

*A Spirit-Empowered Faith Expresses Itself in
Great Commission Living
Empowered by Great Commandment Love*

A Spirit-Empowered Faith begins with the end in mind: The Great Commission calls us to make disciples.



Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).

The ultimate goal of our faith journey is to relate to the person of Jesus, because it is our relational connection to Jesus that will produce Christ-likeness and spiritual growth. This relational perspective of discipleship is required if we hope to have a faith that is marked by the Spirit's power.

Models of discipleship that are based solely upon what we know and what we do are incomplete, lacking the empowerment of a life of loving and living intimately with Jesus. A Spirit-empowered faith is relational and impossible to realize apart from a special work of the Spirit. For example, the Spirit-empowered outcome of "listening to and hearing God" implies relationship—it is both relational in focus and requires the Holy Spirit's power to live.

A Spirit-Empowered Faith begins at the right place: The Great Commandment calls us to start with loving God and loving others.



"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40).

Relevant discipleship does not begin with doctrines or teaching, parables or stewardship—but with loving the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and then loving the people closest to you. Since Matthew 22:37-40 gives us the first and greatest commandment, a Spirit-empowered faith starts where the Great Commandment tells us to start: A disciple must first learn to deeply love the Lord and to express His love to the "nearest ones"—his family, church, and community (and in that order).



A Spirit-Empowered Faith embraces a relational process of Christ-likeness.

Scripture reminds us that there are three sources of light for our journey—Jesus, His Word and His people. The process of discipleship (or becoming more like Jesus) occurs as we relate intimately with each source of light.

Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you (John 12:35).

Spirit-empowered discipleship will require a lifestyle of:

- Fresh encounters with Jesus (John 8:12)
- Frequent experiences of Scripture (Psalm 119:105)
- Faithful engagement with God's people (Matthew 5:14)



A Spirit-Empowered Faith can be defined with observable outcomes using a Biblical framework.

The metrics for measuring Spirit-empowered faith or the growth of a disciple comes from Scripture and are organized/framed around four distinct dimensions of a disciple who serves.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11–12).

A relational framework for organizing Spirit-Empowered Discipleship outcomes draws from a cluster analysis of several Greek (*diakoneo*, *leitourgeo*, *douleuo*) and Hebrew words (*'abad*, *Sharat*) which elaborate on the Ephesians 4:12 declaration that Christ's followers are to be equipped for works of ministry or service. Therefore, the forty Spirit-Empowered faith outcomes have been identified and organized around:

- Serving/loving the Lord—While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting... (Acts 13:2 NASB)¹
- Serving/loving the Word—But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4 NASB)²
- Serving/loving people—through love serve one another (Galatians 5:13 NASB)³
- Serving/loving His mission—Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18 NASB)⁴

¹ Ferguson, David L. Great Commandment Principle. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2013

² Ferguson, David L. Relational Foundations. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2004

³ Ferguson, David L. Relational Discipleship. Cedar Park, Texas: Relationship Press, 2005

⁴ "Spirit Empowered Outcomes", [www.empowered21.com](http://empowered21.com), Empowered 21 Global Council, <http://empowered21.com/discipleship-materials/>



Outcomes

Spirit-Empowered Discipleship Global Task Force

Self Assessment of Discipleship Outcomes

Background: The Empowered 21 Global Task Force on discipleship is conducting feedback on age-stage outcomes in four different dimensions of what a Spirit-Empowered Disciple looks like—their identity. Critical to the development of these outcomes is the following guiding principle: *“Spirit-empowered discipleship outcomes must be relational and impossible to realize apart from a special work of the Spirit.”*

Framework: 40 possible outcomes are included in this assessment, clustered around the following four dimensions:

Four Dimensions of A Spirit-Empowered Disciple have been identified as one who: **Loves the Lord, Loves the Word, Loves People, and Loves His Mission.**

1. Instructions:

Prayerfully reflect on each of the 40 indicators and indicate (from 1 to 5) your sense of how “true” this is of you; next, note any comments or questions that seem confusing or unclear about how this outcome is stated, followed by any additional scripture references that come to mind that might support the importance of this indicator.

2. At the conclusion of each section of ten outcomes, complete any reflections on the summary question: “Other than these ten(10) outcomes—what might have been missed? Are there other outcomes that are important?”

3. Finally, consider “mapping” your 40 self-evaluation outcomes into the “Explore-Embrace-Experience-Express” process chart (see pages 18-19). Map your ten Love the Lord items using code L1-L10; map your ten Love the Word items using the code W1-W10; map your ten Love People items using the code P1-P10; map your ten Love His Mission items using the code M1-M10.

Use the following criteria in mapping:

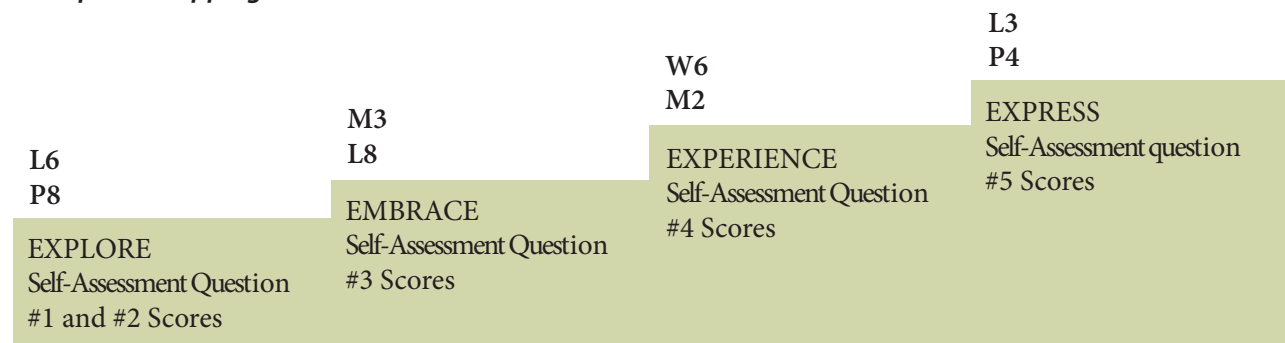
Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 5 scores as **Express**.

Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 4 scores as **Experience**.

Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 3 scores as **Embrace**.

Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 1 or 2 scores as **Explore**.

Example of mapping 8 of the 40 indicators:



When completed, you will have mapped (using pages 18-19) a total of all 40 outcomes—10 L’s, 10 W’s, 10 P’s, and 10 M’s.



SPIRIT
EMPOWERED
Faith

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves the Lord through

L1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things. *“Enter the gates with thanksgiving” (Ps. 100:4). “In everything give thanks” (1 Th. 5:18). “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (II Cor. 6:10).*

L2. Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment. *“Speak Lord, Your servant is listening” (I Sam. 3:8–9). “Mary... listening to the Lord’s word, seated at his feet” (Lk. 10:38–42). “Shall I not share with Abraham what I am about to do?” (Gen. 18:17). “His anointing teaches you all things” (I Jn. 2:27).*

L3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him. *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deut. 6:4,5). “Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice” (Is. 30:18). See also John 14:9.*

L4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.” *“And His banner over me is love” (Song of Sol. 2:4). “To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the beloved” (Eph. 1:6). “For the Lord gives to His beloved even in their sleep” (Ps. 127:2).*

L5. Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things. *“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord—he who has clean hands and a pure heart” (Ps. 24:3). “Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (II Cor. 7:1). “I always do the things that are pleasing to Him” (Jn. 8:29). “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him” (Job 13:15).*

L6. Consistent practice of self-denial, fasting, and solitude rest. *He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do” (Matt. 16:23). “But you when you fast...” (Mt. 6:17). “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10).*

L7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship. *“Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me...” (Ps. 103:1). “Worship the Lord with reverence” (Ps. 2:11). “I praise Thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth...” (Mt. 11:25).*

L8. Disciplined, bold and believing prayer. *“Pray at all times in the Spirit” (Eph. 6:18). “Call unto me and I will answer...” (Jer. 33:3)). “If you ask according to His will—He hears—and you will have...” (I Jn. 5: 14–15).*

L9. Yielding to the Spirit’s fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts and witness of the fruit of the Spirit. *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit” (I Cor. 12:13). “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” (Acts 1:8). “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (I Cor. 12:7). See also, I Pet. 4:10, and Rom. 12:6.*

L10. Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit’s work of Christ-likeness. *“And we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness from glory to glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (II Cor. 3:18). “As the deer pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God” (Ps. 42:1).*

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple— Loves the Word through

W1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word. *“Love the Lord thy God—love thy neighbor; upon these two commandments deepens all the law and prophets” (Mt. 22:37-40). “I delight in Your commands because I love them.” (Ps. 119:47). “The ordinances of the Lord are pure—they are more precious than gold—sweeter than honey” (Ps. 19:9-10).*

W2. Being a “living epistle” in reverence and awe as His Word becomes real in my life, vocation, and calling. *“You yourselves are our letter—known and read by all men” (II Cor. 3:2). “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). “Husbands love your wives—cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word” (Eph. 5:26). See also Tit. 2:5. “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord...” (Col. 3:23).*

W3. Yielding to the scripture’s protective cautions and transforming power to bring life change in me. *“I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path” (Ps. 119:104). “Be it done unto me according to Your word” (Lk. 1:38). “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word” (Ps. 119:9). See also Col. 3:16–17.*

W4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing of the Spirit’s transforming work through the Word. *“I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame” (Ps. 119:46). “Preach the word; be ready in season and out to shame” (II Tim. 4:2).*

W5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart. *“I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You” (Ps. 119:12). “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer” (Ps. 19:14).*

W6. Encountering Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christ-likeness. *“All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit” (II Cor. 3:18). “If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (Jn. 15:7). See also Lk. 24:32, Ps. 119:136, and II Cor. 1:20.*

W7. A life-explained as one of “experiencing scripture”. *“This is that spoken of by the prophets” (Acts 2:16). “My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life” (Ps. 119:50). “My soul is consumed with longing for Your laws at all times” (Ps. 119:20).*

W8. Living “naturally supernatural” in all of life as His Spirit makes the written Word (logos) the living Word (Rhema). *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word (Rhema) of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Ps. 119:105).*

W9. Living abundantly “in the present” as His Word brings healing to hurt and anger, guilt, fear and condemnation—which are heart hindrances to life abundant. *“The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy...” (John 10:10). “I run in the path of Your commands for You have set my heart free” (Ps. 119:32). “...and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free” (Jn. 8:32). “For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery” (Gal. 5:1).*

W10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail. *“The grass withers and the flower fades but the Word of God abides forever” (Is. 40:8). “So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth, it will not return to me empty” (Is. 55:11).*

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple— Loves People through

- P1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good in all of life: relationships and vocation, community and calling.** *“...He went about doing good...” (Acts 10:38). “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Mt. 5:16). “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men” (Lk. 6:35; Rom. 15:2).*
- P2. “Startling people” with loving initiatives to “give first.”** *“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return” (Lk. 6:38). “But Jesus was saying, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’” (Lk. 23:34, 23:43 and Jn. 19:27).*
- P3. Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give of His love.** *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4:29). “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19; Lk. 6:30).*
- P4. Seeing people as needing BOTH redemption from sin AND intimacy in relationships, addressing both human fallen-ness and aloneness.** *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). “When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house’” (Lk. 19:5; Mk. 8:24, and Gen. 2:18)*
- P5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the church.** *“You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered” (1 Pet. 3:1, 3:7 and Ps. 127:3).*
- P6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as a lifestyle and identity.** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” (Gal. 5:22-23). “With the fruit of a man’s mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips” (Prov. 18:20).*
- P7. Expecting and demonstrating the supernatural as His spiritual gifts are made manifest and His grace is at work by His Spirit.** *“In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ” (Rom. 15:19). “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also...” (Jn. 14:12; Cor. 14:1).*
- P8. Taking courageous initiative as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life’s journey.** *“... Live in peace with one another” (1 Th. 5:13). “For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall” (Eph. 2:14). “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed (Jas. 5:16; Eph. 4:31–32).*
- P9. Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of “others” as He continues to challenge us to love “beyond our comfort.”** *“The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 Jn. 2:4). “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 Jn. 4:20).*
- P10. Humbly acknowledging to the Lord, ourselves, and others that it is Jesus in and through us who is loving others at their point of need.** *“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Mt. 11:29). “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet” (Jn. 13:14).*

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple— Loves His Mission through

M1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community. *"Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us" (1 Th. 2:8-9; Eph. 6:19).*

M2. Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared. *"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose" (Lk. 4:43). "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" (Jn. 17:18). "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to you" (Ps. 51:12-13; Mic. 6:8).*

M3. Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living. *"There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12). "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10; Acts 4:12; Jn. 10:10, and Jn. 14:6).*

M4. Yielding to the Spirit's role to convict others as He chooses, resisting expressions of condemnation. *"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. . ." (Jn. 16:8). "Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us" (Rom. 8:1; 8:34).*

M5. Ministering His life and love to the "least of these". *"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me'" (Mt. 25:45). "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (Jas. 1:27).*

M6. Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God's Lordship in all things. *"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!" (11 Thess. 3:16). "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:15; Rom. 8:28 and Ps. 146:5).*

M7. Faithfully sharing of time, talent, gifts, and resources in furthering His mission. *"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God" (Col. 1:25). "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more" (Lk. 12:48; 1 Cor. 4:1-2).*

M8. Attentive listening to others' story, vulnerably sharing of our story, and a sensitive witness of Jesus' story as life's ultimate hope; developing your story of prodigal, pre-occupied and pain-filled living; listening for other's story and sharing Jesus' story. *"...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pet. 3:15). "...because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again" (Luke 11:24; Mark 5:21-42; Jn. 9:1-35)*

M9. Pouring our life into others, making disciples who in turn make disciples of others. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all 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," (Mt. 28:19-20; Tim. 2:2).*

M10. Living submissively within His Body, the Church as instruction and encouragement, reproof and correction are graciously received by faithful disciples. *"...and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ" (Eph. 5:21). "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted" (Gal. 6:1-2).*

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves the Lord Through:

Self-Assessment

1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things.

“Enter the gates with thanksgiving” (Psalm 100:4). “In everything give thanks” (I Thes. 5:18). “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (II Cor. 6:10).

2. Listening to and hearing God.

“Speak Lord, Your servant is listening” (Is. 3:8-9). “Mary...listening to the Lord’s word, seated at his feet” (Luke 10:38-42).

3. Yields to the Spirit’s fullness for intimacy and discernment, direction, and empowerment.

“Be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). “Shall I not share with Abraham what I am about to do?” (Gen. 18:17). “The Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Rom. 8:26). “His anointing teaches you all things” (I Jn. 2:27). “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” (Acts 1:8).

4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”

“And His banner over me is love” (Song of Sol. 2:4). “To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the beloved” (Eph. 1:6). “For the Lord gives to His beloved even in their sleep” (Ps. 127:2).

5. Living with a passionate longing to be like Him and please Him in all things.

“I always do the things that are pleasing to Him” (Jn. 8:29). “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him” (Job 13:15). “As the deer pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God” (Ps. 42:1).

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves the Lord Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things.					
2. Listening to and hearing God.					
3. Yields to the Spirit’s fullness for intimacy and discernment, direction, and empowerment.					
4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved”.					
5. Living with a passionate longing to be like Him and please Him in all things.					

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves the Lord Through:

6. Practicing a life of self-denial, solitude and sabbath rest.

"But you when you fast..." (Mt. 6:17). "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8). "There remains therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God" (Heb. 4:9-10).

7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship.

"Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me..." (Ps. 103:1). "Worship the Lord with reverence" (Ps. 2:11). "I praise Thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth..." (Mt. 11:25).

8. Disciplined, bold and believing prayer.

"Pray at all times in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18). "Call unto me and I will answer..." (Jer. 33:3)). "If you ask according to His will—He hears—and you will have..." (I Jn. 5: 14-15).

9. Faithful stewardship and exercise of the gifts of the Spirit.

"For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (I Cor. 12:13). "As each has received a special gift, employ it—as good stewards" (I Pet. 4:10). "We have gifts that differ—let each exercise them" (Rom. 12:6).

10. Practicing the presence and purity of the Lord.

"Who may ascend the hill of the Lord—he who has clean hands and a pure heart" (Ps. 24:3). "And we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness from glory to glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (II Cor. 3:18). "Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Cor. 7:1).



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves the Lord Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
6. Practicing a life of self-denial, solitude and sabbath rest.					
7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship.					
8. Disciplined, bold and believing prayer.					
9. Faithful stewardship and exercise of the gifts of the Spirit.					
10. Practicing the presence and purity of the Lord.					

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Serves His Word Through:

1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.

“Love the Lord thy God—love thy neighbor; upon these two commandments deepens all the law and prophets” (Mt. 22:37-40). “I delight in Your commands because I love them.” (Ps. 119:47).. “The ordinances of the Lord are pure—they are more precious than gold—sweeter than honey” (Ps. 19:9-10).

2. Living as a “living epistle” in reverence and awe as His Word becomes flesh.

“You yourselves are our letter—known and read by all men” (II Cor. 3:2). “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). “I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path” (Ps. 119:104). “Husbands love your wives—cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word” (Eph. 5:26). “(women) be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be serving to their husbands, so that no one will malign the Word of God” (Tit. 2:5).

3. Yielding to the Spirit-book’s transforming power to bring life change.

“Be it done unto me according to Your word” (Lk. 1:38). “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word” (Ps. 119:9). “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly—and whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:16-17).

4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing of the Spirit’s transforming work through the Word.

“I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame” (Ps. 119:46). “Preach the word; be ready in season and out to shame” (II Tim. 4:2).

5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart.

“I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You” (Ps. 119:12). “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer” (Ps. 19:14).



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Serves His Word Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

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Somewhat True
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	1	2	3	4	5
1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.					
2. Living as a “living epistle” in reverence and awe as His Word becomes flesh.					
3. Yielding to the Spirit-book’s transforming power to bring life change.					
4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing of the Spirit’s transforming work through the Word.					
5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart.					

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Serves His Word Through:

6. Fresh, frequent and transforming encounters with the Christ of Scripture.

"If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (Jn. 15:7).

"Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed" (Ps. 119:136). "As many as may be the promises of God in Him (Jesus) they are yes" (II Cor. 1:20).

7. A life-explained as one of "experiencing scripture".

"This is that spoken of by the prophets" (Acts 2:16). "My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life" (Ps. 119:50). "My soul is consumed with longing for Your laws at all times" (Ps. 119:20).

8. Living "naturally supernatural" in all of life as His Spirit makes logos--Rhema.

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Ps. 119:105).

9. Living "in the present" as His Word heals hurt and anger, guilt, fear and condemnation—which are heart hindrances to life abundant.

"The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy..." (John 10:10). "I run in the path of Your commands for You have set my heart free" (Ps. 119:32). "and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (Jn. 8:32).

10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail.

"The grass withers and the flower fades but the Word of God abides forever" (Is. 40:8).



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Serves His Word Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
6. Fresh, frequent and transforming encounters with the Christ of Scripture.					
7. A life—explained as one of “experiencing scripture”.					
8. Living “naturally supernatural in all of life as His Spirit makes logos—Rhema.					
9. Living “in the present” as His Word heals hurt and anger, guilt, fear and condemnation—which are <i>heart hindrances</i> to life abundant.					
10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail.					

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Love Through:

1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good.

"...He went about doing good..." (Acts 10:38). "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 5:16). "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men" (Lk. 6:35). "Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification" (Rom. 15:2).

2. Practicing "startling people" with loving initiatives to "give first".

*"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return" (Lk. 6:38). "But Jesus was saying, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves" (Lk. 23:34). "And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise'" (Lk. 23:43). "Then He *said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' From that hour the disciple took her into his own household"(Jn. 19:27).*

3. Giving to others at the point of their need.

"Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back" (Lk. 6:30). "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear" (Eph. 4:29). "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

4. Seeing people as God sees them, so we can love them as God loves them.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, 'Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.'" (Lk. 19:5). "And he looked up and said, 'I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around.'" (Mk. 8:24).

5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family.

"You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered" (I Pet. 3:7). "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" (I Pet. 3:1). "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Ps. 127:3).



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Love Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good.					
2. Practicing “startling people” with loving initiatives to “give first”.					
3. Giving to others at the point of their need.					
4. Seeing people as God sees them, so we can love them as God loves them.					
5. Ministering His life and love to our “nearest ones” at home and with family.					

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Love Through:

6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as a lifestyle and identity.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." (Gal. 5:22-23). "With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips" (Prov. 18:20).

7. Living expectantly of the supernatural as His gifts and grace are at work by His Spirit.

"In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the "Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 15:19). "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father" (Jn. 14:12). "Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy" (I Cor. 14:1).

8. Lives life as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life's journey.

"...Live in peace with one another" (I Th. 5:13). "For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall" (Eph. 2:14). "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (Jms. 5:16). "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:31-32).

9. Serving His love through an ever growing network of "others".

"The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I Jn. 2:4). "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (I Jn. 4:20).

10. Humbly yields to the leadership of Jesus in loving others well.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt. 11:29). "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn. 13:14).



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Love Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
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	1	2	3	4	5
6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as lifestyle and identity.					
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8. Lives life as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life's journey.					
9. Serving His love through an ever growing network of “others”.					
10. Humbly yields to the leadership of Jesus in loving others well.					

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Mission Through:

1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily life and mission.

"Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God" (1 Th. 2:8-9). "...and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel"(Eph. 6:19).

2. Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God.

"But He said to them, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose'" (Lk. 4:43). "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world"(Jn. 17:18). "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to you"(Ps. 51:12-13).

3. Expressing compassion and justice, love and forgiveness.

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Mic. 6:8). "They refused to listen, and did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; so they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness; and You did not forsake them" (Neh. 9:17).

4. Yielding to the Spirit's role to convict, resisting condemnation.

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."(Jn. 16:8). "Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us" (Rom. 8:34). "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

5. Ministering His life and love to the "least of these".

"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me'" (Mt. 25:45). "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (Jms. 1:27).



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Mission Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

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Infrequently True
Somewhat True
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	1	2	3	4	5
1. Imparting the gospel and one’s very life in daily life and mission.					
2. Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God.					
3. Expressing compassion and justice, love and forgiveness.					
4. Yielding to the Spirit’s role to convict, resisting condemnation.					

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Mission Through:

6. Exhibiting a confident peace and expectant hope in God's role and reign in all things.

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!" (II Thess. 3:16). "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:15). "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). "How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord His God" (Ps. 146:5).

7. Faithfully sharing of time, talent, gifts, and resources in furthering His mission.

"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God" (Col. 1:25). "...but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more" (Lk. 12:48). "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy" (I Cor. 4:1-2).

8. Encouraging the pain-filled as they journey to explore Jesus.

"Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?'" (Jn. 9:35-36). "Seeing their faith, He said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you.'" (Lk. 5:20). "...weep with those who weep" (Rm. 12:15b).

9. Accepting prodigals as "created in His image"-sinful but priceless.

"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him" (Lk. 15:20). "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.'" (Jn. 8:11).

10. Supporting the "pre-occupied" as they struggle to prioritize Jesus.

*"When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. One of the synagogue officials named Jairus *came up, and on seeing Him, *fell at His feet" (Mk. 5:21-22). "But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, *said to the synagogue official, 'Do not be afraid any longer, only believe.'" (Mk. 5:36). "For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need" (Acts 4:34-35).*



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Serves His Mission Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
6. Exhibiting a confident peace and expectant hope in God’s role and reign in all things					
7. Faithfully sharing of time, talent, gifts and resources in furthering His mission					
8. Encouraging the <i>pain-filled</i> as they journey to explore Jesus					
9. Accepting <i>prodigals</i> as “created in His image”-sinful but priceless					
10. Supporting the “pre-occupied” as they struggle to prioritize Jesus					

Age-Stage Model

First-century faith followed a pattern of belong- become-believe!

- “Come follow me” Matt. 4:19; (Belong)
- “Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1; (Become)
- “You are the Christ” Matt. 16:16; (Believe)

CAUTION!

Numerous studies, including the Willowcreek *Reveal* study, indicate that the process below, in many ways, has broken down between stages 2 and 3 (i.e. what we have *explored* and personally *embraced* has *not become an experienced lifestyle* and thus not the believer’s identity).

EXPLORE truths of the faith in the safety of accepting relationships.



Allow belonging before believing.

EMBRACE truths of the faith in a personal way.



The imperative is moments of personal decision, encounter, and application.



Process of Faith Formation Requires: Encounters with Jesus

Belong-Become-Believe

The Willowcreek *Reveal* study uses the four terms, Exploring Christ, Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, and Christ-Centered.

Early church followers used stage terms such as seeker, hearer, kneeler, faithful. The Apostolic Tradition written around A.D. 215 by Hippolytus, bishop of Rome, is documented by Robert E. Webber in *Journey to Jesus* (Abington Press, 2001), pages 11–15.

EXPERIENCE truths of the faith in everyday life.



CAUTION! Monday–Friday living is where discipleship too often breaks down.

EXPRESS truths of the faith to others through your identity as a Christ-follower.

Selected Outcomes:

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple:

- Listens to and hears God.
- Lives life through experiencing Scripture.
- Shares His love with near ones beginning at home.
- Yields to the Spirit for intimacy and discernment, direction and empowerment.

Identity is contagious as others follow this Explore-Embrace-Experience-Express process.

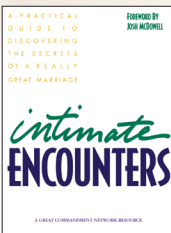
Experiences of Scripture and Engaging Community →

Resources

MARRIAGE

Intimate Encounters

Through Intimate Encounters, participants will learn how to identify relationship needs such as attention, affection, and respect; learn to emotionally care for one another; strengthen oneness in spirit, soul, and body; resolve painful emotions such as hurt, anger, guilt, and communicate honestly and lovingly. Experience the marriage you've always wanted!

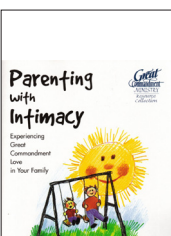


PARENTING

Parenting With Intimacy

How can you discover what your children need most?

This resource provides practical, Christ-centered principles for truly knowing your children, allowing them to know you, and hands-on exercises to become caringly involved in their lives. A great workbook for engaging parents in a Deuteronomy 6 vision for discipling their own children.



Extreme Home Makeover

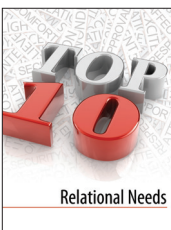
This resource focuses on renovating relationships and imparting faith at home. Parents...live out your calling to disciple your children, engage others around you with Biblical principles that work. Learn how to experience truth and live in community. This resource is great for anyone...couples, singles and youth! There is something for everyone.



RELATIONAL HEALTH

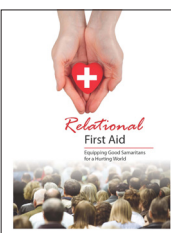
Top Ten Relational Needs Workshop

Top Ten Relational Needs is a course of study designed to help participants explore key relational needs that all humans share. This resource will help participants gain greater insight into the ways that God meets their relational needs, as well as equip them to better recognize and meet the needs of others. Excellent Women's and Single's Ministry resource.

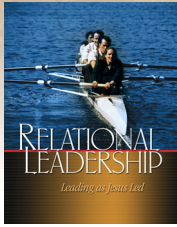


Relational First Aid

Through Relational First Aid, participants will learn how to identify relationship needs such as attention, affection, and respect. You'll learn practical tools for all care-giving relationships and how to see the needs beneath a person's deeds. Excellent resource for anyone who hopes to increase their skills for healthy relationships.



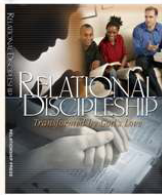
LEADERSHIP



Relational Leadership

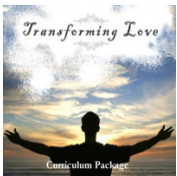
This resource focuses on the rediscovery of New Testament principles for leadership in the body of Christ. These principles center on the leadership style of Jesus, who led through caring, connected relationships, rather than positional power and formal influence.

DISCIPLESHIP



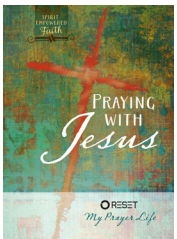
Relational Discipleship

This resource is designed to help participants discover God's purpose and calling for their lives, and to encourage believers to pursue the lifelong, life-changing process of becoming like Jesus. This process, which is often referred to as discipleship, or spiritual formation, is fundamentally relational in nature. The Relational Foundations resource is a recommended continuation study.



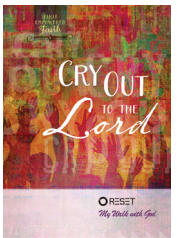
Transforming Love

The secret to life change doesn't lay in our ability to do the right things or know the right answers. The key to life change is our consistent experience of God's love. This resource will include specific times to encounter Jesus, experience Scripture and enjoy fellowship with God's people. You'll learn the secrets to spiritual transformation and rediscover a faith that thrives!



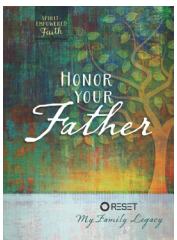
Praying with Jesus

Jesus is praying, but are we praying with Him? We may pray because Jesus told us to pray, or because He modeled prayer, but there is so much more to this mysterious conversation, this divine opportunity. This unique resource is designed to help RESET your prayer life. If you listen closely, you'll hear what He is praying for: the burdens of your heart, the needs of your life—the Savior is praying for you.



Cry Out to the Lord

This series seeks to encourage followers of Jesus in living a lifestyle of loving God and others, loving his Word and his mission to see others follow him through twenty unique studies in how to develop a Spirit-empowered faith.



Honor Your Father

When lived out, the command to "Honor your father and your mother" can change the trajectory of generations. Through eighty exercises, outlined in this book, you will be better equipped to honor your heavenly Father, pray for your family's legacy, develop a tribute to your father, and pass on a generational blessing to your children.