

# The Teacher and Personal Development & Evaluation

## Key Verse

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God”  
(Acts 20:24).

## Objectives

At the completion of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Know and be able to briefly explain the three phases for personal development and evaluation, using scripture for each explanation.
2. Understand and be able to explain the important leadership concept: “to accomplish more, do less.”
3. Share the lesson about the meaning and importance of the dash between the two dates of our entry into this world and our exit from it.
4. Identify and share your place in the ministry and the place your ministry holds in the body of Christ.
5. Locate and identify the spiritual gifts and their different functions as found in three key chapters of the Bible.
6. List and explain the five-fold ministries of the church as found in Ephesians 4:11, and as used in extension of the ministry of Christ Himself.
7. As an object lesson, use your hand to explain the five-fold ministries of the church, with each finger representing a different ministry gifting and how it relates to the whole body of Christ.
8. Name and explain the three different categories of spiritual gifts as they relate to the church. Be sure to include the giftings that are a part of each category.
9. Practice a daily inventory of the three phrases in this lesson that will help us take inventory and pass life’s final test.

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## Introduction

It's time to take an examination. Don't sweat it. It won't hurt or be too difficult. You probably are thinking, "I'm an instructor. I don't take tests. I give them!" Maybe we could call it "taking inventory." We are specifically looking at three phrases and three phases of life; your life.

For every twenty who enter the ministry, by the time each reach retirement age, only one will still be in the ministry. Consider those that graduated from Bible school or entered ministry with you. How many are no longer in the ministry? (The statistics are not much different when you consider members rather than ministers.)

Too many have come through the front door, have left through the back, never to return. My greatest regret is that we have lost too many that once were part of the family. My greatest tears have been shed over those that have disqualified themselves from the ministry. Some have walked away from the truth. Others have sadly fallen into fornication or adultery. Others became offended, feeling they were abused, or squabbling over maintaining leadership territories and positions. Sadly, like the African proverb says, "When the elephants fight, the grass gets hurt."

The Scripture commands: Bring forth fruit. And it promises: Your fruit should remain (John 15:16). Perhaps, you are like me. I long for the complete work. To bring forth fruit and that it would remain. I want to count gains for the kingdom of God; not losses. I long to be part of the building process; and never be found tearing down what God is trying to build up.

Warren W. Wiersbe is a fabulous writer. In reading through his classic *The Bumps are What You Climb On* there was a chapter "How to Keep Going" that grabbed attention. It provides the seed thought for this lesson.

Paul did not count his life of any value. What he did value was to finish the course and the ministry. "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course, and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus..." (Acts 20:24, *ESV*, emphasis mine).

A close look at this verse reveals three phrases for personal development and evaluation. We spend much time testing and evaluating students that step into our classrooms. Yet, we need to also need to carefully, intentionally, and specifically evaluate our own lives and growth. So, I'm not talking about them, but about you. I'm not talking about their lives but mine.

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They are:

- My Life
- My Course
- My ministry

## My Life

Life is a treasure; a brief one at that. Warren Wiersbe said, "His life was not a treasure for him to guard; it was a treasure for him to invest..." Read Colossians 3:1-4.

Place your life in God's hands: "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you" (Romans 12:1-2).

God has a great plan for your life. Conform to it. Run with it! Live it! It requires daily pulling yourself onto the altar of sacrifice and surrendering our lives for His highest purpose.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11, *NIV*).

"The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand" (Isaiah 14:24, *NIV*).

Reverend Kenneth Haney, UPCI General Superintendent, reminded us we need to pay the price for revival. He called us back to the preaching and way of the cross. Self-denial is the way to the heart of this world. He told a story of a communist boy, standing on a street corner, with tattered clothes, propagating communism. Someone walked by and said, "You're paying a big price for communism!" The boy responded, "When you're changing the world, no cost is too great."

Leonard Ravenhill in *Meat for Men* wrote, "Recently, we visited an elaborate and opulent temple in the Far East. This experience reminded me of one Christian visitor who, overwhelmed with the ornate place and its static wealth, asked a heathen worshipper, 'What is the actual cost of erecting a temple like this?' The startled devotee replied in pained surprise, 'What is the cost? This temple is for our god, and for him we

never count the cost.” Give God your best. Never count the cost. No cost is ever too great!

The early church experienced success, and a few things that go along with it: the need to re-evaluate, simplify, specialize, and delegate as the organization grows.

People were griping, “Our needs are not being met.” The twelve quickly realized they couldn’t do everything required to sustain the church. It was necessary to stop, reflect, and refocus on what God had called them to do. They did and came up with the best solution, “We’ll stick with the main thing.” They did and the church continued to grow. They unveiled an important leadership concept: to accomplish more, do less. What a contradiction. Want to accomplish more? Do less.

The *Daily Walk Bible* defines “specialization” as “the art of learning more and more about less and less.” If we want to accomplish more in life we must specialize. Those that do a little of everything end up accomplishing a whole lot of nothing.

“Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials.”  
(Lin Yutang as quoted in *Ready for Anything* by David Allen.)

Many are involved in making “to-do lists” but we also need to make “not-to-do lists.” This is also called “planned neglect.” We plan to neglect certain tasks so we can accomplish important ones.

D. L. Moody once said, “The trouble with a great many men is that they spread themselves out over too much ground. They fail in everything. If they would only put their life into one channel, and keep in it, they would accomplish something.”

Someone has rightly said that if we try to do a little of everything, we will end up doing a whole lot of nothing.

“The eagle that chases two rabbits at one time will catch neither.”  
(Ancient Chinese Proverb)

God has equipped us with gifts, unique abilities, and a rich reservoir of experiences. There is no one just like you. He expects us to use these resources to advance His kingdom. However, we must understand we have limited resources.

To minimize pride and to maximize team ministry, not all perform the same function nor possess the same gifts. Working together, operating in our areas of strength, propels the church forward.

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“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us” (Romans 12:3-6, *NIV*).

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Exactly! We can do everything the Lord wants us to do, but He does not want us to do everything. He has a specific work in mind for us. Besides, the setting of this scripture refers to how God supplies the financial resources necessary to accomplish ministry. We are limited. He is unlimited.

H. Dale Burke’s excellent book, *Less is More Leadership* proved to be a priceless resource in the groundwork of this lesson. He said, “You have only a certain amount of time, energy, giftedness, resources, and money. You’ve got only so much to give, and when it’s gone, it’s gone.” He went on to say, “Leaders, as limited resources, must learn to simplify, reduce, and in fact ‘do less’ in order to accomplish more.”

Every leader has weaknesses and strengths. Should you spend your time building up your weaknesses or your strengths? If you spend ample time on things you are weak at you may become average. But, if you spend your time developing things you are already good at, you will become excellent.

## My Course

The “course” speaks of life’s race. We are all assigned our own track; our special lane. Wiersbe said, “The important thing is that we obey the rules, keep running for the prize, and stay in the correct lane.” Paul’s aspiration was to run his race well. He kept his eyes in his own lane; not that of someone else.

Yes, there will be obstacles that come our way. No one promised it would be easy. In fact, “race” comes from the word that means “agony.” It’s tough. It’s worth it. You can make it. There are patriarchs of old cheering you on. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1, *NLT*).

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but [only] one receives the prize? So run [your race] that you may lay hold [of the prize] and make it yours” (1 Corinthians 9:24, *AMP*).

It’s easy to get perturbed—or even perplexed—when reading this verse; especially if you have a competitive spirit or attitude. It’s also easy to get discouraged with this verse. Why run the race, if only one gets the prize? But, perhaps this is different. We all run the race. It is a personal pursuit prescribed and designed just for us. And each of us can finish the course.

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Let us be careful never to do anything that will disqualify us from the race or ministry, and be destructive to our Christian lives.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7, *NKJV*).

We are not in competition with anyone else. Everyone can run his own race and win his own prize.

In life’s race there are times when we trip, falter, give up, and occasionally retreat. What should we do? Get up and keep moving. It is not how one starts the race or how fast one runs that is so important, but how one ends.

“I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong...” (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

You just can’t keep a godly man or woman down. Trip them time after time. They won’t stay down long. They’ll jump back on their feet again. Why? They are in a race. They are destined to win!

“If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn't much to you in the first place” (Proverbs 24:10, *The Message*).

God is your strength. Don’t fail under pressure (*NLT*) or falter in times of trouble (*NIV*). And if you do fail, falter, or fall; get up again. Dust off the dirt, and keep running. Heaven is your goal! “Well done” is your expected commendation.

Don’t look back. Keep your eyes on the goal. “By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back” (Philippians 3:12-13, *The Message*).

Life brings us many tests, trials, and tribulations. Remember, those tests you took in school? Or better still, the tests you give in your classes? My favorite selected-response type of test is the true/false option. The answer is either right or wrong. You have a fifty percent chance of getting it correct. You can guess at it and likely get it right.

The multiple-choice test provides four options or possible answers. Again, not bad! When guessing you have a twenty-five percent chance of getting the response correct.

Then there is the essay test. The answers are not as easy to decipher. The writer can write on and on hoping the instructor will think the student understands what he/she is talking about.

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There is always the portfolio: keeping record of past achievements without giving a prelude to what is taking place in the future. We celebrate the past but keep our minds on the future and move toward it.

One of the toughest tests of all is fill-in-the blank. Why? Because only one correct answer fits in the blank provided.

Rev. T. D. Jakes' book, *Maximizing the Moment* mentioned that John F. Kennedy was born in 1917. He made his mark in life as the 35<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America. President Kennedy is well remembered for many things, one being this statement:

"Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what can you do for your country."

On November 22, 1963 an assassin killed Kennedy. His simple tombstone reads:

**1917 - 1963**

A lesson can be learned from this. Each person has a date of entry (birth date) into this world (birth date) and a date of departure from this world (death date). All that is between the two is the -----.

**What are you putting in the blank between the time of your entry into this world and your departure?**

What we place in the blank determines the impact that we have between the two dates.

## **My Ministry**

I once asked a young man arriving in our field, "What is your ministry?"

He responded, "They say I am a teacher."

I retorted, "I didn't ask 'what they say?' I asked, 'what is your ministry?'"

Before this young man completed his first field assignment he understood his ministry and how to operate within it. Nearly twenty years later this fabulous minister is still blossoming and doing a marvelous work for God. Knowing how one fits into the body of Christ, and understanding one's role in ministry, is foundational to ministerial success and contentment. Everyone should be able to identify his place in the ministry and every ministry needs to be in its place.

The point here is that a clear understanding of ministry enables one to operate within the scope of that ministry function. There are gifts which go with each ministry. Our ministry is a gift back to God when we fulfill the various functions or aspects of it. God

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showers us with gifts so we can give our ministry back to him as our gift. The great majority of spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible are found in three key chapters:

Service Gifts	Romans 12:6-8
Gifts of the Spirit/Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30
Ministry Gifts	Ephesians 4:11

All five ministries mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 can—and should—be active in the twenty-first century apostolic church. They minister together—cooperatively and not in competition with each other—to bring about spiritual maturity in the lives of every believer. Each of these specialized ministries is an extension of the ministry of Christ Himself.

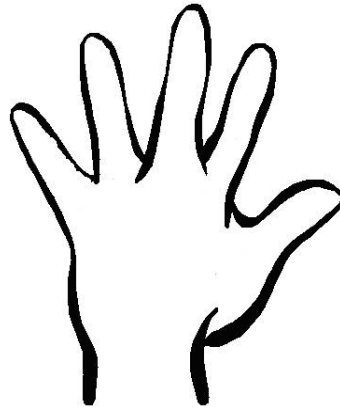
The fivefold Ministry consists of:

Apostles	Govern
Prophets	Guide
Evangelists	Gather
Pastors	Guard
Teachers	Ground

It should be noted that some refer to the above as the fourfold ministry and combine pastors and teachers into one. This would make one office having two ministries. For simplicity, rather than doctrine, this lesson will assume that there are five offices or ministries. Interestingly, every pastor teaches but not every teacher is a pastor. Every prophet prophesies. However, not everyone that prophesies is a prophet. A believer can be used in the gift of prophecy. A prophet is called into that ministerial role. Every pastor should do the work of evangelism (2 Timothy 4:5). However, not every pastor is an evangelist.

Use the following chart to label the thumb and fingers according to the table below:





Apostle	Thumb	Touches all of the others
Prophet	Pointer	Used for direction
Evangelist	Middle	Reaches the furthest
Pastor	Fourth finger	Covenant finger
Teacher	Pinky	Maintains balance

For the purpose of this lesson, and because of the audience involved, with Bible college teachers, only one of the ministerial gifts is developed here.

**Teachers:**

- Ground believers in apostolic doctrine.
- Explain, enlighten (Psalms 119:130), and educate others in understanding and applying truth.
- Enjoy reading and studying God’s Word. False teaching comes because the teacher fails to study and prepare himself properly.
- Exposes truth with simplicity.
- Get excited about teaching the Bible to others.
- Possess the ability to make God’s Word clear or plain to people at whatever level of maturity or education they are.
- Instructs by personal example and lifestyle. Life needs to match instruction.
- Explains Scripture in a way that it will be easily understood by the hearers.
- Spiritual ability. A person may have the natural ability, inclination, or training to teach. However, that does not mean he is necessarily called into the spiritual office of a teacher.
- Convey truth using simple, ordinary examples or things.
- Instruct people in knowing God rather than merely understanding religion.
- Replicate themselves in the lives of others (Luke 6:40).

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- Train and commit truth to those that will be able to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).
- Live a higher standard knowing they are held to greater judgment and scrutiny (James 3:1).
- Strike a balance between theoretical and practical.

Spiritual gifts can be classified and put in three different categories:

### *1. Thinking like God Thinks*

These Gifts reveal something. They cause us to know. These are also called Gifts of Revelation or Administrative Gifts. These gifts are designed to help us with overseeing and preserving the Church. They allow a Spirit filled believer to be directed concerning what God is thinking. I think pastors and teachers are often found operating in these gifts.

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Discerning of Spirits

### *2. Acting like God Acts*

These Gifts do something. These are also called the Gifts of Power or Ministry/Evangelism Gifts. These gifts enable the believer, when directed by the Spirit, to act like God would act. They draw attention to God's power and this attracts, persuades, and evangelizes sinners. It strengthens the evangelism thrust of the church. What ministry is more prone to use these gifts? Evangelist.

- Faith
- Gifts of Healing
- Working of Miracles

### *3. Speaking like God Speaks*

These Gifts say something. They are also called Communication/ Inspiration/ Verbal Gifts. They enable the believer when directed by the Spirit to speak like God speaks or speak as God would speak. These express some of the ways God speaks to His church.

- Prophecy
- Divers Kinds of Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

Each of us has a vision to fulfill. We are to make full proof of our ministry. God has placed us all in the body. We are not all the same. We do not operate the same. There is strength in unity and in our diversity. Each has different gifting, talents, and ministries. We are not called to compete with each other, but to complete one another. Learn to operate within your ministry. When you use your talents, God will perfect them for His glory, and may even give you more talents. Remember the parable of the talents. You lose what you don't use. Use and God will give you more. The purpose of ministry is to prepare God's people for acts of service in God's kingdom (Ephesians 4:11-12). We are here on earth to advance the kingdom!

"Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:26). They were willing to risk all – to give all – for Jesus.

"...And *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints, That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with *us*, and laboureth" (1 Corinthians 16:15-16).

They were spending their lives in service to God's people (*NLT*). They were consecrated and devoted to the service of the saints (*AMP*). They could be looked up to, acting as our examples, and giving us something to aspire to.

We don't usually think of hazards and addictions in a positive light. In these two verses it is upbeat, healthy, and productive. An "addiction" is when the body is in a state where it depends on something for its normal functioning. The body cannot cope without the substance and goes into withdrawal. We are dependent on ministry – following God's will – for our daily sustenance. When witnessing to the Samaritan woman, Jesus rejected food from His disciples, and explained, "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing the work" (John 4:34, *NLT*). It was the food that kept Him going. He was addicted to fulfilling His mission.

We can also be addicted to God's Word: "I have not gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed and treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12, *AMP*).

**Conclusion**

Wiersbe concluded, “My life—my course—my ministry. It would be good to repeat those three phrases at the beginning of each day, for they help us take inventory of our spiritual experience.” Let’s review:

My Life	It is my gift from God.
My Course	It is my assignment from God.
My Ministry	It is my gift back to God (Warren Wiersbe).

We are not only instructors, but students on this earth. We are all passing through. On a daily basis we take inventory and pass life’s tests. One day we will meet the Master Teacher face-to-face and hear Him say, “Well done! You’ve passed the test! Enter in!”

# The Teacher and Personal Development & Evaluation

## Lesson in Review

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. As stated in this lesson, what did the Apostle Paul value?

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2. For every twenty people that enter ministry, how many will still be in the ministry when reaching retirement age?

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3. What three phrases taken from Acts 20:24 serve as the foundation for this lesson?

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4. What did Warren Wiersbe say about Paul's life being a treasure?

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5. According to Colossians 3:2-4, who is our life?

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6. According to Romans 12:1-2, what should we do with our lives?

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7. What did the young communist (in this lesson) say?

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8. What was the response of the heathen worshipper when asked the cost of the temple?

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9. The word "race" comes from the old world and means what?

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10. What should one do when he falters or falls in life's race?

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11. What is meant by submission?

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12. What happens when we use our talents?

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13. Explain how we are servants of the Gospel.

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14. Explain what is meant by the addiction recorded in 1 Corinthians 16:15-16.

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15. Why was Jesus not hungry in John 4:33-34?

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16. What are the three things we should take inventory of each day?

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17. Locate the three key chapters that tell us about the majority of spiritual gifts?

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18. According to Ephesians 4:11 the ministry gifts consist of what five offices or ministries?

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19. List these again with the special verbs that go with each.

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20. List five characteristics of the teaching ministry.

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21. What is specialization?

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22. Why is specialization important?

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