

# Chapter Four

## A Couples

# Mutual Vows To God

Bible Study: pages

Lecture: pages

Post Study Projects: pages

# Bible Study

## Chapter Four

Scripture Memory Verse –

*Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."*

Back Review:

- Matthew 19:4 - 6
- Proverbs 2:16 & 17
- Malachi 2:14
- Mark 10:9
- Mark 10:11 & 12

**A husband's and wife's covenant needs, are created by God, they are lasting and legitimate needs, for which they have no morale outlet outside of marriage.**

## A Shared Commitment To The Word Of God

### **The Husband As Spiritual Leader:**

In I Corinthians 14: 34 & 35, an important clause is given in the marriage covenant in terms of the wife's dependence upon her husband for spiritual guidance and the husband's responsibility to go deep in the Word of God, “... *if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home....*” How does this passage speak to the husband's responsibility in the area of the spiritual leadership of the home?

The husband then should bring with him a commitment to the Word of God which allows him to assume his position as the spiritual leader of the family.

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then write a brief statement summarizing the role it gives the husband as the spiritual leader of the family.

***Ephesians 6:4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.***

***Deuteronomy 11:18 & 19 "You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.***

***EPH 5:25 – 27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.***

**The Wife's Commitment To The Word Of God:** The wife should bring with her to the marriage a level of spiritual maturity as evidenced by her commitment to the Word of God.

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then write a brief statement summarizing the role it gives the wife in terms of her spiritual contribution to the family.

*Proverbs 1:8 & 6:9 “Hear, my son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching;”; “My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;”*

*Proverbs 31:1 “The words of King Lemuel, the oracle which his mother taught him.”*

*II Timothy 1:5, “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”*

**What Do These Roles Presuppose?** As you reflect back upon the study you have just done, what type of commitment to the Word of God does this presuppose a couple brings with them to the marriage covenant? There are two classic passages which describe the progression of our commitment to the Word of God. Read the passage and then list, step by step, the progression the Word of God takes in the life of a disciple committed to the Word of God.

*Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.*

*Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.*

## A Shared Commitment To The Discipline Of Prayer

One of the amazing things I experience in the ministry is that a couple will come to me with deep personal, marital and family problems, yet they have not set aside the time for regular personal time alone in prayer nor family prayer time. How a family expects to survive apart from a vibrant prayer life remains a constant amazement, yet it is so. One of the covenants you swore to when you married was to bring to your marriage a vibrant prayer life. Not just when your aunt is sick, not just when your husband is out of a job, not just when you become concerned about your parents salvation but a prayer life that extends to every aspect of your faith and walk with God.

### **The Father And His Children:**

It is important for children to grow up with clear memories of their father's prayer life. Children should remember how their father prayed with and for them each evening at bedtime. Children should remember their father praying at meals, not just some prayer said by rote memory, but real conversations with God. Job's children would have memories such as this.

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then answer the questions

Job1:5 "*And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.*"

What did Job do for his sons each morning?

What does the word "consecrate" mean?

Why did Job do this?

Was this a sporadic event in Job's life?

### **The Mother And Her Children:**

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then answer the questions

I Samuel 1:11, "*And she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maid servant and remember me, and not forget Thy maid servant, but wilt give Thy maid servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."*"

What was Hanna's vow to the Lord?

What is the definition of the Word "vow"?

In making this vow, did Hannah consecrate her yet unborn son to the Lord? (explain)

What was Hanna's intent for her yet unborn son?

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then answer the questions

I Samuel 1:27 & 28; *"For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord." And he worshipped the Lord there.*

How is Hanna's faithfulness in her vow revealed?

From what you know of Hanna, would you expect the prayers of her son to cease once this one prayer was answered?

In both cases, Job and Hannah brought into their marriages a strong commitment to prayer. God expects both the husband and the wife to bring to their union and equal commitment to prayer

#### **Jesus And Your Children:**

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then answer the questions

*MAT 19:13 – 15 Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." And after laying His hands on them, He departed from there.*

In this passage compare and contrast Jesus' concern for the spiritual well being of children with that of the disciples?

Did Jesus take the spiritual needs and interests of these children seriously?

What was the intent of those who brought their children to Jesus?

Did Jesus "consecrate" these children?

#### **The Word And Prayer And Your Children:**

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then answer the questions

*JOH 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.*

In this passage, what is the connection between the Word of God and prayer?

What would be an example of using God's Word to shape your prayers?

- ❖ Read each passage below
- ❖ Circle the key word or words from the passage
- ❖ Then answer the questions

*Ps 78:1-7*

- 1 *Listen, O my people, to my instruction; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.*
- 2 *I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,*
- 3 *Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.*
- 4 *We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.*
- 5 *For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should teach them to their children,*
- 6 *That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children,*
- 7 *That they should put their confidence in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments,*  
*(NAS)*  
*commanded our fathers, That they should teach them to their children,*

From whom did the nation of Israel receive it's primary source of spiritual instruction?

To whom was this instruction directed?

In verse four, how was prayer integrated in this instruction?

A strong commitment to prayer, begun in the early ears of the marriage, then transcends into the family as children are added. Family devotionals become the norm and a strong family knitted together by prayer grows through the years.

## A Shared Commitment To Fellowship

Most couples, when they socialize, think very little about what the Bible has to say when they make their decisions. A company party, old friends, family gatherings, a neighbors invitation, a good opportunity, a shared interest in hobbies, sports or culture – social obligations, good conversation, an enjoyable evening, these are generally the criteria of most couples when they socialize.

For most Christian couples, social engagements seem to pose little or no danger. They view these as personal decisions. As long as it does not involve a drunken orgy, they can handle themselves and come away unscathed. What they do with their free time, with whom they do it, who they choose to socialize with (or without), the activities they engage in, that is their business and no one else's. Sometime this "no one else's" clause even includes their spouse. "I have my friends, he has his" and that is that. You do not criticize or encroach.

You may be surprised to discover that this is not the approach the Bible takes. Those with whom a couple socializes, the husband's friends, the wife's friends, the family members, the parties, the clubs, all these and more play an important role in the spiritual development of the couple and the survival of their marriage.

As you reflect on the passages presented below...

- First: Read the passages through
  - Next: Circle all words relating to the church or the home
  - Lastly: Write a short statement about the relationship with the home and the ministry in the early church.
- † *Acts 8:3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.*
- † *ROM 16:3-5 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; also greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.*
- † *1Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*
- † *Collisions 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.*
- † *Philemon 1:2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:*

## **The Positive Impact Of Fellowship With Other Believers In The Church On The Marriage And Family:**

As you reflect on the passages presented below...

- First: Read the passage
- Next: Circle the key words in the passage
- Lastly: Answer the questions provided.

***Hebrews 10:24 & 25 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.***

Circle, what you feel to be the key words of this passage.

From this passage, what is the positive impact of fellowshipping with other spiritually mature believers in the church on your marriage?

What are we warned about concerning our commitment to fellowship?

How would you evaluate your marriage, in the light of this verse?

- First: Read the passage
- Next: Circle the key words in the passage
- Lastly: Answer the questions provided.

***1Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."***

According to this passage, why is it important for you family to carefully choose friends?

What about your children? What impact will ill-mannered or disobedient children have on your children?

How should this effect your decisions when asked by others both in and out of the church to either have your children over to play or to created time to play with their children?

According to this passage, if you work very hard on the character development of your children but do not guard and watch over the children they play with, what can happen to their character, despite your hard work?

What about your spouse, if of the couples you are closest to, one is mature but the other carnal, what impact will that have on your spouse?

What about yourself? Think about the clubs, social groups, sports teams or friendships you have. How careful have you been in the selection of your friends, your buddies you hang out with? According to this passage, whether you are aware of it or not, what impact are they having on your spiritual life?

Reflect now on your own friends, your wife's friends and your children's friends. How important is it to make sure that you are centering your closest friends and social activities around mature Christians in your church? How would you rate your commitment to the social activities of your church vs. the social and entertainment the world has to offer? Really, what has been the priority of your marriage and family up till this point?

- First: Read the passage
- Next: Circle the key words in the passage
- Lastly: Answer the questions provided.

***Proverbs 24:1-4 “Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them; For their minds devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble. By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; And by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”***

From this passage, what are the two tendencies of evil people?

What type of parties and entertainments would characterize the homes of evil people?  
The entertainments....

The conversation....

according to this passage, how should we guard ourselves from evil people? When invited into their home or participate in their fellowship, what should be our response?

In contrast to fellowshipping in the homes of evil families, what is the key to building up our home?

- First: Read the passage
- Next: Circle the key words in the passage
- Lastly: Answer the questions provided.

***1Corinthians 5:9 - 11 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.***

From this passage, in a short phrase or sentence, sum up the Holy Spirit's opening admonition?

Does the Holy Spirit make the differentiation between ministry relationships and social, or friendship relationships – e.g. those we let our guard down and just relax? (Explain)

When thinking not only about ourselves, but also about our marriage, in terms of our Christian friendships, what should the standard be?

- First: Read the passage
- Next: Circle the key words in the passage
- Lastly: Answer the questions provided.

*Luke 6:40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.*

*1Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."*

Contrast the relationships depicted in these two passages, how are they different?

How is the effect on the marriage and family of the home based ministry relationship, described in Luke 6:40 different from the effects of the relaxed social relationship described in I Corinthians 15:33. (Explain)

In terms of your friendships with non-Christians and spiritually immature Christians, are you honest about your “ministry” friendships? Are they truly ministry or are they really social.? If they are indeed social, according to I Corinthians 15:33 what will be the result?

Many foolish parents respond to the plea, “Your children are so good, let my bad child play with them.” Or in an even more foolish decision, they encourage their children to become friends with the children of non-Christians to whom the believing parents wish to minister. According to I Corinthians 15:33, what will be the result of this short sighted and foolish action on the part of Christian parents?

Now look back at Luke 6:40. Compare the result of this relationship with ***Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”*** What will be the results of “iron sharpening” friendships in terms of your marriage?

Do you really think about the spiritual maturity of the couples with whom you and your wife socialize? Can you really say that you have gone out of your way to choose couples to socialize with that will lift you to the next level of your spiritual growth and plane?

Analyze this statement, “Discipleship relationships ascend to the highest common denominator while casual social relationships descend to the lowest common denominator” How is this law of relationships reflected in these two key passages?

*Luke 6:40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.*

*1Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."*

What changes need to be made in your social life to bolster and protect your marriage?

Do you need to get a social life? In that case what will you choose as criteria?

Do you have a social life that needs to change? In that case what will be your criteria?

Consider your church. Does it offer opportunities for you to fellowship and interact informally with other mature believers so that you can develop “iron sharpening” relationships?

## A Shared Commitment To Evangelism And The Ministry

Aquila and Priscilla are an interesting Biblical couple. Aquila was a Jewish tentmaker who had recently been forced to leave Rome due to religious persecution. Having settled in Corinth he was prosperous enough to take on Paul as a part time worker. From the book of Acts and by gleaning excerpts from Paul's letters, we see them transformed from a couple involved in small business to a couple whose home and life centered around their ministry as a team. By looking at Aquila and Priscilla we can get an idea of how a couple can mature, not only in their relationship with God and the church, but also each other as God molds them together, into a ministry team.

- First: Read the passage
  - Next: Circle the key words in the passage
  - Lastly: Answer the questions provided.
- † *Acts 18:1 – 4 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers. And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.*

From this passage what do we learn about Aquila and Priscilla?

- † *Acts 18:18 & 19 And Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.*

By this time, what had evidently happened to Aquila and Priscilla?

Who was traveling in the ministry with Paul?

What evidence do we see here of a shared commitment to evangelism and the ministry in Aquila's marriage?

Back in 1976 God called Eleanor and I to move from Austin, Texas to College Station, Texas to minister at Texas A & M university. There was a young couple, Mike and Linda, living and working in Austin who had been involved in our ministry at the University of Texas as college students. They were now graduated, had two small children and the husband was working as an accountant in a successful firm. Realizing that we were beginning a new ministry and would be short handed and cognizant of the fact that he was employable, he resigned his position with the accounting firm in Austin and took a position at a machine shop at much reduced pay as their business manager and accountant. During this time Mike and Linda ministered sacrificially to University students, a number of whom entered the full time ministry as pastors and missionaries. This same heart of availability to the ministry is still manifested. He went on to get his Doctorate and in his position as tenured professor has used his influence to sponsor student works on a number of campuses where he has taught. This summer he will use his vacation time to go to Cameroon with me to teach and minister. I share this to try and help you understand that the heart of Aquila and Priscilla still beats in married couples today. Married couples who want their home to be the center of their ministry and who want to use their vocations and training to be available to serve and minister on the harvest fields of the world.

† *Acts 18:24 – 26 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

What is evidence of solid spiritual growth in Aquila and Priscilla's life?

How is there ministry depicted as a shared event?

From these two passages are they depicted as ministering independently from each other or as a team?

† *1Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*

By the time of the writing of the first letter to the Corinthians Aquila and Priscilla (Prisca) had grown into a key ministry couple. What evidence do we see of this from this passage?

How did Aquila and Prisca (Pricilla) integrate the church and home in their family life?

† *Romans 16:3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,*

Circle the phrase in Romans 16:3 that indicates their relationship with Paul in the minister.

Romans is one of the latter letters written by Paul. What evidence of growth in stature and ministry ability can we see in this dynamic couple?

- † *2 Timothy 4:6-7 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;*

At this point in Paul's career, what is eminent?

- † *2 Timothy 4:9-11 Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.*

What disappointments has Paul faced at the close of his missionary career?

- † *II Timothy 4:19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.*

Paul is now nearing the end of his career. He is expecting an immanent death. To whom do his thoughts turn and what does this say about Aquila and Priscilla' ...

Marriage:

Individual growth as disciples:

Growth as a ministry team:

How are their lives contrasted with that of Demas?

- First: Read the passage

- Next: Circle the key words in the passage
  - Lastly: Answer the questions provided.
- † *EPH 5:22 – 27 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.*

Using Ephesians 5:22 – 27 as a guide, write a description of a ministering couple.

## Boundaries For Ministering As A Couple

### **Husbands:**

As spiritual leader of the home, certain spiritual responsibilities the husband must fulfill toward his wife and family before he can present himself to the ministry. As a result certain boundaries must naturally be in place for the husband to fulfill this role. Read the following passages and below each record the “boundary” as stated or implied.

*EPH 5:25 – 27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all husbands:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*EPH 5:28 – 30 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all husbands:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*EPH 5:31 – 33 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all husbands:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*EPH 6:4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all husbands:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*1TI 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all husbands:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*1PE 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all husbands:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*1 Corinthians 7:32-34 But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and his interests are divided.*

How does I Corinthians 7:32 – 33 speak to the importance of ministry boundaries in marriage?

**Wives:**

Similarly as helpmate in your husbands ministry, certain boundaries must naturally be in place. God holds all wives first responsible in their relationship to their husband and the marriage and only then is she free to minister outside this primary responsibility. Read the following passages. After each record what you feel to be the stated or implied boundaries for your ministry with your husband as his helpmate.

*ITI 2:12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all wives:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*COL 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

A spiritual responsibility which God holds all wives:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*ICO 14:34 – 36 Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.*

Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only?

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all wives:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*IPE 3:1 & 2 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all wives:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*1PE 3:5 & 6 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.*

Two spiritual responsibilities to which God holds all wives:

What boundaries would these responsibilities place on his ministry involvement?

*1 Cor 7:34-35... And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.*

How does I Corinthians 7:34 – 35 speak to the importance of ministry boundaries in marriage?

*Titus 2:3-5 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.*

What are the older women to teach the younger women in Titus 2:3 – 5

How does it necessitate boundaries in their home vs. ministry responsibilities. In other words how would it affect their ability to teach these things if their own marriages and homes were neglected for the sake of the ministry?

As you consider both Priscilla's ministry and these passages on boundaries, how is the Biblical model of the wife and the ministry different from so many models you see presented in the 21 century Christian community?

According to the Biblical models would a godly wife be an evangelist, pastor or ministry leader apart and separate from her role as helpmate to her husband?

## Chapter Four

### A Couples Mutual Vows

**A husband's and wife's covenant needs, are created by God, they are lasting and legitimate needs, for which they have no morale outlet outside of marriage.**

#### **Introduction: Christ the Center of every marriage**

In the Marriage Covenant there are certain mutual vows, which the couple brings with them and which now, upon becoming one, they join in, in their new relationship with God as the two have become one. These vows are in the area of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and personal discipleship and shared involvement in the ministry.

Of course there is always the very real danger that a couple comes into marriage pretty much pursuing their own agenda in life and assume that this will continue. Nothing could be further from the truth. When you stand before God and make your vows of the covenant of marriage, you join as Christians, vowing to form a Christian union, to have a Christ Centered marriage, home and family.

The key of course is Christ as the center of the marriage. Galatians 2:20 states, "*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*" A Christian's marriage should be radically different from that of the world around them. With such tremendous social forces pulling us into conformity to the world, it is only by the power of Christ that we will be able to resist. It must be "no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me", this is the only way we will be able to live out the true Christian marriage before the world. This is possible because we are no longer the same, we are new and unique creatures in Christ. II Corinthians 5:17 teaches this clearly, "*Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*" Yet still this is not enough, we must have a model with which to direct this new found life. II Timothy 3:16 & 17 states, "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*" The Word of God must be the final authority in all issues dealing with marriage. Not culture, not what seems right, not what feels right, not what the prevailing winds of scientific thought proclaim but rather solely the authority of the Word of God. With Christ as the power source of our life, with ourselves as born again, regenerated, new creatures, with the Word of God as our guide, we will be able to present to the world the true model of the Christ centered marriage, the Christ centered family, the marriage covenant as manifested in the disciplemaking family.

#### **I. The Word of God**

- A. The husband as spiritual head of the marriage.
  - 1. As the spiritual leader of his the husband must by necessity be a man of the Word.
  - 2. I Corinthians 14: 34 & 35 states, "*Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.*"
  - 3. If the wife is to rely upon her husband that assumes that the husband is devoting himself to the Word that he might master it.

- 4. It is to the shame of many a husband shame that his wife must go to others for her spiritual questions, rather than her husband.
- 5. It is assumed then that the husband will bring with him to the marriage a strong commitment to the Word of God.
  
- B. The husband as the spiritual instructor of the children
  - 1. Not only is the husband the spiritual leader of his wife, but he is as well the spiritual teacher and leader of his children.
  - 2. Ephesians 6:4 commands the father to bring the children up, "*in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*"
  - 3. Again, if the children are to rely upon their father for spiritual instruction, it presupposes that the father is a man of the Word.
  - 4. It is t the shame of many a father that their children must go to Sunday School for their spiritual instruction rather than to their father.
  - 5. It is assumed then that the husband will continue his commitment to the Word of God that he might fulfill his role as spiritual leader in the home.
  
- C. The husband as spiritual leader in the community.
  - 1. Every husband wants the wife described in Proverbs 31, but what most men don't realize that the husband she marries is also revealed in the chapter. One telling attribute can be found in Proverbs 31:23; "*Her husband is known in the gates as he sits among the elders of the land.*" The husband of the "excellent wife" of Proverbs 31 is a man of wisdom and stature in the Word of God. He is a spiritual leader who sits with the Elders.
  - 2. Ezra was such a man. The Word of God says of him in Ezra 7:10, "*For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.*"
  - 3. It is assumed therefor that the husband will bring into the marriage a commitment to the Word of God, a commitment to the spiritual leadership of the home and community based on a mastery of the Word of God.
  
- D. The husband then commits to bring to the marriage a commitment to the Word of God, that he might fulfill his role as spiritual leader of his wife, the children, the home and the community at large.
  
- E. The wife and her commitment to the Word of God
  - 1. Not only does the father take initiative in the spiritual instruction of the children, but the mother does so as well. Proverbs 1:8 states, "*Hear, my son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching;*" and again in Proverbs 6:29, "*My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;*" It is assumed then that the wife will bring with her to the marriage a strong commitment to the Word of God. That this will result in dynamic discussions with her husband and in the spiritual development of her children. Paul said of Timothy, in II Timothy 1:5, "*For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*" The spiritual influence of a godly grandmother and mother paid rich dividends in Timothy's life and so should the spiritual commitment of all wives and mothers richly reward the home in which they dwell.

2. In addition to this the commitment of the wife to the Word of God provides a safeguard for her husband. God tells Abraham in Genesis 21:12, "...whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named." A mature Christian husband will discuss all things with his wife, will seek her counsel, it is only through a strong commitment to the Word of God that a Christian wife can fulfill this role
3. Finally in Titus 2:4 & 5 the Holy Spirit admonishes the older women to be teachers, "that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children," and this presupposes a lifetime commitment to the Word of God in preparation for this important ministry.
4. It is assumed then that the wife brings with her to the marriage a commitment to God's Word, that she may interact with and advise her husband, that she might teach her children and that she might disciple and teach the younger women around her.

## II. Prayer

### A. Mutual commitment

1. The Bible says of Job, in Job1:5 "*And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.*"
2. The Bible says of Hannah in I Samuel 1:11, "*And she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maidservant and remember me, and not forget Thy maidservant, but wilt give Thy maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.*" When God honored Hannah's prayer her response is revealed in verses 27 & 28; "*For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord.*" *And he worshipped the Lord there.*
3. In both cases, Job and Hannah brought into their marriages a strong commitment to prayer. God expects both the husband and the wife to bring to their union and equal commitment to prayer
- B. A strong commitment to prayer, begun in the early ears of the marriage, then transcends into the family as children are added. Family devotionals become the norm and a strong family knitted together by prayer grows through the years.

## III. Fellowship

### A. Commitment to the Body of Christ

1. An interesting series of verses occurs in the New Testament
  - a. *Acts 8:3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.*
  - b. *Romans 16:5 also greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.*
  - c. *1Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*

- d. Collisions 4:15 *Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.*
- e. Philemon 1:2 *and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:*
- 2. In each passage the Church is associated with the House, when Paul persecuted the Church, it was by entering the house, throughout Rome, Collisia and the early Christian world, churches met in homes.
- 3. Couples then should bring to the marriage a strong commitment to the Church, to the growth of the Body of Christ. This is joined as the two become one and their homes become centers of the ministry of the Church.
  
- B. The Achilles heel of most marriages is the friends the young couple chooses to keep. Many a naïve young couple has sought out friends of mutual secular interest, rather than spiritual interests. The world teaches that good will triumph over evil. In terms of friendships nothing could be further from the truth. The Word of God teaches us in I Corinthians 15:33 "*Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."*" It is important that the couple bring this conviction with them to their marriage.
  - 1. I have seen first hand the tragedy when a young husband develops less than wholesome friendships through a sport, work or outside interest. Thinking that he will not be affected, his morals are instead corrupted.
  - 2. I have seen first hand the tragedy when a young wife, needing girlfriends, develops less than wholesome friendship through a sport, work or social outlet. Thinking that she will not be affected, her morals are instead corrupted.
  - 3. The passage has two aspects to it...
    - a. First, "*Do not be deceived*" - satan is the deceiver. He would like you to think that you are the exception, that the influence is not so great, that you can handle it, that you tried it, and see, nothing bad happened. If you are thinking along these lines, God only has one thing to say to you, it is your responsibility to believe Him in this area and not be deceived.
    - b. Second, "*Bad company corrupts good morals*" - in the area of relaxed friendships, bad overcomes good, this is a spiritual law, it is revealed to us by God, we cannot change it, we must accept it and act accordingly.
  - 4. It is important that a husband and wife bring into their marriage good strong Christian friendships and that these be maintained as a couple.

#### IV. Ministry

- A. In the New Testament the home is not only the center for Christian fellowship, it is the center of ministry as well.
  - 1. When Paul wanted to attack the ministry of the church, he attacked the home, the family, Acts 8:3 *But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.*
  - 2. Timothy was brought up and nurtured as a young Christian, in the home, by his mother and grandmother, II Timothy 1:5 *For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*
  - 3. Priscilla and Aquilla had an active ministry as a couple.

- a. They sponsored church and ministry activities in their home, I Corinthians 16:19 "*The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*"
- b. As a couple, they went with Paul on a mission trip, Acts 18:18 "*And Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.*"
- c. As a couple, they mentored and discipled promising young ministers, Acts 18:26 "*and he (Appollos) began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*"
  
- B. Matthew 28:19 & 20 states, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" Each individual is responsible for this verse before God, but in the covenant of marriage, it is expected that when the two become one there will be a melding of gifts and callings, bringing the two together into an exciting ministry future which God has planned for them. That their home will be a center for ministry activities, that as a couple they will be available to serve the Lord on long or short term mission trips and that they will use their home to nurture young men and women in the faith leading youth, college, singles, young couples studies that the next generation of Christian laborers might be assured.

#### **V. Reflection:**

- A. If you decide that you are not individually responsible for any of the covenants mentioned. Who do you want to step in and do it in your place?
- B. Who do you want to model these responsibilities for your spouse? Who do you want to step in to fill the void which your negligence has created?
- C. If you are unwilling to respond responsibly to your vows, to the covenant you have made with God, who do you want to take your place?

#### **VI. Conclusion**

In the Marriage Covenant there are certain mutual vows, which the couple brings with them and which now, upon becoming one, they join in, in their new relationship with God as the two have become one. These vows are in the area of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and personal discipleship and shared involvement in the ministry.

# POST STUDY PROJECTS CHAPTER Four

**Remember: You do not have to do what I do but you have to do something.**  
 In terms of your application of Scripture, you do not have to do it my way. My applications are in no way inspired by God, they are simply given to you as a service. Perhaps you will find them helpful, perhaps they will stimulate your thinking as creative ideas and you will use them as a stepping stone to your own creative applications. You do however have to do something. If you respond, "Rev. Mahon, that is your way, it reflects your age, gifts and calling, that is just not me." That is perfectly OK, I have no problem with that, as long as I when I ask you, "Fine, what is 'your way'?" that you do not respond, "nothing". You do not have to do what I do but you have to do something, "nothing" is not an acceptable answer, the Word of God demands an application. You do not have to use my application but you have to do something.

Scripture Memory Verse –

***2TI 3:16 & 17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.***

Back Review:

- Matthew 19:4 - 6
- Proverbs 2:16 & 17
- Malachi 2:14
- Mark 10:9
- Mark 10:11 & 12
- Joshua 1:8

**A husband's and wife's covenant needs, are created by God, they are lasting and legitimate needs, for which they have no morale outlet outside of marriage.**

## **The Obedient Marriage Covenant In Action**

The application to this section might be called “The Obedient Marriage Covenant In Action”. With Christ the center of the marriage, the husband and wife in mystical union having become “one flesh” as they enter into their marriage covenant, they become, as a result one both in their devotion to and service of the Lord. As a couple they devote themselves to the Word of God, to Prayer, to the Fellowship of the Church and to the Ministry of disciplermaking, not just in their home but being available to the World and in so doing are obedient in all ways to their Lord and the covenant which binds them in marriage.

In the project below...

First read the passage concerning Aquila and Priscilla.

Next circle the key words which pertain to their devotion to God and the ministry.

Lastly contrast your own marriage, your priorities and your actions with theirs.

*ACT 18:2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,*

Read the passage and circle the key words.

My marriage and priorities as contrasted with theirs...

My Marriage and Priorities	Aquila and Priscilla's Marriage and Priorities

*ACT 18:18 And Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.*

Read the passage and circle the key words.

My marriage and priorities as contrasted with theirs...

My Marriage and Priorities	Aquila and Priscilla's Marriage and Priorities

*ACT 18:26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*  
Read the passage and circle the key words.

My marriage and priorities as contrasted with theirs...

<b>My Marriage and Priorities</b>	<b>Aquila and Priscilla's Marriage and Priorities</b>

*ROM 16:3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,*

Read the passage and circle the key words.

My marriage and priorities as contrasted with theirs...

<b>My Marriage and Priorities</b>	<b>Aquila and Priscilla's Marriage and Priorities</b>

*1CO 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*

Read the passage and circle the key words.

My marriage and priorities as contrasted with theirs...

<b>My Marriage and Priorities</b>	<b>Aquila and Priscilla's Marriage and Priorities</b>

What changes do we need to make as a couple to bring our lives more into line with the priorities of this couple?

Their availability to the ministry was coupled with skills that made them useful. Skills in the Word, Prayer, Fellowship and Witnessing. What changes in our lives do we need to make to bring ourselves more into line with this godly couple?

List four actions steps that you as a couple should begin taking to make you, like Aquila and Priscilla, both available and useful to the Lord for service, not only in your church but in the harvest fields of the world.

## Personal Evaluation and Inventory

The next three pages have projects of you to complete, first as individuals and then as couples. First: separate from each other, the husband and the wife fill out their own personal inventory as it pertains to them personally. This inventory is not generic but rather should be done as it applies specifically to your role in the marriage.

For instance. Note the husband's inventory is titled "My walk with God as the husband and spiritual leader of the home". The husband would read the first passage as it applies to the Word of God in his life. He would do the inventory and personal evaluation though in terms of the Word of God in his life as it applies to his walk with God as the husband and spiritual leader of the home. Not simply his personal devotional time or personal commitment to the Word of God but rather as he applies the Word of God directly to his role as husband and spiritual leader in the home.

Likewise the wife's inventory is titled "My walk with God as the wife and spiritual helpmate in the home". When she does her inventory and personal evaluation, she will first read the passage and then do her evaluation, not in terms of her generic commitment to the Word of God and personal devotional life but specifically the portion the Word of God plays in her active role and ministry as wife and spiritual helpmate in the home.

Lastly, you will both sit down together, share your thoughts as they apply to your own walk with God in the context of marriage and home and then discuss together how you as a couple can grow in each of these areas.

Remember, you are not evaluating your spouse, you are not evaluating yourself in a general or generic sense, you are taking a personal inventory specifically as to how you are doing in these areas in terms of your Biblical role in marriage and the home.

# My Walk With God

## As The Husband And Spiritual Leader Of The Home

For the husband only: Read each passage and do the personal evaluation as it applies to your walk with God as the husband and spiritual leader of the home. Not in a generic sense but rather as it applies directly to your role as husband and spiritual leader in the home.

### **Passage**

#### **The Word of God**

***Joshua 1:8*** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

### **Personal Evaluation**

### **Prayer**

***Philippians 4:6 & 7*** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Fellowship of Believers**

***Hebrews 10:24 & 25*** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

### **Personal Witnessing**

***Acts 1:8*** but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. "

### **Harvest Fields of the World**

***Matthew 28:19 & 20*** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

# My Walk With God

## As The Wife And Spiritual Helpmate In The Home

For the wife only: Read each passage and do the personal evaluation as it applies to your walk with God as wife and spiritual helpmate in the home. Not in a generic sense but rather as it applies directly to your role as wife and spiritual helpmate in the home.

### **Passage**

#### **The Word of God**

***Joshua 1:8*** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

### **Personal Evaluation**

### **Prayer**

***Philippians 4:6 & 7*** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Fellowship of Believers**

***Hebrews 10:24 & 25*** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

### **Personal Witnessing**

***Acts 1:8*** but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. "

### **Harvest Fields of the World**

***Matthew 28:19 & 20*** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

# Our Walk With God

## Seeking To Walk With God And Minister As One

Lastly, you will both sit down together, share your thoughts as they apply to your walk with God in the context of marriage and home and then discuss together how you as a couple can grow in each of these areas.

### **Passage**

#### **The Word of God**

***Joshua 1:8*** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."

### **Prayer**

***Philippians 4:6 & 7*** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Fellowship of Believers**

***Hebrews 10:24 & 25*** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

### **Personal Witnessing**

***Acts 1:8*** but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. "

### **Harvest Fields of the World**

***Matthew 28:19 & 20*** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

### **Evaluation As A Couple**

## Personal Evaluation

### **In Doing This Evaluation Consider The Key Points Of This Chapter**

**Husband:**

If you decide that you are not individually responsible for any of the covenants mentioned, who do you want to step in and do it in your place?

If you are unwilling to personally fulfill your responsibilities towards your covenant vow what alternatives does that leave your wife with in terms of a man meeting these needs in her life?

If you are unwilling to respond responsibly to your vows, to the covenant you have made with God, are you willing for another Christian woman, who is your age and equally compatible with your spouse, to step in and to take your place?

**Wife:**

If you decide that you are not individually responsible for any of the covenants mentioned, who do you want to step in and do it in your place?

If you are unwilling to personally fulfill your responsibilities towards your covenant vow what alternatives does that leave your husband with in terms of a woman meeting these needs in his life?

If you are unwilling to respond responsibly to your vows, to the covenant you have made with God, are you willing for another Christian man, who is your age and equally compatible with your husband, to step in and to take your place?

**If you are doing this study as part of a small group it may be several days before you get together and discuss this chapter. In the space below write any questions or observations which you want to be sure to bring up when you get together in your home group or Bible study.**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD****JEREMIAH 15:16****THEME: A Shared Commitment To Discipleship****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Galatians 2:20**How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?****Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** II Timothy 3:16 & 17**How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?****Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:** Joshua 1:8**How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?****Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

GCI - All Rights Reserved; no portion of this may be copied or reproduced for sale or public distribution without the express consent of GCI or Rev. John S. Mahon

**JEREMIAH 15:16****THEME: A Shared Commitment To Discipleship****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Philippians 4:6 & 7****How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 10:24 & 25****How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Acts 1:8****How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**