

God Perspectives

A Place for Growing People

I. Necessary Ingredients

A. Power to Change

Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 John 1:7 (NIV)

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Romans 8:11 (NIV)

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

B. Momentum of an Objective

Luke 9:51 (MSG)

⁵¹ When it came close to the time for his Ascension, he gathered up his courage and steeled himself for the journey to Jerusalem.

John 19:30 (NIV)

³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

C. Humility of Learners

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NIV)

¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because **you are slow to learn** . . . You need milk, not solid food! . . . ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have **trained themselves** to distinguish good from evil.

Mark 9:22-24 (NIV)

²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." ²³ "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**"

D. Courage to overcome

John 16:33 (NASB)

³³ "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but **take courage**; I have overcome the world."

Matthew 9:2 (NASB)

² And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "**Take courage**, son; your sins are forgiven."

1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

II. Growing Up as Stewards

A. Fundamentals

1. We learn God is our _____

2. We learn to _____

3. We learn _____

4. We learn to respect those who have gifts beyond our own

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV)

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ **And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.** ⁹ As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Romans 12:4-8 (NASB)

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

⁶ Since **we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us**, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; **he who gives, with liberality**; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

B. Responsibility of Success & Affluence

Luke 16:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, **who will trust you with true riches?**

C. Destructive attitudes

1. _____
Exodus 20:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

2. greed/envy
Romans 1:29 (NIV)

²⁹ They have become filled with **every kind of wickedness**, evil, **greed** and depravity. They are **full of envy**, murder, strife, deceit and malice.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my life bear great fruit for your Kingdom. I need your help. Holy Spirit open my eyes to the invitations of God, grant me a willing spirit. Let courage arise within me, a new boldness on behalf of the Kingdom of my Lord. May a longing for the things of God be unleashed within me as never before. Almighty God may you go before me to prepare the path, may those who oppose your purposes in my life be brought down. I rejoice in your grace and loving compassion toward me. In Jesus' name, amen.

KEY: source; give; contentment; covet