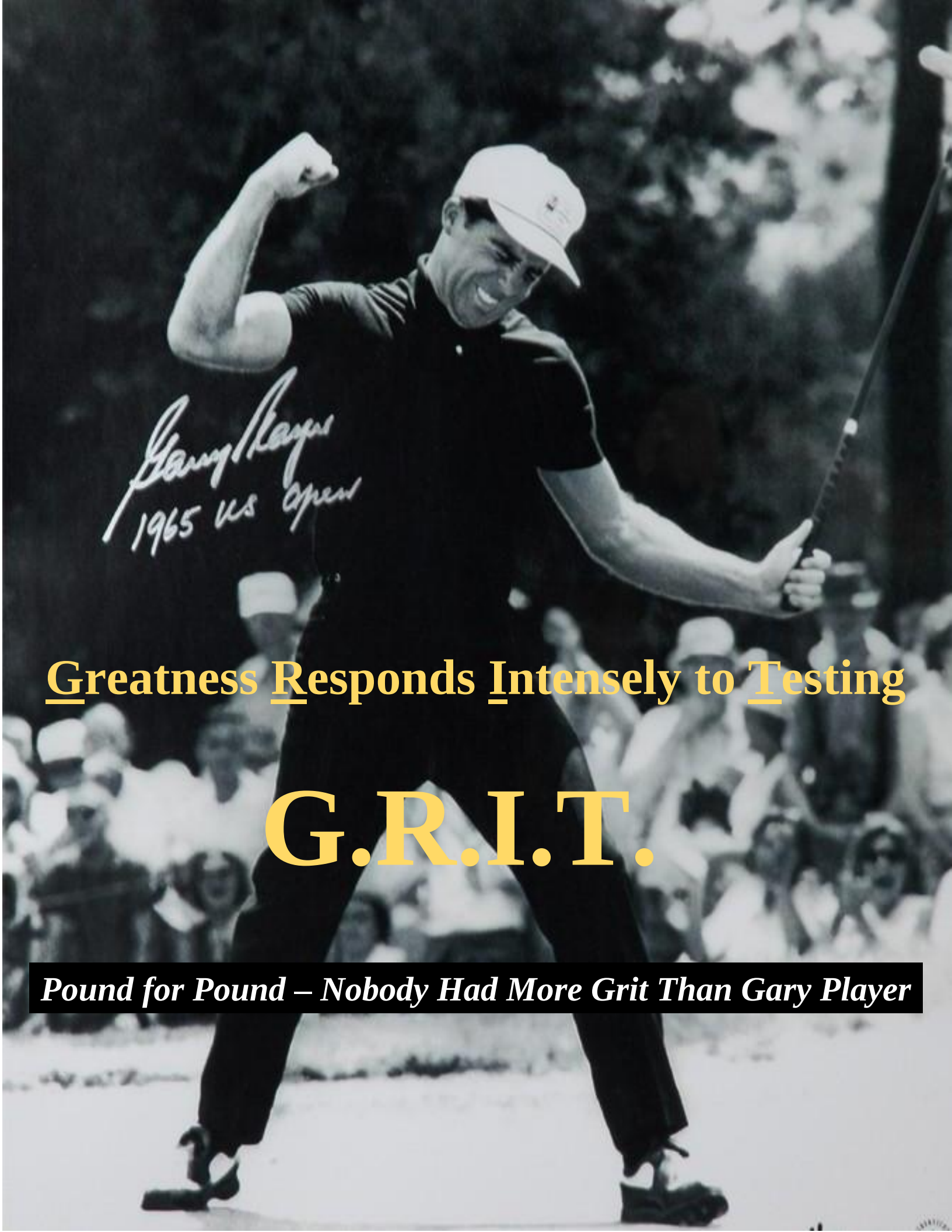


A black and white photograph of golfer Gary Player in a celebratory pose. He is wearing a dark polo shirt, dark trousers, and a light-colored cap. His right arm is raised in a fist pump, and he is holding a golf club in his left hand. The background shows a crowd of spectators and trees. A handwritten signature and text are overlaid on the left side of the image.

*Gary Player
1965 US Open*

Greatness Responds Intensely to Testing

G.R.I.T.

Pound for Pound – Nobody Had More Grit Than Gary Player

Gratitude Responds Intensely to Testing G.R.I.T.

At The Country Club of Life, "G.R.I.T." stands for, Gratitude Responds Intensely to Testing. *"In the warrior's code, there's no surrender. Though his body says stop, his spirit cries - NEVER. Deep in our soul, a quiet ember. **KNOW IT'S YOU AGAINST YOU**; it's a paradox that drives us on. It's a battle of wills in the heat of the attack. The passion kills - The victory is ~~Yours~~/God's alone."* It just cannot be stated more clearly than this. It's the "Eye of the Tiger."

Can anyone find this kind of G.R.I.T.? If the final victory is yours alone, the possibility is very slim. However, if you have done what most won't continue to do what most won't, and discover God's purpose for your Life, this G.R.I.T. will fall into place due to a burning and burdened heart for others. Think about this, *"It is a sad fate for a man to die too well known to everybody else and still unknown to himself."* Do you have what it takes to "Find Your Game"?

Let's take a look. *"The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs."* -**John 19:32&33** Back in the day, when a person was being crucified, they would hoist themselves up using their legs to ease the suffocation and prolong death. So the soldiers would break their legs to hasten death.

We're told as followers of Christ, *"We have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The Life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* -**Galatians 2:20** Unfortunately, our humanness won't let go causing us to hoist ourselves up, hanging on to our protective strongholds prolonging our total surrender.

Steps to Finding Your G.R.I.T. – "Doing What Most Won't"

Surrender

1. I admit that in the vastness of the universe I am a powerless person and living in my power will eventually render my Life unmanageable.
2. I must come to believe that there is a *Power* outside myself that can restore the order/sanity in my Life.

3. **I must make a decision to turn my Life and my Will over to the care of the Good Orderly Direction that directs a winning life.**

Get ready! It's time to find your grit. You're going to discover it's about "1 Thing." It's about identifying the "Key-Log," "Strongholds," and the "Sounds of the Silence," however you may refer to these as things in your life that you've been using to hoist yourself up. When you find that "1 Thing" - you will without question know it. Why? You are going to get a feeling you never felt before.

"The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs." -John 19:32&33 Jesus **"surrendered" to the "purpose" he came with. To die that we might live.** Back in the day, when a person was being crucified, they would hoist themselves using their legs to ease the suffocation and prolong death. Following you will "Reach In" – if you choose. Our experience has been, that most turn back here. If you choose to go forward, you will be broken. Hang in. It will be the most freeing experience of your Life.

Reach In

4. **I will quiet myself before God and make a *searching and fearless* moral inventory of myself and confront the cover-up I've been living under.**
5. **I will admit to God, to myself, and to another person who is trustworthy and *TOTALLY committed to confidentiality*, of the findings of my inventory, and break free from the cover-up I've been living.**
6. **I will begin talking to the God of my understanding regularly, asking for awareness of the strongholds that have me in their grip as a result of the inventory.**
7. **I will humbly ask God to remove the strongholds standing in the way of my *completeness and usefulness*. Those that cannot be removed I will block through strict accountability.**

Well done! You've Responded "Intensely" to the most "Rigorous" "Testing" you've probably ever been through. Did you discover your "Key-Log," your "1 Thing" blocking the "Greatness" God gifted you with for God's purpose?

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." -James 1:2-4

By now, you're experiencing feelings and other things you've never felt before. The pain you experienced has now become the healing agent in your Life. It hurt – but it hurt so good. -up Christ, you descended into the hell of your Life that caused your cover-up. You know without question; you're not doing all this yourself. In the beginning, you may have been thinking about quitting. You are just in the middle rounds. So, keep telling yourself, *"I Just Gotta Go the Distance!"*

Reconcile

8. **I will make a list of all persons I have harmed, and become willing to make amends to them all.**

There are distinct differences between apologizing to someone and making amends to them. An apology is like putting a band-aid on a wound; it covers the source of the pain until it eventually disappears, or in many cases reappears. Making honest and humble amends is an important step toward rectifying a broken relationship.

The importance of making amends is it helps to detox your system spiritually. Making amends is an integral part of personal growth and healing.

9. **I will make direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when doing so would injure them or others. I must NEVER make amends that will transfer my burden to another just to rest my conscience.**

Let's take a look at the various types of amends beginning with "Direct Amends".

- When making a "**Direct Amends**" we deal directly with the person we have harmed by taking personal responsibility for our actions. Be careful, however. Be sure to discuss this with your accountability first. Be careful as to how you take responsibility and own your actions. **Never make promises with amends.** Remember the amends are to clean your slate not to get the other person to like you again and/or forgive you. Chances are if a person you've harmed is going to forgive you they will do so without amends.

- **"Indirect Amends"** is the process of showing humility to amend something that cannot be undone. For instance, if a legal violation in the past or some other error(s) in judgment prohibits you from being able to directly approach the harmed party(s) you have offended, the amends can be made indirectly. This is done by making a **"life-long"** commitment to an outreach that reaches out to others who may be struggling with the same character defects and strongholds that you now recover from.
- Forgiving yourself is critical for keeping you from guilt and shame. Finally, a **"Living Amend"** is an assurance to yourself that you have come to KNOW your strongholds and defects and have made a genuine lifestyle change. Your assurance comes from the accountability you now keep along with the balanced Life you now live which includes service to others stemming from those strongholds and defects. Making a living amends to yourself is critical to your assurance from self-sabotage during times of living in Life's valleys.

10. **I will continue to take daily personal inventory and when I am wrong, I will promptly admit it.**

Reach Out

11. Seek through **prayer and meditation** to improve my conscious contact with God, praying for the knowledge of God's will for me, and the power to carry it out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, I will **carry this message to others and practice these principles in all my affairs.**

These steps are intended to develop spiritual reflexes and a rhythm to your Life which has shaped you to live in **Good Ordery Direction**. As the saying goes, *"You can't keep it if you don't give it away."* You've gotten yourself out of a sinking boat. Now, you must see God in everything and carry this message to others. Another saying you've heard, "Action speaks louder than words." Practicing these principles in your daily affairs is going to be your secret weapon. You must inconvenience yourself daily - even at a price to yourself if need be. *"The secret to successful living is just simply giving."*

"You've done the distance - now you're not gonna stop. Just a man who gave up his will to thrive, as you boldly say, *"Lord, Your Will - Not Mine Be Done."*

Grace

13. **I will have a new and gracious perspective on Life that will be the pathway to a new-found joy and completeness. I will comprehend the word serenity and realize that no matter how far down the scale I may have gone; I will see that my experience, strength, and hope can benefit others.**
14. **My whole attitude and outlook on Life will change when I come to realize that God is now doing for me what I was trying to do for myself.**

“Grace!” Some say it stands for, “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.” It’s been defined as “*Love that just won’t quit.*” It’s God’s mulligan for **anyone** who follows God’s word through a commitment to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “*I am the way and the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” -**John 14:6**

Personal Commentary: “*I am the way and the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” It’s the second part of that verse that seems to draw controversy. Since Jesus came in human form, I’m going to use my humanness and attempt to settle some of the controversy.

There was a time when my mother would bake every day. When I got in from school, guaranteed, two of my buddies would be sitting at the kitchen table with large glasses of cold milk eating what she baked that day. While we were close friends, I was the conduit to my parent. If my two buddies just walked into the house without knowing me, the response they would have received would have been quite different.

Following Jesus means you make him your buddy. **It doesn’t mean you become part of a cult or you become a freak or holy roller. It means you become “heart-healthy spiritually” along with physically so that you can live longer/eternally as Jesus promises. It’s that simple.**

“*If You Do What Most Won’t - You Will Enjoy What Most Never Will*” is our motto here at the club. The problem is, that most can’t get through the previous steps. They balk! They just can’t allow themselves to hear the sounds of the silence that help perpetuate their cover-up. It’s these steps that uncover that “quiet ember.” It is these steps that unlock our spiritual reflexes that unlock our response to a Greatness that Responds Intensely to Life’s Testing. It’s in these steps that we find, through the burnin - comes the learnin.

If the victory in Life is yours alone, you'll end up giving it all back, just like Rocky did. As you approach the closing holes and come to realize your round of Life is near its end, chances are depression and misery will be the result.

Following Are Three Steps To Keep Your G.R.I.T. Fine-Tuned - Master the Basics

GRIP: *"A man's grip on his club just like a man's grip on his world..." -Bagger Vance.*

Ironically, our "*Grip*" on Life develops in direct relation to our condition. If we're on the easygoing side of things we will probably grip Life on the soft side. However, if we play Life with intensity and possess the compulsion to control people, places, and things around us, or we are living with unsettled issues, we will grip Life tightly which causes loss of feeling - usually to those we are closest to and should mean the most to us.

In Life, as in golf, we must give up control to have control to develop a feel for both games. However, in both games lightening up sure doesn't sound like it would lead to control and feel. Those who stick with it eventually discover they begin playing both games with power, and control, and feel they never thought possible.

The proper grip in both games is the foundation. It expresses itself in wisdom and can have a powerful effect on influencing others. On the other hand, a tight grip on Life usually expresses itself through unresolved flaws from Life's errant choices *or bad breaks* which if not dug out of the dirt only form opinions and have an effect on few.

STANCE: *"WHOSE" Are You? "What" Do You Believe? "Why" Do You Believe It?*

Our "*Stance*" in Life is going to form out of the three questions above. Our "*Stance*" develops from these "*core*" beliefs.

Champions in both games are extremely meticulous with their stance. Our stance in both games shapes our direction and prevents us from straying.

A champion in both games develops a stance that forms a solid base making them immovable to potential flaws that find their competitors struggling in Life as they seem to always be landing in Life's hazards. This solid base is developed out of immovably knowing "**Whose**" we are, having precisely examined "**What**" we believe and "**Why**" we believe what we do. Our stance in Life begins shaping our "*Purpose*" in Life and its usefulness to others. Our stance in Life

shows us it's not about us, but how we use the gifts God has given us to benefit others. ***"WHOSE"*** Are You? Until you unshakably KNOW and believe this, you will wander aimlessly in what we call here at the club, "The KNOW Sin Zone™.

POSTURE: *"WHO"* Are You?

"Posture" in golf is critical in allowing for proper hip and shoulder turn along with providing freedom through impact leading to a finish that catapults the body to produce maximum distance.

Posture in Life is achieved by learning from our experience which produces a freedom that motivates us to get the most out of Life - and to go the distance no matter what hazards we may face.

Posture in Life is defined as, *"a particular way of dealing with or considering something; an approach or attitude. Our posture in Life comes out of knowing both "Whose" and "Who" we are - and accepting it."*

Posture in Life produces the freedom *"To Be"* since we have examined why we believe what we do. This is critical to gaining the wisdom that produces the depth in spreading that wisdom for the benefit of others. Posture without knowing both *"Whose"* and *"Who"* we are is nothing more than opinion which will have no real effect on anyone.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be grateful." -**Colossians 3:15, N.I.V.**

Resentment is the "number one" offender that leads to being ungrateful. It destroys more people than anything else. From it stem all forms of spiritual disease. One of those spiritual diseases is "self-sabotage" which is caused by re-living our hurts. Re-living our hurts only causes us to "hate" and then hurt ourselves.

If you believe in God you have to be commanded to be grateful. A grateful attitude and peace go hand in hand. You don't have to let things upset you. You don't have to be anxious and worried. The word peace means "to set at one again." When you set your heart at one with God and His Word, you will automatically have peace. When you have peace, you can't help but be thankful! You will have a song in your heart and a spring in your step!

Choose today to let the peace of God rule in your heart. Have an attitude of gratitude. Even if you have things that are upsetting you, take a step of faith and thank God for the goodness in

your Life. Thank God for working behind the scenes on your behalf. Choose to be thankful and embrace the peace and joy God has for you.

Joy is a step beyond happiness. Happiness is a sort of atmosphere (or high if you will) you can “exist” in for a while. Happiness requires more and more of itself to maintain levels of existence. Joy on the other hand is a “Light” that fills you with hope, faith, and love. Happiness is attached to externals and seems to ebb and flow as circumstances and whims come and go. Joy is a constant since it is tethered to our hearts by Spirit and Gratitude. “The J.O.Y. of the Lord is my strength.” –**Nehemiah 8:10** If your Life is producing a whine instead of wine, you must ruthlessly kick it out. It is a crime for a person to be weak in God’s strength.

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.” When I practice Gratitude:

- It turns what I already have into enough - and more.
- It turns denial into acceptance,
- Chaos into order,
- Confusion into clarity.
- It turns a meal into a feast,
- A house into a home,
- A stranger into a friend.
- Gratitude makes sense of our past,
- Brings Peace for today - and hope for tomorrow.