

Basic Training!

FAST Basic Training #9 - The Life of Purpose

Memo:

You have reached the final booklet in *Basic Training*—and what an important one! This study looks at how to stay faithful in your personal discipleship through the years to come. Have you enjoyed your training so far? Don't turn back! It will only get better as you continue to live out God's Word day by day. Determine to press forward—and live a life of purpose.



By now, you have surely realized that discipleship is more than just learning a few memory tricks—it is a way of life. God wants His Word to be a living force in every area of our Christian experience. It is to shape our thinking, direct our steps, and inspire our prayers. It is to strengthen us against temptation, and encourage our hearts. It equips us for ministry, and empowers us to disciple those around us. It does all this and more!

Paul captures it well in these words: "But the righteousness which is of faith... what saith it? The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart" (Romans 10:6-8).

**The Editor,
Hid in Christ**

Bible Secrets to Living for Christ

Objectives Week 9

Name: _____ Initialed by: _____

Date: _____

- ☐ Complete the Bible Search entitled **The Life of Purpose**. This study looks at the secret to successful discipleship. In fact, it is the secret to the entire Christian life. We pray the material contained in this study will give you the power you need to remain faithful in your walk with Christ through the years to come!
- ☐ You have only one verse this week: **II John 1:8**. This will give you a little extra time to catch up on any missed verses. It is your last week! If you already know all your assigned verses, memorize an additional verse or two of your choice.
- ☐ Read the last **Practical Suggestions** of this program. Take time to pray over the material. Is God calling you through the pages of this booklet—to greater purpose in *your* life?
- ☐ Continue reviewing all the illustrations we have covered so far. Have you mastered them all?
- ☐ Spend special time in prayer this week asking God to give you at least one person you can help to begin growing spiritually. Take up the challenge of building into the lives of others.

*It's not how well you start that counts
But how well you finish*

The Life of Purpose

Bible Search 9

When he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. Acts 11:23

1. How would you summarize Paul's purpose in life?

Colossians 1:28-29

2. How purposefully did Paul encourage the early believers to live their lives?

I Corinthians 15:58

Philippians 1:27

Colossians 1:9-10

3. What is the power source for living a purpose-filled life?

Zechariah 4:6

4. Why is the Holy Spirit important in a Christian's life?

John 15:26

II Corinthians 3:18

5. In what specific areas of discipleship is the Holy Spirit able to empower and sustain us?

Ephesians 6:18

John 14:26

Ezekiel 36:27

Acts 1:8

How vital would you say the Holy Spirit is in the life of a disciple?

6. What event made it possible for us to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Acts 2:22-24,33

Galatians 3:13-14

7. What is our part in receiving the Holy Spirit?

Luke 11:13

James 1:6

Jeremiah 29:13

8. How willing are you to commit right now to seeking with all your heart, by faith, the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's highest purpose for you—a life of true discipleship from this day forward, until Jesus comes? Why not write out your answer as a brief prayer to God?

The Spirit-Filled Life

Practical Suggestions

Over the last few weeks we have covered a large amount of information. And doubtless, as you have worked through these lessons, your heart has been challenged by the call to deeper discipleship. You have likely had some precious experiences with the Master during this time, and you will surely want these to continue. The question, however, is where will you be a year from now? Or five or ten, assuming Christ has not yet returned? Will your commitment to live for Christ be just as strong then, as now? Will you be just as determined to follow God?

There is only one power able to keep us faithful throughout the length of our life—and that is the power of the Holy Spirit. To remain committed as a disciple of Jesus Christ, we must be spirit-filled men and women. We pray the paragraphs below will give you deeper understanding into what that really means.

A Clear Mission

The first key to a spirit-filled life is to recognize that God empowers *purpose-filled* people. Barnabas, described as being "full of the Holy Ghost" himself, challenged the believers at Antioch to "cleave unto the Lord" "with purpose of heart" (Acts 11:23-24). Likewise, Paul prayed for the early believers, that they would be "filled with the knowledge of [God's] will"—for he knew God would then strengthen them "with all might, according to his glorious power" (Colossians 1:9,11). Commit yourself to God's purpose for your life, and you can count on His power!

One way to become more purposeful is to take some time to prayerfully think through God's mission for your life, and actually try writing it out in a single sentence. Then memorize it. Though it may take a few revisions to get it just right, a good life mission statement can serve as a guiding principle, shaping your priorities and decisions. Think through what you have learned the last few weeks. What really is God's purpose for *your* life?

The Pursuit of Excellence

Second, a high and noble mission calls for earnest effort. To accomplish any great objective, it is necessary to fulfil countless small tasks well. Or to put it differently, the key to achieving your purpose in life is really a question of character. Because Daniel was "faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him," it became obvious "an excellent spirit was in him" (Daniel 6:3-4). To reach your potential in Christ, commit yourself to the pursuit of excellence in your personal discipleship—and God will bless you with more of His Spirit.

This means a commitment to more earnest and fervent prayer. Accuracy and depth in Bible study and memorization. Diligence and integrity in obedience and our use of time. And, in terms of evangelism, boldness and zeal. To experience more of God's Spirit, commit to excellence in every facet of your walk with God!

Growing into Ministry

As you gain skill and experience in each area of discipleship, the power of God's Spirit will increasingly rest upon you to impact the lives of those around you. Your prayer life will be transformed into a ministry of intercession. Your time in God's Word will develop into a ministry of teaching—both in formal and informal settings. The faithfulness of your life, and the victories you obtain will open doors for you to engage in a ministry of exhortation. And your experiences in sharing a personal witness will grow into a ministry of evangelism to more and more people. Ministry, in effect, is just an *extension* of our personal walk with God. The fruit of faithfulness is a fuller experience in the Holy Spirit's presence and power—the Spirit-filled daily life. This is real discipleship.

You have now gained the key skills and tools you need to impact your world. It is our prayer you will choose to keep the things you have learned in *Basic Training* an important part of your life through the years to come.

Final Checklist

To finish this program, please verify completion of the following objectives:

Bible Searches

- ☐ Check here if you have completed all nine Bible Searches

Practical Suggestions

- ☐ Check here if you have read all nine Practical Suggestions

Illustrations

- ☐ The Disciple's Wheel
- ☐ The Morning Watch Bike
- ☐ The Bow of Promise
- ☐ The Pitchfork
- ☐ The Scripture Memory Formula
- ☐ The ABC's of the Bible
- ☐ The Disciple's Wheel Revisited

Memory Verses

- ☐ John 17:3
- ☐ Psalms 143:8
- ☐ I Timothy 4:15
- ☐ John 15:7
- ☐ Romans 4:20
- ☐ Proverbs 13:4
- ☐ II Corinthians 8:11
- ☐ Deuteronomy 6:6
- ☐ Proverbs 4:13
- ☐ Romans 3:23
- ☐ Romans 5:8
- ☐ Romans 8:14
- ☐ Proverbs 15:22
- ☐ Hebrews 3:13
- ☐ Isaiah 60:22
- ☐ II Timothy 2:2
- ☐ II John 1:8

Congratulations! You have now completed FAST Basic Training! We pray God has richly blessed your efforts to live a life of deeper discipleship! And we encourage you to continue pressing forward toward faithfulness in your daily life!

Has this program been a blessing to you? Why not send us a note, and share how it has impacted your life? Thank you!