

PLAN TO BE SPIRITUAL

**The Wonderful Blessing of God's
Direction and God's Power**

David A. Norris

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TO BE
SPIRITUAL*

David A. Norris

*Church Strengthening
Ministries*

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PREFACE

Many people all across the nation have had their lives blessed by the testimony and ministry of David Norris. I heartily recommend to you this Bible-based booklet.

As Dave's pastor, I have observed him and his family, and their lives do demonstrate the happiness and purpose which come from applying God's Word to daily living.

May God bless you as you learn and as you apply and teach the principles of the Spirit-filled life.

Charles F. Alber, Pastor
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DEDICATION

The greatest problem we have as individual Christians is when we fail to walk with the living Christ as our Guide.

This booklet is dedicated to the strengthening of the brethren for the glory of God.

PLAN TO BE SPIRITUAL

INTRODUCTION

God makes it clear in His Word that there is one answer to our every need. He works by taking us out of the way and substituting His Son, Jesus Christ, in our place. The first of two substitutions is the atoning blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:11-12). The eternal consequences of our sin-manufacturing nature fall upon the Son of God who took our place. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God is now pleased as He looks upon us from heaven. The eternal claim from hell upon the Christian is void!

We soon observe, however, as new Christians, that sinful behavior continues to be part and parcel of our nature. Again, Christ is the answer; He lives instead of us for our deliverance. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things (power to become, to lead, encourage and exemplify righteousness) that are freely given to us of God" (1 Corinthians 2:12). "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16).

When an individual is born of God there is a spiritual union (Philippians 3:3; John 1:12). God is then able to make truth known to the person because he or she can now be sensitive to the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 20:27; Romans 8:11). You and I have the joyous privilege, by virtue of Christ's indwelling power, to focus our mind away from the sin nature, away from the lust of flesh and be directed by the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

God's desire is that our body and the personality associated with it be dominated and controlled by His Spirit. This is a part of the redemptive process, and it demonstrates God's power to bring happiness and fulfillment even when surrounded by Satan and a corrupt world. We are not called upon to win the war. The war has been won, but we must stand in the shadow of victory's Captain, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:10-20; John 10:27-30; 1 Corinthians 10:12,15:58). When God's machinery is in place, when we are walking with Christ as our Captain, the world and Satan are powerless to destroy our success, our victory, our happiness, our testimony (Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 2:14). When we trust God and walk in His Spirit, it is our desire to be under God's control because we have the truth. The truth is that Christ did not come to condemn, but to save and redeem. We are condemned already by our acquiescence to sin and to Satan who is the father of sin. The truth is that when we walk with self (old nature) in control, the price is terribly high and the consequences disastrous.

THE ATTITUDE CHANGE PROCESS

(Important)

Being saved is a gift of God, instant and secure. The spiritual walk, however, is a process whereby we progressively become more in tune with the truth and its benefits to our daily life. This process requires a conscious effort to know and displace the worldly lies and half-truths we have believed WITH the truth. We believed the lies and misinformation of the world; how much easier it is to believe God's Word, the truth, if we just apply our mind to it.

The outline of this booklet is set up in a way that it may be more easily retained. God describes the spiritual learning process in this way, "... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove (reject the bad and learn to use and apply) what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

The sequence generally whereby we undergo a change in our values and attitudes over time is:

1. Have a new and better goal clearly in mind.
2. Consciously place a high value on the goal and its benefits.
3. Understand step-by-step what is needed so we can take it into our life a step at a time and reach the goal.
4. Reckon the goal to be so and proceed repeatedly by faith to live it again and again and again

PLAN TO BE SPIRITUAL

CHAPTER I

GOAL

“... be filled (directed and empowered) with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18)

Following are some of the qualities of character that come with being controlled by the Holy Spirit:

A. Direction from God

“The entrance of thy words giveth light . . .” (Psalm 119:130).

“... be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9b).

“... the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear (from God), that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13).

B. Power for God’s Glory With People

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

C. Power to Resist Temptation and Sin

“... greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4b).

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

D. Power to Experience Material Blessings

“. . . seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

E. Power to Stop the Iniquity of the Tongue

“. . . if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8); “. . . for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh” (Luke 6:45).

F. Power to Witness

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Also 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

G. Power of a Sound Mind

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).

H. Power of Inner Joy

“For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom (vanity, gossip, boasting), but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward” (2 Corinthians 1:12).

I. Power in the Home

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” and “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord” (Ephesians 5:25,22).

J. Power of Progress

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

CHAPTER II

CONSCIOUSLY PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON THE GOAL

Sincerely desire the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Luke 12:34). Following are some of the benefits:

A. Direction: Being Directed by God's Spirit is Dynamic Practical Power

God's Spirit displaces the defeated, confusing and purposeless life of carnality which feeds upon itself and keeps one blind to Satan's activity.

B. Life Which is a Visible Demonstration of God's Love (1 Corinthians 13)

This includes the power to believe that the person offending us had no ill intent.

C. Power to Detect and to Avoid the Lure and the Snare of this World and Satan

Satan hates us because of our spiritual potential. When operating independently of God, we come under Satan's influence (his host). God's Word is made void by our testimony (Romans 8:5-9; Hebrews 12:15; 1 Samuel 15:23). Satan is very real. He is mentioned 56 times in the Bible as Satan and 35 times as the Devil. Even though Satan is very powerful, when we are walking in God, the Holy Spirit, we are safe and secure (Proverbs 30:5).

D. Life With a Higher Motive, Joy and Usefulness

The glorification of vanity and self is rejected and replaced with a divine mission to live and to work for God's glory.

E. Power of Impartiality and Balanced Judgment

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6).

CHAPTER III

UNDERSTAND STEP-BY-STEP WHAT IS NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL (Chapters I and II)

A. Recognize That Christ and God's Word Are Truth, Practical and Indispensable to Success

Philosophically, our desire is to be able to estimate each situation in our daily life, to know the ramifications of the options available and make the choice which will give us the best result.

What do we need? We need truth! To know Christ and God's Word is to know truth!!

B. Realize the World, the Unsaved and Carnally-Minded Are Not a Reliable Source of Truth

Since the fall of Adam and the resulting curse of Satan's power:

In the physical world we have erosion, earthquakes and droughts;

In the biological world there is disease, corruption of the flesh and death;

In the spiritual world we have lying, jealousy, envy, bitterness, adultery, murder.

The world reflects the imbalance of the old nature which controls the values of the unsaved and the carnally-minded. Worldly authorities are flawed because of spiritual blindness. The reliability of their communication to us is impaired because of the hodgepodge of motives—possessiveness, fears, envy, and so forth—by which they couch their communications. No one is a blameless victim. It is when we adopt an evil value or untruth that we become a victim of Satan and the world (James 4:5-8). Satan deceives and condemns; Christ saves and redeems.

C. Understand God's Provision for Deliverance From the By-Product of Our Sinful Nature

1. Plan to Be Spiritual (Leadership of Self)

Planning to be spiritual is basic to all forms of leadership.

Our enemies are Satan number one, and the world he manipulates number two. If we are not walking in the control and power of the Holy Spirit, our old nature is enemy number three. At the age of accountability we become responsible for subduing and setting aside the old nature, proving God's power over the flesh and carnality (Romans 14:12; Romans 6:1-9). Knowing Christ as Saviour is, of course, basic. "... as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God . . ." (John 1:12).

Two personalities bring into focus the challenge of planning and leadership. Paul referred to the struggle of our two natures in Romans 7. In verse 24 he describes the old nature, the enemy within, as the "... wretched man that I am! ..." In verse 25 he refers to our old nature as the personality that serves the "... flesh the law of sin."

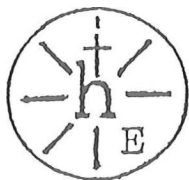
We could label the other person within as the powerless "good you." This is the second personality which has access to our volition agency or our decision-making faculty. In Romans 7:18 this personality is described as a "will" that "... is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." This could be described as an inner voice or the Christian's conscience (Hebrews 5:14). In Romans 7:19 Paul speaks of both personalities when he says, "... the *good that I would* I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do."

Our old nature cannot be reformed (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:18). When we submit to the Spirit and God's human authorities, God empowers us to under-

stand, to distrust and to reject the pleas for supremacy which come from our old nature (Proverbs 16:32). We are not to be double-minded. See Planning, Leadership, pages 28-31.

God gives us success by moving the old nature out of the way and substituting His Son, the living Christ. In other words, when we plan and act to keep the old nature down (mortify, humiliate, discipline by denial) and plan for God's glory, seeking His Word and asking how to solve problems, our mind serves as a wonderful clearing house. God can only remove the chaff and give direction to Christians who *THINK* and plan (take inventory, *ASK* and note God's answers for action). God "... is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we *ASK* or *THINK*, according to the power that worketh in us" (see Ephesians 3:16-20).

SPIRITUAL MAN



Life with joy, purpose, love, understanding. Distrust old nature and world. Obey God's Word, Spirit.

CARNAL MAN



Life of jealousy, envy, worry, critical spirit, frustration, defeat, possessiveness and vain goals. Seldom content.

- h Powerless "good you" —Romans 7:18
- E Dominant "evil" you —Romans 7:21
- † The living Christ
- h † Walking in control and power of the Holy Spirit
- h † Carnal life, God's grace rejected —Eph. 4:30; Heb. 12:15
- Attitudes about God, parents, spouse, children, self, church, play, school, work, friends, worship, morality, dating, money, goals, rights, etc.

2. Give Up the Sin of Possessiveness

Being directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit involves denial of self and consciously turning to the living Christ for guidance and direction (Romans 6:1-12). “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in (God’s power) the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:24-26). We give ourself, our emotions, our family, our work, our material goods over to God in trust. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). Also 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Our prayer is, “Lord, I give everything to You. My goals, my expectations and my possessions all belong to You. I will serve You, Lord, as a steward. I am removing myself from the burden and sin of possessiveness. My trust is in You, Lord. I will consult You at every point and handle things as You direct in Your power.”

“But he that is spiritual judgeth (clears thoughts, words and procedures with God’s Spirit/Word beforehand) all things . . .” (1 Corinthians 2:15).

It is “. . . not I, but Christ liveth in me .
(Galatians 2:20)

3. Root Out Ungratefulness Toward Our Benefactor

It is important that we detect and root out any ungratefulness toward God. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Also Romans 8:28 and Psalm 33.

4. Personalize: Consciously Picture the Fruit of the Spirit as Your Pattern for Doing Things

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

This is a soul (mind/personality) transformation process; we are storing a new message. Disruptive influences from the world and our old nature will continue to try to get you to falter in your spiritual life. This is always true, but particularly so during the first few months of your new walk with Christ. After a few months of steady progress in your conscious effort to walk in the Spirit, the habit base of your subconscious mind will begin to have the new dominant message in storage and become more supportive.

We want to detect and root out the lies (untruth) which we believed and stored in our mind’s library and, by God’s power, replace them with truth, with “. . . the new man, which (is) after God . . .” (see Ephesians 4:22-24).

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night . . . and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:2-3).

<p>“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7).</p>
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5. Memorize: Saturate Your Mind With HOW TO Scripture—HOW TO Live Victoriously

Take inventory; be alert to personal character problems—pride, envy, bitterness, etc. Find and study God’s Word which deals with these weaknesses and sins (1 Timothy 4:12-16).

Spiritual Walk — John 15; Galatians 5, 6
Love — 1 Corinthians 13
Love Redirected — Colossians 3
Conquering Lust — Romans 8
Happiness — Matthew 5,6,7
God’s Correction Appreciated — Hebrews 12
Defeating Temptation — James 1
Finances — Proverbs 13:16, 28:22, 31:16-24
Understanding Old Nature — Romans 6,7
Psalm 1, 3, 15, 34, 36, 67, 139

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls (mind)” (James 1:21).

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (1 John 3:22).

6. Confess Your Sins

The instant sin is noticed, turn to God in repentance. Unconfessed sin is like foreign material in an electrical circuit in the sense that it shorts out the power—in the case of man, God’s power.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Thank God that He has forgiven all of our sins—past, present and future. God is pleased with us because of the blood of Jesus Christ, the all-sufficient propitiation for our sin. See Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1, 2:1-3; Hebrews 10:1-17.

“...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, *but giveth grace (power) unto the humble*. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted and mourn, and weep (when sin gets its way): let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:4-10).

7. Pray and Review

Have a daily, weekly and monthly outline for prayer and review. Review and revise an inventory of your problems and goals as a part of your daily prayer list. **ASK GOD QUESTIONS.** Don't give up. At the appropriate time, He will answer your questions (Ephesians 3:20). Review the outline of this booklet for being empowered by the Holy Spirit weekly, and work through the entire flow of the outline in detail at least once a month. Continue to place high value on the fruit which flows from the Spirit-filled life (Psalm 119:97-104). “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (1 Peter 3:12).

Personal prayer time—Review with thanksgiving specific victories God has given you. *Present every area of your life to God* (Galatians 6:14; Psalm 26:2; Hebrews 4:13). “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by

the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (it's a bargain)" (Romans 12:1).

Review with a prayer of sorrow instances of carnality and pride. Accept God's blessing and be restored to God's standard. See 1 John 1:9.

"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17).

Worship God in prayer. "And He said unto them, When ye pray, say, ●ur Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name . . ." (Luke 11:2). ". . . Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 7:12).

Begin and end each day with our God, Creator, Saviour, Protector and Guide.

"My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches" (Psalm 63:5-6).

CHAPTER IV

RECKON IT SO

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:11).

“. . . ye are the temple of God, and . . . the Spirit of God dwelleth in you” (1 Corinthians 3:16).

“And be not drunk with wine (fulfilling the appetites of the world), wherein is excess (dissipation); but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). Also John 1:12, 14:16-17 and Colossians 2:9-10.

Walk hand-in-hand with the unseen, but all powerful, guiding Spirit and Word of the living Christ. Develop the mind’s picture of God’s promises into a confident working relationship by handling daily encounters according to God’s Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Claim the fulfillment of God’s promises and proceed by faith with thanksgiving.

“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things . . .” (1 Corinthians 2:15).

“He that ruleth his spirit (is better) than he that taketh a city” (Proverbs 16:32b). See Planning, Leadership, pages 28-31.

My prayer: “Heavenly Father, Your Spirit is within me. In the past I have been in control of my life and as a result I am sinning and failing. My old nature is unable to overcome the deceptive influence of Satan in the world. I now see this fact.

Lord God, all things belong to You. I give You my rights and expectations. I give You my family, my work and my material goods. By faith, I empty my personality of self and proceed each minute of each day with the living Christ, the Holy Spirit within, as the center of my values for decision, for speaking and for action.

Thank You, Lord. In Your Precious Name I claim the promise of Your all wise care and control. Amen.”

The person who continues to practice sin should realize that he or she may not be a born-again Christian. Only “. . . he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16). Also see 1 John 2:3, 3:6, 9, 5:10-13. On the next page we outline God’s provision for becoming a Christian.

KNOWING CHRIST AS SAVIOUR

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”—John 5:24

the Best Friend you can ever have!

We *are* interested in sharing the good news about a person: the Lord Jesus Christ. We are interested for you!

There are five spiritual laws that are just as unchanging as God’s law of gravity:

1. Christ came to save and redeem. It is our acquiescence to sin and Satan that condemns.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

—John 3:17

“All we like sheep have gone astray . . .”

—Isaiah 53:6

2. God loves you, and made wonderful provision for success in your life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

—John 3:16

“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

—John 10:10b

3. Man is separated from God and thus cannot know God's love and power for his life.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
—Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

—Romans 6:23

4. Jesus Christ is the only provision for man's sin.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

—Romans 5:8

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

—2 Corinthians 5:21

5. We can receive Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour and Lord by invitation.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”
—John 1:12

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life (right now); and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life. .

—1 John 5:11-13

I believe the words of God which I have just read, and want Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. “Lord Jesus, the best way I know how, I confess that I AM A SINNER. I open the door of my life to You and receive You as my Lord and Saviour. Please take my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming into my life and for hearing my prayer as you promised. Amen.”

PLANNING, LEADERSHIP FORTIFICATION

Leadership Phase One; Leadership of Self

God's Word is the mirror by which we see truth (Hebrews 4:12). As instruments in the hand of God, parents bring immediacy to our sin as children, sin which would otherwise be ignored or denied, thus saving us from destruction (Proverbs 29:15, 17; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Romans 13:4).

With the support (power and direction) of the Holy Spirit, we fortify spiritually the powerless "good you" and move it into the position of leadership dominance (2 Peter 1:4; Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:1-9; Colossians 3).

Scripture having to do with leadership fortification

Born-again spiritually in Christ: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10).

Hate sin, grieve because of your wicked thoughts and actions: "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning (when sin gets its way) and your joy to heaviness" (James 4:9).

Chastening is desirable for perfecting: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11). Also 2 Corinthians 12:7; 2 Samuel 12:10-14.

Breaking our thought patterns of the past, which limited our perception to human understanding, is very important. God's ways are not man's ways! We must learn to have patience for God's timing and to walk by faith. In other words, we need to learn to place total confidence in the truth of God and to rely on the fruit of His Spirit in the

pursuit of goals (2 Peter 1:3-8; Galatians 5:16, 6:10). To do this God molds our character to be more like Christ's (Galatians 4:19). He allows us to go through the heart-wrenching experience of seeing a dearly held and honorable goal elude us in total (1 Peter 4:1-2, 12-13). As the vision dies in our mind we see the futility of our walk apart from Him! We can then walk in the Spirit with faith, patience and resolve (Colossians 1:28-29). Without fear we submit to one another. We confess incidents which need to be confessed and corrected; we apologize for offences, but we never relent from our God-given assignment as a leader (1 John 3:16; 1 John 4:17-18; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Peter 5:5-6). Frequently after death of the vision, God gives us the goal sought or He gives us a replacement which is much greater in purpose and in value.

Examples of discipline in phase one of leadership development

(the powerless "good you," with God's help, keeping the old nature in submission—2 Peter 1:1-12)

1. Attitude of distrust of the "wicked self" — Romans 7:25; 1 Corinthians 9:27. Be sufficiently familiar with the old nature's propensity to do evil, to keep it in submission and away from Satan's allurements — Jeremiah 17:9.
2. Shun the occult — Leviticus 19:31; 1 Corinthians 10:20.
3. Refuse to harbor the work of the "enemy within." Do not let sin take root. Confess and cleanse one's mind from sin as soon as evil thoughts are recognized — 1 Peter 4:15-17; 1 John 1:9.
4. Resist temptation, flee from the devil's offerings — James 4:7-8.

5. Make restitution; make apology when due. Humiliate the old nature deep down within. Give him no mercy. Along with Satan's help, the old nature would destroy your testimony and effectiveness — James 10:4; Ephesians 5:11-12; Exodus 22:3-12; 2 Peter 3:9.
6. Starve the old nature. End your fascination with evil — Acts 19:19; Hebrews 5:14; Psalm 32:3-5. Sin cannot be comforted. Repentance from sin must be prompt and real. Sin is a mortal enemy to one's life which must be destroyed.
7. Keep away from Satan's human hosts — Haggai 2:14; Proverbs 26:24-25; 1 Corinthians 5:11.
8. Turn away from false teachings — Romans 16:17.
9. Expose Satan's allurements publicly — Proverbs 28:13; Ephesians 5:11.
10. Discern the subtleness of pride's entry. Be humble; success not bathed in humility will shatter. Without humility, the powerless "good you" can never be in charge and maintain the initiative over the "wicked self" — James 4:5-8.
11. Limit friendships to godly, optimistic people — John 15:14-15; Philippians 2:19-23.
12. Strengthen the powerless "good you" in its resolve by sharing problems with your God-given leaders and submit to their authority — 2 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 30:17.
13. Dwell daily on God's Word with thankfulness -- Colossians 3:16; Luke 17:4; Ephesians 4:15.

14. Keep the powerless “good you” openly accountable for walking in Christ’s strength, suppressing the old nature. Do not violate your own spirit, be honest, have a clear conscience — 1 Timothy 1:5; Romans 8:14; Hebrews 13:18.
15. Give your mind to God — Philippians 14:8; Romans 12:1-2.
16. Obey God — Philippians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2 Peter 3:9. Guard your mind — Romans 16:19; Colossians 2:8.

Control of one’s own self is by far the most important phase of leadership. Once learned, it must be maintained with vigilance throughout life. It provides understanding which is invaluable in analyzing, leading and protecting others.

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