her own personal story.

Caution: Beware of talking about yourself but not relating your experience to the other person's life. You first need to listen to them, to be able to connect your story to their situation.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

5. Personal styles of evangelism

c. The Confronter

Caution: Be sure to use tact when confronting people with truth. If they are offended, be certain it is the gospel they are rejecting, not your offensive personality.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

5. Personal styles of evangelism

d. The Servant

Characteristics: they evangelize through their serving. Their selfless acts of kindness open the door of opportunity to speak about God, often with people who would be difficult or impossible to reach with any of the other styles.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

5. Personal styles of evangelism

e. The Interpersonal

Characteristics: FRIENDSHIP-ORIENTED. They tend to focus on people and their needs more than on ideas, issues and worldviews.

Caution: You will need to avoid valuing friendship over truth-telling.



SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

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**We are called to serve and commanded
to share our faith**

5. Personal styles of evangelism

f. The Reasoner

Characteristics: People with this style tend to be inquisitive, analytical, and LOGICAL.

Caution: First, do not substitute giving answers for giving the gospel message. Second, be careful not to become argumentative.

