

12. PART II **ADVANCE**- THE WRAP: Apprentice-Journeyman-Craftsman & Finishing Touches: “Growing into a Faithful Follower of Christ!”

(REVIEW)

a. THE PLUMB LINE MASTER REVIEW SESSION:

1. Introduction: “The Plumb Line”

Amos 7:7-9 nlt A Vision of a Plumb Line

⁷ Then he showed me another vision. I saw the Lord standing beside a wall that had been built using a **plumb line**. He was checking it with **a plumb line to see if it was straight**. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?”

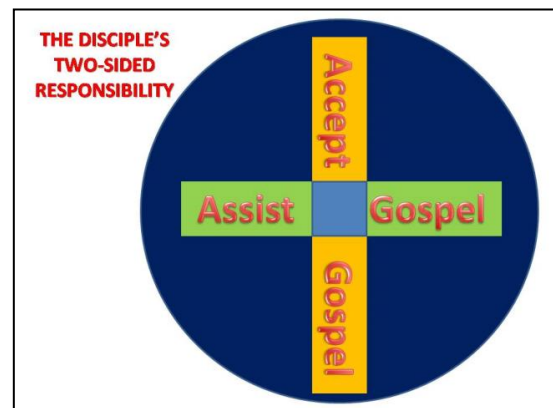
I answered, “**A plumb line.**”

And the Lord replied, “**I will test my people with this plumb line.** I will no longer ignore all their sins. ⁹ The pagan shrines of your ancestors and the temples of Israel will be destroyed, and I will bring the dynasty of King Jeroboam (*King of Israel*) to a sudden end.” [(!)-my emphasis added]

The Plumb Line is God’s Standard for our Righteousness or Holiness- which means our walk according to the Lord’s Holy Way for His People! It provides us what every Biblically Functioning Faithful Follower of Jesus Christ needs to know to be an effective Disciple.

What is a DISICPLE? It is a noun which means: **one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another, in this case, the doctrines of Jesus Christ. A disciple is someone who is “A convinced adherent of a school or individual.”**

It is important to note the two-sided responsibility of a disciple. They **“ACCEPT”** the doctrine **AND** they **“ASSIST IN SPREADING”** the doctrine. As a modern church we are failing horribly at the latter half of this two-sided responsibility, and we are very marginal in meeting the “Plumb” of the former. Remember in a VERTICLE STRUCTURE there are two axis’s the E-W and N-S. We as disciples must have both Axis’s aligned to be “Plumb.”



2. The Master Builder: “Who is God? Who are we?”

a. The New Testament Declares God is the Master Builder!

John 1:1-3 & 14 nlt

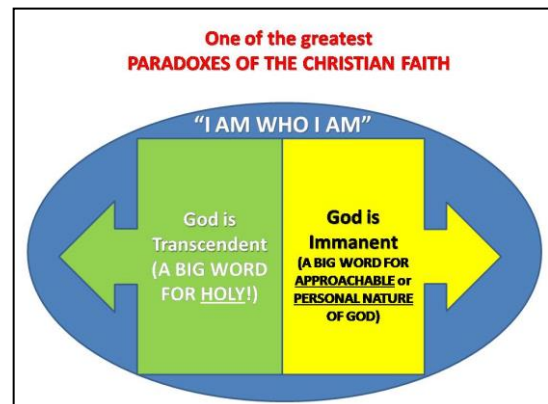
In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and He was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make...¹⁴So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.

b. The Bible indicates 3 Characteristics that are central to the “WHO” of God:

1. God is **LOVE**. **God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. (1 John 4:16b)**
2. God is **HOLY**. (Note: The three-fold “Holy, Holy, Holy” indicating the Trinitarian aspects of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.) **In a great chorus they sang: “Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD Almighty, the whole earth is filled with His glory. (Isaiah 6:3)**
3. God is **JUST**. **The Lord is known for His Justice. (Psalm 9:16a) & I will take the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness to check the foundation wall you have built. (Isaiah 28:17)**

c. One of the greatest **PARADOXES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH** is found in the **TRANSCENDENT** side and **IMMANENT** side of God.

- i. God is Transcendent. (A BIG WORD FOR **HOLY!**)
- ii. God is Immanent. (A BIG WORD FOR **APPROACHABLE** or **PERSONAL NATURE** OF GOD)



3. The Master's Plan: "God's Basic Plan of Salvation"

The Five-Second Gospel & 10 Second Prayer of Salvation: Created by author & teacher, Judson Poling and written about in Contagious Christianity. (See Leader's Guide, Session 5 pg. 213)

The Five-Second Gospel:

"God loves us, we **BLEW** it,
Christ paid for it, we must **RECEIVE HIM.**"

The 10 Second Prayer of Salvation!

"Dear Lord thank you that you love ME, I BLEW it. I am sorry! I thank you that your son Jesus Christ has paid for MY SIN, and I RECEIVE HIS GIFT AND HIM AS MY SAVIOR!"

4. The Support Beams: "Basic Doctrine"

a. The Support Beams of the Church is found in **The Apostles' Creed**- The Creed of Foundational Christian Doctrine!

b. The Support Beams- the Biggies! are the Core Doctrine or what I like to call **"The Biggies: The essential load supporting beams of The House of God."**

- **Trinity**- Father, Son & Holy Spirit
- **Creation**
- **Jesus, the Christ**- Son of God and Son of Man
- **Original Sin & Free Will**
- **The Atonement & Justification By Faith**
- **The Resurrection**
- **The Ascension**
- **Judgment**
- **The Word of God**
- **The Church**
- **Eternal Life**

C. They have four basic ground rules:

- They are **un-touchable**.
- They are **un-changeable**.
- They are **un-moveable**.
- They are **un-negotiable**.

5. Building Spiritual Stamina: “The Spiritual Disciplines”

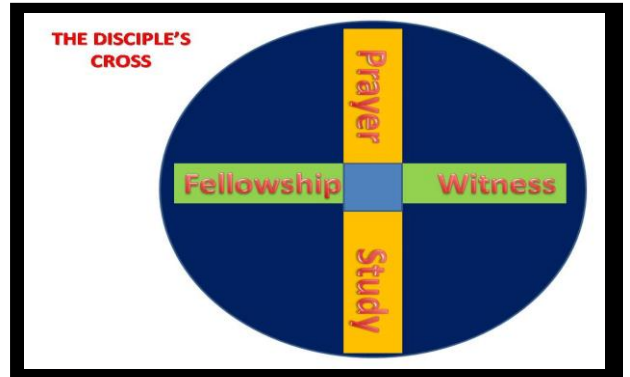
a. The Keys to Walking out God’s Plan of Salvation are found in Building Spiritual Stamina through the Spiritual Disciplines. (Richard Foster)

- i. The **Inward Disciplines**: Study, Prayer, Meditation, Fasting
- ii. The **Outward Disciplines**: Simplicity, Solitude, Submission & Service.
- iii. The **Corporate Disciplines**: Confession, Worship, Guidance/Coaching

b. A SIMPLE WAY TO WALK OUT YOUR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE:

The Cross is the way to follow-

- E. **Prayer**
- F. **Study**
- G. **Fellowship**
- H. **Witness**



6. Styling It: “From the Upper Room to a place called Azusa Street”

We share in the **Apostolic witness** to Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord. It took so many faithful servants of God to get the witness of the Apostles from Step 1 to us today in Step 7. Those 7 Steps are:

- i. **The Apostolic Age** (33-312)
- ii. **The State Church** (313-603)
- iii. **The Papal Church** which includes the Dark Ages (604-1517)
- iv. **The Protestant Reformation** (1517-1700)
- v. **Holiness Age** (1700-1904)
- vi. **Azusa Street Revival & Pentecostal Age** (1904-1915)
- vii. **The Charismatic Renewal** (1969-Present)

We are a by-product of **The Protestant Reformation** of the 16th with an undoubtedly **Arminian** and **Wesleyan Holiness Twist**, add to that a fresh dose of Pentecost with the baptism of the Holy Ghost from **Azusa Street** and a supped-up laity turbocharged radically for Jesus through the modern-day **Charismatic Renewal**.

7. The Big House: “The Church- It’s Nature, Mission and Power.”

a. Troy’s Definition: **WHAT IS THE CHURCH?** It is a TEAM, **A Community of Faith**, who is **growing faithful followers of Christ**. These followers are commissioned by Christ to be His witnesses, His body, His team on earth in order to fulfill the Great Commission. When two or more gather in the name of Christ- the church is in session!

b. The Model for The Church is found in the ACTS PROTOTYPE: **Acts 1-9**

1. A **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** WITH JESUS.
2. THEY HAD A **PASSION** FOR HIS NAME.
3. THEY CARRIED THE **HOLY SPIRIT** WITH THEM.
4. THEY PRESSED ON OUT OF A GREATER FEAR OF **FAILING THEIR LORD** THAN OF THE SECULAR WORLD.
5. THEIR WILL AND DESIRE TO **NEVER GIVE UP** IS WHAT MADE THEM CHAMPIONS FOR THE LORD.
6. AND IT WAS THEIR **COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL** THAT ADDED THOUSANDS TO THEIR CHURCH DAILY AND SPUN OFF HOUSE CHURCHES ACROSS THE WORLD AND TO THIS VERY DAY!

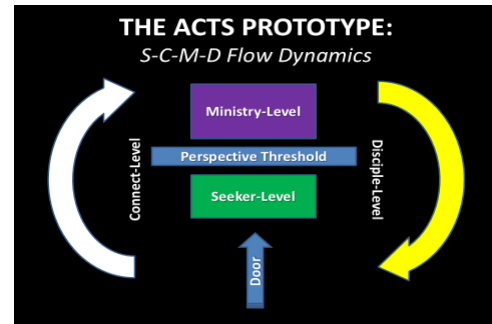
8. Assessment Tools: “Determining Spiritual Phase with the Phrase.”

So, four things define a disciple:

1. **First**, a disciple is one who has made **Jesus the Lord of his or her life**. Jesus said, “Come and follow me.” He is the leader. We must be committed to being the followers.
2. **Second**, a disciple is one who has entered a process of **relational discipleship** with other maturing Christians.
3. **Third**, a disciple is one who is **becoming Christ-like**.
4. **Finally**, a disciple is one who is committed to the **mission of Christ**.

Four phases or stages of the Discipleship Process: (You cannot get to one phase without the previous.)

- a. **Seeker** Phase-
- b. **Connect** Phase-
- c. **Minister** Phase-
- d. **Disciple** Phase-



9. Building Dynamics: “Shepherding & Flock Dynamics”

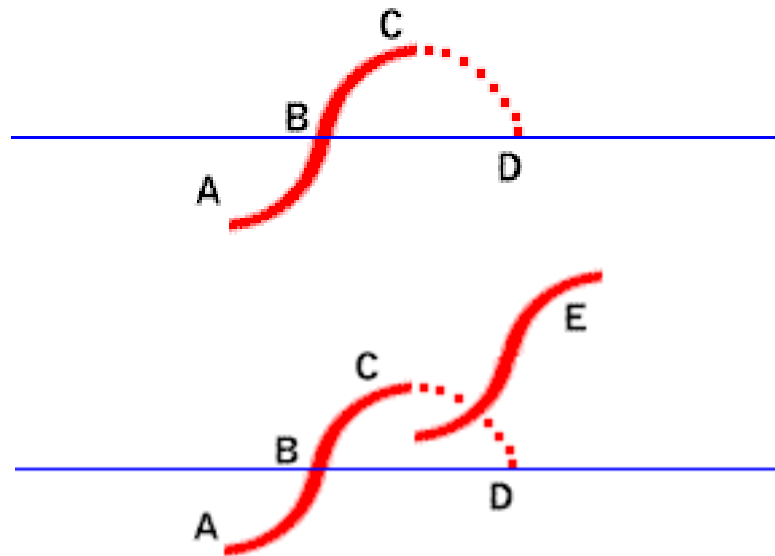
a. Shepherding & Flock Dynamics:

- a. **Preaching** takes place in the larger community at the **Ranch** Level for us this is the **Local Church**. *(There is a catalyst that occurs in the corporate worship experience. It is in this experience that the Holy Spirit anoints and inhabits the preaching moment for its maximum impact.)*
- b. **Teaching** takes place at the **Herd** level and for us this is within the **Local Church**. *(There is another experience of corporate learning that takes place in the dynamic experience of a teaching moment to groups of hungry disciples.)*
- c. **Shepherding/Pastoring** is the discipleship that takes place at the **Flock** level within the **Local Church**. *(The very heartbeat of the church comes in the small group. It is in the flock where people come together, they are called, they are known & know, and support one-another through the Share-Connect-Ministry-Disciple phases of their walk with God.)*

b. THE IMPORTANTCE OF THE SOURCE- GOD AND HIS PLAN FOR THE CHURCH ILLUSTRATED BY: Dead Sea Churches, Cistern Churches, and Living Water Churches:

If we step back from the source? The Church will have no fresh-living water coming in, and in due season we will begin to dry up. Sometime in a survivalist mentality, a church will attempt to hoard and ration the remaining water, not offering it for ministry but holding it in tanks for their own use to survive a little longer. But look what happens, the reserved water becomes stagnant like the water in an old fish tank, and it becomes lethally deadly in due season! Why because the Church of Jesus Christ was designed not to function as a Cistern but as the source of “Living Water” that the World might know JESUS.

- c. Dynamic Death and Dynamic Growth illustrated by the Bell Curve and the S-Curve Solution: (*The law of diminishing returns verses the law of momentum.*)



A Healthy Flock has new sheep, adolescent sheep, and mature sheep all under the leadership of under-Shepherds. As a result, new flocks are born. And a Healthy and Productive system means the Ranch is growing. **Ranching on the S-Curve**

If we fail to grow and produce healthy flocks, than they become stagnant and aging leading to decline and death. **Ranching on the Bell-Curve**

10. **Variances & Code:**

“Spiritual Gifts & The Spiritual Health of the Leader”

The key to the Spiritual Health of the Leader is operating in your giftedness. When you operate in your giftedness your **Passions** are tapped, your interests are **engaged & energized**, and your **anointing** is released.

a. **Three indicators help you maintain your OPTIMUM SPIRITUAL HEALTH AS A LEADER: *Taken from Networking by Bill Hybels.**

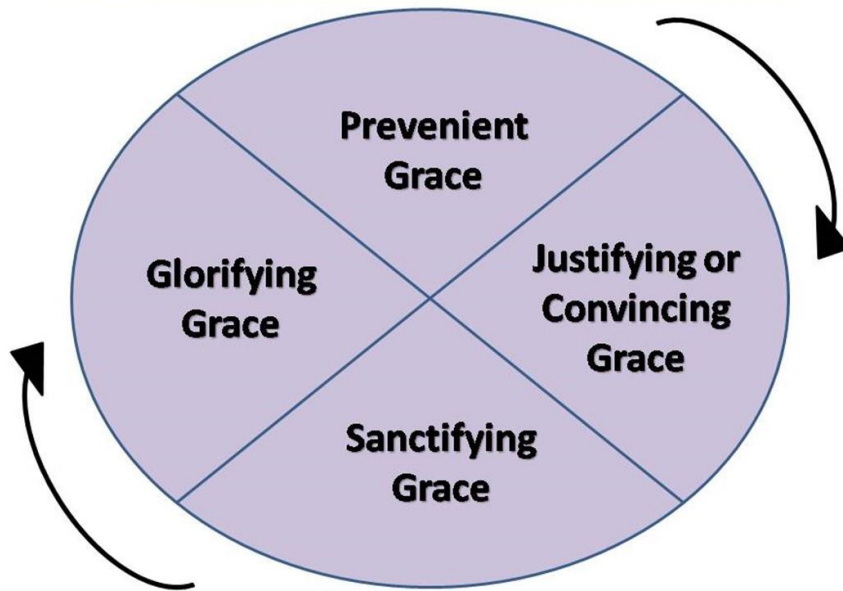
1. **Passion-** Indicates **WHERE** you will be best suited to serve. “I Have a Passion for _____.”
2. **Spiritual Gifts-** Indicate **WHAT** you will do when you serve God. (Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation, Apostleship, Teaching, Heals or Service, Administration, Encouragement/Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Evangelism, Pastor/Shepherding, Hospitality, Craftsmanship, Prayer/Intercession, Worship/Music & others.
3. **Personal Style-** Indicates **HOW** you will serve. *There are two spectrums to look at in determining your personal style in serving the Lord. There is the **ENERGIZED SPECTRUM** & the **ORGANIZED SPECTRUM.***

b. **When these three indicators are put together, they give us a good indicator of how to build our ministry walk to the CODE that God has placed within us. It is within this code that we will be the most fulfilled and satisfied in living our life PLUMB to God’s will for each of us.**

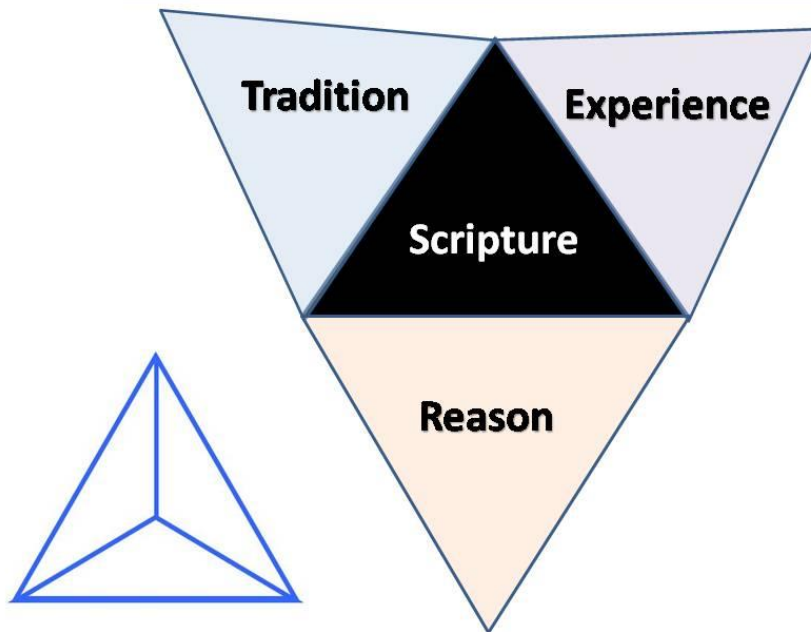
OUR OPTIMUM SPIRITUAL HEALTH		
PASSION	SPIRITUAL GIFTS	PERSONAL STYLE
_____	_____	_____

11. Driveways: *"The Wesleyan Way"*

Wesleyan Four Means of Grace

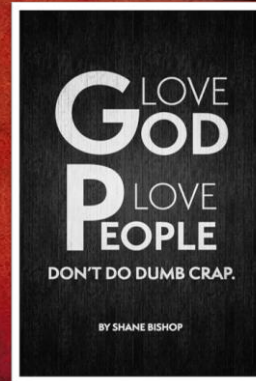


Wesleyan Quadrilateral



Wesley felt evangelical living should be lived out to three simple rules:

1. “By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind.”
2. “By doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible to all.”
3. “By attending upon all the ordinance of God” - In short- Stay in Love with God!



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Apprentice-Journeyman-Craftsman (A-J-C): *In the Footsteps of the Carpenter.*

- a. **Apprentice-** Student Learner
- b. **Journeyman-** Student practitioner
- c. **Craftsman-** Student Maker

Finishing Touches: *“Growing into a Faithful Follower of Christ!”*

- a. **The Nehemiah Principle :** *Keep recasting the vision every 26 days at minimum.*
- b. **Moving towards the Prize that is Before us:** *Keep Pushing Forward.*

- a. Cover the Text.
- b. Don't let the enemy steal and stall Biblical Growth
- c. Responsibility is the Hallmark of a **GREAT DISCIPLE!**
- d. **Accountability is essential:** Matthew 18:15-17

Matthew 18:15-17 nlt

“Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that *‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’* ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

- e. **Conflict Resolution:** *Resolve it ASAP!*
- f. **Let the LIGHT RULE guide you:** *Keep it in the light and out of the dark!*
- g. **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE!**

- a. Live out a
Plumb Line
Orientated
Faith
- b. Grow Faithful
Followers of
Christ



- h. Closing Prayer