

Dynamic Deacons

Companion Workbook



Aubrey Johnson

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LET'S DIG IN!

Hello, my name is Aubrey, and I've been looking forward to meeting you for a long time. I am grateful for all you do for so many people. No doubt, some folks take you for granted, but remember that God will *never* forget your labors of love (Hebrews 6.10). Today is about you. Feel free to ask anything. Relax and recharge. One day in heaven, we will talk about this day we spent together. Let's make some memories!

No one can do more to brighten the future of the church than those who devote their lives to supporting her shepherds.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

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WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

It's going to be a great weekend.
Here is a roadmap of what we will
cover during our time together.

Session One deals with the **role** of a deacon. It explains what the job entails and why it is vital to the fulfill the church's mission.

Session Two takes a look at the **requirements** of a deacon. Ten benchmarks of spiritual maturity must be attained to serve in this special capacity. The meaning and importance of each qualification will be considered.

Session Three focuses on the **responsibilities** of a deacon. Deacons have a proven ability to get things done. Through clarity, initiative, teamwork, and accountability, they develop a track record of consistent success. Dynamic deacons always find a way forward.

Session Four will cover the **relationships** of a deacon. Four crucial contacts form the circle of success for spiritual leaders. Learn how to leverage these connections to improve your ministry.

Session Five highlights the **rewards** of a deacon. Though frequent flyer miles and cashback incentives are not available, God definitely has a rewards program for those who serve well.

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Role

SECTION ONE



UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE

The Joy of Serving

Motivational speaker Jim Rohn remarked, "Whoever renders service to many puts himself in line for greatness...great satisfaction, great reputation, and great joy." Without doubt, servanthood is the path that leads to the incredible life you desire. It will lead to greater happiness on earth and to endless joy in heaven. And to mark that path, Christ left an example so you could follow in His footsteps (First Peter 2.21). By serving as a deacon, you have embarked on the most rewarding journey of your life.

Jesus left heaven and came to earth for the express purpose of serving (Mark 10.45). There was nothing to be gained except the joy of pleasing God and helping those in need. His efforts were not always understood or appreciated, yet He persisted to the very end. He fed the hungry, relieved the sick, and comforted the bereaved. Of all God's servants, none provides a closer parallel to the ministry of Jesus than the faithful deacon. So, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2.5-7).



IT'S OKAY TO WANT TO BE GREAT

IF YOU LET JESUS DEFINE IT.

Jesus said, "The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23.11). What are some differences between worldly and spiritual greatness?

SECONDARY GREATNESS



PRIMARY GREATNESS



The Goodness Test

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. (Hebrews 6:10)

ACTS 10.38

GALATIANS 6.10

MATTHEW 7.18

GALATIANS 5.22-23

EPHESIANS 2.10

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

COMPLETE THE VERSE

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" (Matthew 25:31-34)

☐

I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU

☐

I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU

☐

I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU

☐

I WAS NAKED AND YOU

☐

I WAS SICK AND YOU

☐

I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)



WHAT IS A DEACON?

A DILIGENT WORKER AND
A DESIGNATED ROLE MODEL

A selfless leader who serves the church.

A steady leader who supports his elders.

A spiritual leader who shows Christlikeness.



KNOW YOUR ROLE

COMPLETE ONE ANOTHER

Just as members of the Godhead are equal in nature and united in mission but unique in their functional roles, so it is with deacons and elders. So what are some differences between deacons and elders?





COMMITTED OR CARELESS

EVERY MAN'S CHOICE

Can a deacon be faithful and not be dynamic? It depends on what you mean by dynamic. No, he does not have to possess a charismatic personality. Yes, he does have to be able to execute assignments without being a major drain on his elders' time and attention. A deacon who does not fulfill his purpose does not add value to his elders or team. The elders cannot count on him, so he cannot relieve them of the burdens they shoulder. Below, describe traits of dynamic and derelict servants in a church setting.

DYNAMIC

DERELICT



DELIGHT THE LORD

MOTIVES AND METHODS

"Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man" (Ephesians 6:5-7). List the qualities of a servant that are pleasing and displeasing to God in the boxes below. Explain what each means.

Pleasing service

Displeasing Service

THE SERVANT'S ROLE

HE WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD (ACTS 10.38)

Requirements

SECTION TWO



REFINE YOUR CHARACTER

The Joy of Growing

Paul told the Corinthians to "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (Second Corinthians 13.5). If self-examination is a command for all Christians, how much more should deacons inspect their lives for signs of growth? A deacon should regularly ask, "How am I doing?" and "How can I improve today?" 1 Timothy 3.8-13 is a superb checklist for self-assessment.

A word of caution to the overscrupulous: Your sensitive conscience makes you prone to judge yourself harshly. Do not resign hastily because of your shortcomings. If perfection was required to serve as a deacon, then every man would put in his notice today. If you are humble and honorable enough to heed your conscience and change for the better, that is what God expects. The goal is self-correction and growth, so be wary of perfectionism.



A DEACON MUST BE

DIGNIFIED

TESTED



NOT DOUBLE TONGUED

BLAMELESS



NOT ADDICTED TO MUCH WINE

HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE



NOT GREEDY FOR DISHONEST GAIN

MANAGING CHILDREN WELL



HOLD THE MYSTERY OF THE FAITH

MANAGING HOUSEHOLDS WELL

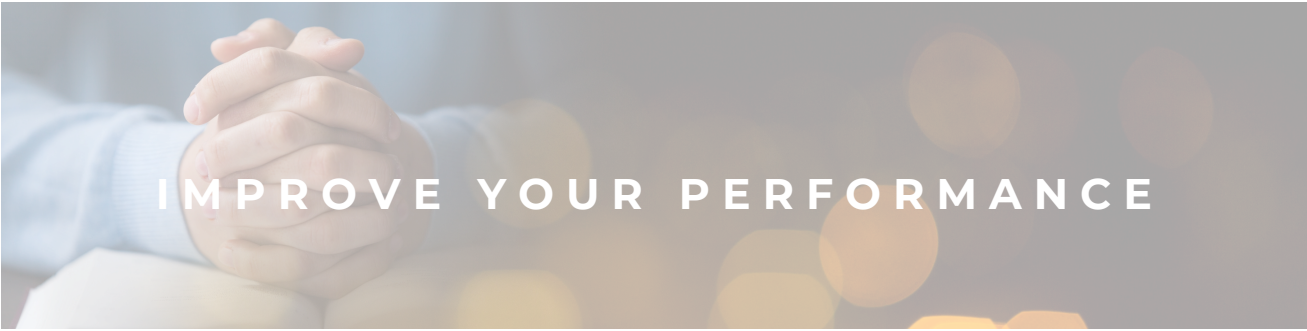


THE SERVANT'S REQUIRMENTS

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS...GOODNESS (GALATIANS 5.22-23)

Responsibilities

SECTION THREE



IMPROVE YOUR PERFORMANCE

The Joy of Accomplishment

Deacons are certified problem solvers, and by doing their jobs well, they keep God's kingdom on a constant growth path. Sometimes they remove obstacles hindering the church's growth. At other times, they tap opportunities for enlarging the kingdom. Take a closer look at the qualifications in the last chapter and note how each one increases your problem-solving proficiency. Possessing those credentials confirms that you are equipped to handle any challenge that confronts the church. They certify your readiness to lead.

When things are not going according to plan, refer back to this chapter to pinpoint the problem and redirect your efforts. If you did not get clear, ask more and better questions. If you did not get going, practice pulling the trigger. If you did not get help, work harder on building your team. If you did all of the above but still are not getting results, decide how you must change to provide better leadership going forward. In all likelihood, a small improvement in one of these areas is all you need to get back on track.

"Seek, and you will find." (Matthew 7.7)



GET CLEAR

ELIMNATE AMBITUITY

Ask Questions

Plot a Path

Manage Expectations



Get Going

When it comes to projects, most of the slippage is on the front end. Once you make a plan, how do you get traction and move forward?

CONSTRUCT A TIMELINE

SEEK ACCOUNTABILITY AND FEEDBACK

ASK, "WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?"

READ A BOOK ON PROCRASTINATION

PRACTICE PULLING THE TRIGGER



BUILD YOUR TEAM

GET MORE DONE. DO IT BETTER.

Teams are God's means for accomplishing big dreams. On each line outside the hexagon, list ways that God worked in teams in the Bible. In the shaded portion, list benefits of working in teams today.



T.E.A.M.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACCOMPLISHES MORE



Get Help

Deacons are leaders, and leaders work with and through people. That means teambuilding is job one.. How do you recruit a team?

RECRUIT ONE ON ONE

PRACTICE YOUR APPEAL

SHOW YOUR EXCITEMENT

TOUCH THEIR HEARTS

COMPLIMENT THEIR GIFTS



Get Results

Done is better than perfect.

BE CREATIVE

BE RESPONSIBLE

BE PREPARED

BE THOROUGH

BE PLEASANT

THE SERVANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

DO GOOD TO ALL MEN (GALATIANS 6.10)

Relationships

SECTION FOUR



TREASURE YOUR TEAM

The Joy of Partnership

Success as a deacon is about more than hard work. Effectiveness requires working well with people: those whom you lead but also those who support your growth and ministry. Leadership by definition involves interaction with others. Deacons seldom perform their tasks all by themselves. Rather, they lead teams, rally churches, encourage elders, inspire youth, serve members, and love their families. Deacons are people-centric.

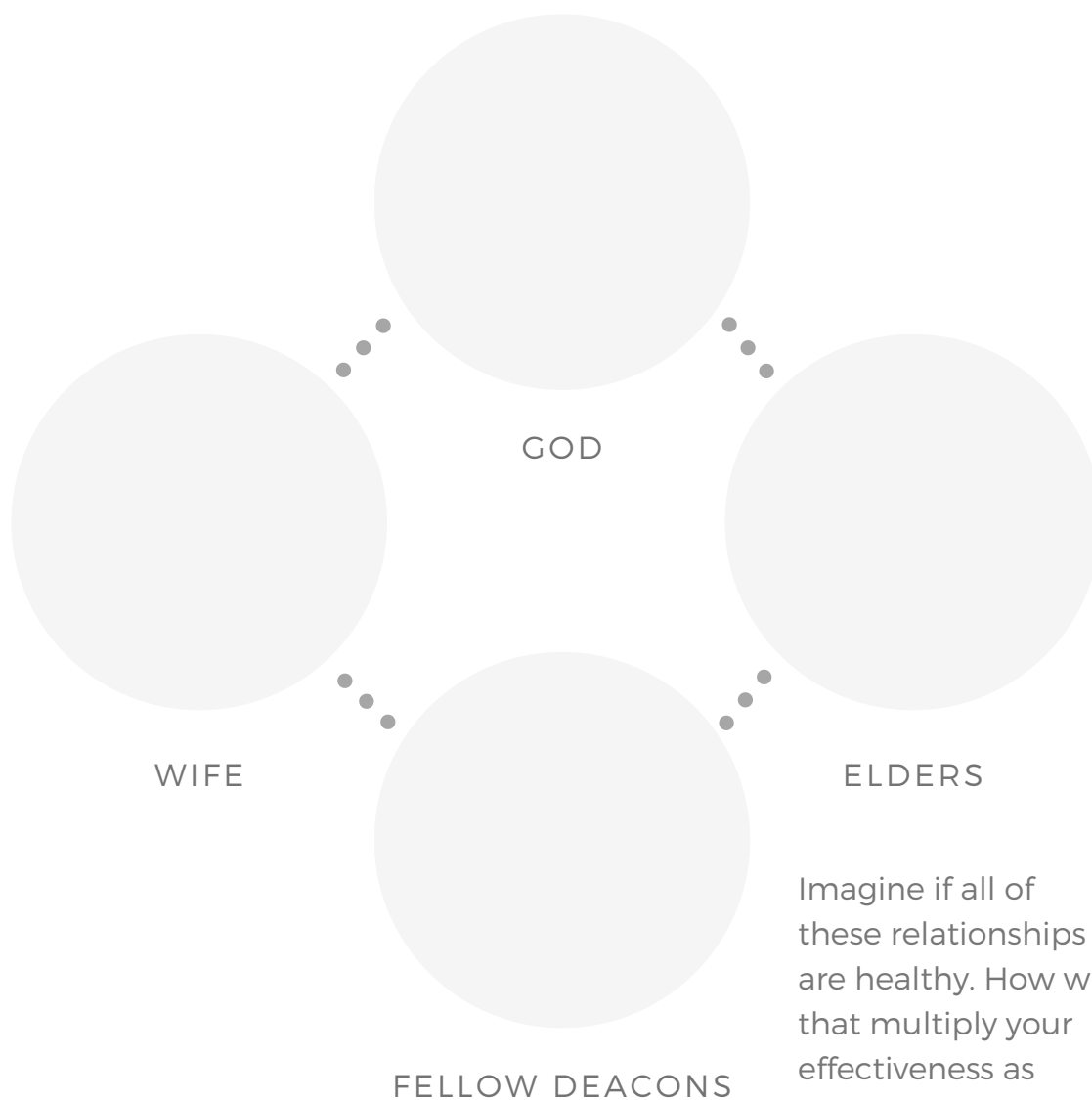
This chapter is about making the most of the vital relationships that make up your circle of success. In other words, your effectiveness as a deacon can be traced to four critical associations: your ties with your Creator, spouse, elders, and fellow deacons. Thank God for your circle of success and the precious gift of accountability. Do not resent or avoid accountability. Seek it and embrace it. It will polish your character, power your ministry, and preserve your soul.



CIRCLE OF SUCCESS

THE IMPORTANCE OF VITAL FRIENDS

Every leader depends on a handful of vital friendships to sustain him over time. 1) Why is nurturing each of these relationships critical to your success? 2) What bad things happen if you neglect any of them? Write your thoughts in the circles below.





Build an Incredible Marriage

Improve Your Marriage, Improve Your Ministry

BE FOCUSED: I WILL TREASURE YOU

BE FLEXIBLE: I WILL HEAR YOU

BE FAITHFUL: I WILL PROTECT YOU

BE FRIENDS: I WILL BLESS YOU

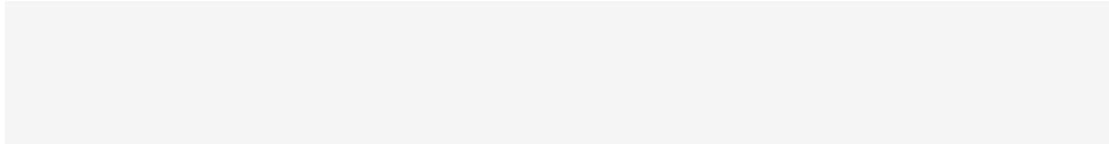
A man who wants to excel as a deacon should begin by improving his marriage. Make caring for your wife your top goal behind pleasing God. Most men are aware that goal setting is a key to success in life, Imagine what would happen if you purposed, right now, to have an incredible marriage.



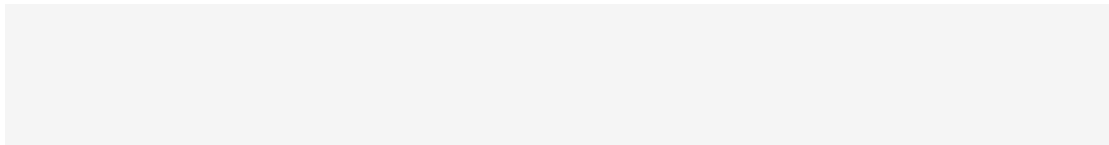
Delight Your Elders

Their joy is a sign of your health.

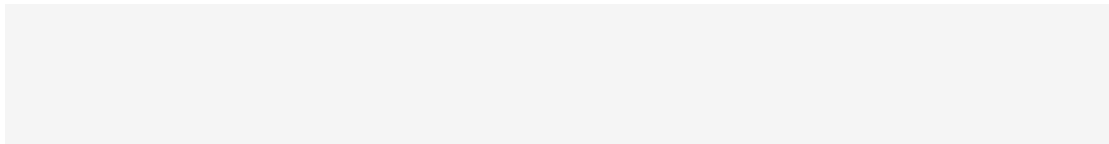
LEAD YOURSELF WELL (1 TIMOTHY 4.16)



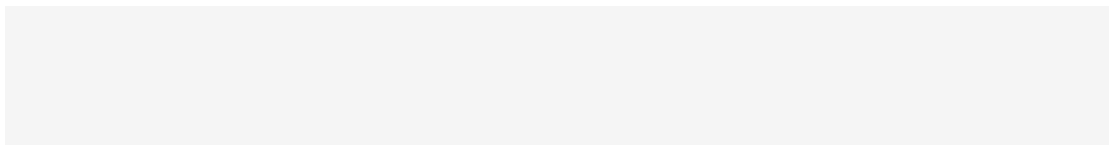
GO THE SECOND MILE (MATTHEW 5.41)



BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP (1 THESSALONIANS 5.11-13)



ALWAYS IMPROVE (JOHN 15.2)



After fidelity to God and your family, the most important relationship in your circle of success is the one with your elders. If all Christians should submit to their shepherds, how much more should you be an example of cheerful cooperation (Hebrews 13.17). Strive to delight them by your conduct and performance.



Standard Operating Procedure

Another way to bring joy to your leaders is to follow standard operating procedures when doing the work of the church. This will increase the elders' respect for you and facilitate the flow of work.

PROBLEMS

REQUESTS

ASSIGNMENTS

DISAGREEMENTS

CONFLICTS



WHY WE MEET

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

The right kinds of meetings make a world of difference. Write "status reports" in the center of the chart below. Now, fill in the surrounding shapes with other things you can do or accomplish during your times together. What is the right mix of numbers and kinds of meetings over the course of a year?



THE SERVANT'S RELATIONSHIPS

CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS (EPHESIANS 2.10)

Rewards

SECTION FIVE



KEEP YOUR FOCUS

The Joy of Finishing

In First Timothy 3.13, there is a unique incentive directed to a special group of people. Deacons who serve well are guaranteed two remarkable things: a **good standing** and **great boldness**. The boldness Paul speaks of is a byproduct of faith in Christ. Great faith produces great boldness. Faith is the fuel that enables you to serve with distinction in God's kingdom. It increases your power and peace.

Satan wants to destroy your faith to destroy your ministry. As faith declines, a Christian loses his confidence. A dynamic deacon is bold because he is not concealing a double life or a doubtful heart. His faith is genuine, and his service is sincere. Faith is a performance enhancer that expands a person's ministry and influence. He sees new possibilities of service that others cannot imagine.

The more a deacon is faithful the less he is fearful. No problem can defeat him, and no criticism can derail him. Faith makes a deacon bold, because it links him to Christ (John 15.5). Faith equals capacity for service. It allows a man to tap into potential that unbelievers cannot access. It makes him frank in speech and courageous in action. By serving well, you gain confidence to do even greater things for God's glory.



Be Resilient

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; (2 Corinthians 4.7-9)

WHY DO DEACONS QUIT?

WHAT WAS PAUL'S ADVICE? (1 CORINTHIANS 15.58)

DISCOURAGEMENT IS A SIGN OF WHAT?

WHAT WAS JESUS ADVICE? (LUKE 18.1)

WHY IS BAILING NOT THE ANSWER?

THE SERVANT'S REWARDS

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT (MATTHEW 25.21)



Ways I Will Improve

✓ TOP TAKEAWAYS

MY FIRST GOAL

MY WHY

MY PLAN

✓ TOP TAKEAWAYS

MY SECOND GOAL

MY WHY

MY PLAN

✓ TOP TAKEAWAYS

MY THIRD GOAL

MY WHY

MY PLAN



MY PRAYER REQUESTS

DEAR FATHER IN HEAVEN

A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray background, intended for writing prayer requests.

DON'TS FOR DEACONS

1. **Don't be naïve.**

No congregation is perfect. Get over it and get on with it.

2. **Don't be drawn into someone's discontent.**

Unhappy people will flatter, mislead, and recruit you.

3. **Don't say, "It's easier to get forgiveness than permission."**

Sidestepping authority is not cute or honorable.

4. **Don't demand you're own way.**

Put harmony above methodology.

5. **Don't make promises lightly.**

Do what you say you will do.

6. **Don't rely on mind reading.**

Ask, "What am I missing?" and "How can I help you?"

7. **Don't wait on someone else to get started.**

Take charge and make things happen.

8. **Don't be oversensitive.**

Be approachable, correctable, and flexible.

9. **Don't hide it when you are struggling.**

Ask for help from elders, ministers, deacons, and members.

10. **Don't criticize someone without speaking to him first.**

His intentions may be good and your information may be bad.

DO'S FOR DEACONS

1. **Be humble.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

2. **Be correctable.**

Blessed are those who mourn.

3. **Be composed.**

Blessed are the meek.

4. **Be fervent.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

5. **Be kind.**

Blessed are the merciful.

6. **Be single-minded.**

Blessed are the pure in heart.

7. **Be reasonable.**

Blessed are the peace-makers.

8. **Be resolute.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

9. **Be useful.**

You are the salt of the earth.

10. **Be honorable.**

You are the light of the world.

AUBREY'S BOOKS

Dynamic Deacons
The Deacon's Wife
Effective Elders
Successful Shepherds
Organized Overseers
Get Fit: Align Your Team
The Best Husband Ever
Parenting by the Parables
Parenting by the Psalms
Parenting by the Proverbs
My Father's House
Bold Faith
God's Game Plan
The Seed Principle
The Barnabas Factor
Love More, Sin Less
Consider One Another
Music Matters
Spiritual Patriots

AUBREY'S WORKSHOPS

1. Dynamic Deacons
2. Get Fit: Align Your Team
3. Successful Shepherds
4. Effective Elders
5. Organized Overseers
6. The Encouraging Leader
7. The Seed Principle
8. The Best Marriage Ever
9. Parenting by the Parables
10. Parenting by the Psalms
11. Parenting by the Proverbs
12. The Process of Joy (Matthew 5.1-12)
13. The Practice of Joy (Matthew 5.13-6.34)
14. The Protection of Joy (Matthew 7)
15. Sermon on the Mount Survey
16. Bold Faith: Courage Changes Everything

NOTES

ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD (ROMANS 8.28)

NOTES

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD. (PSALM 136.1)

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