

## I. Introduction to Counseling Principles

Today we are going to review our third set of counseling principles that I have given you in the last five or six weeks. If you are visiting today, or if you haven't been around since the last time we did this, the reason why we are studying the book of 2 Corinthians is to really prepare ourselves to be ready to deal with people's problems. A number of folks in this church have put it in their heart that that's what they want to do. They want to help me work with people, getting principles and dealing with them through their issues. We call it a counseling ministry, but that's what we're going to do.

What I've been laying out are the principles that next year, after the first of the year, we are going to take these principles. We are going to find out who really has done the work with them, and then I'm going to start meeting with those people and going through every scenario in the Bible that is found to show you how to deal with every issue that a person is going to get into. It will be quite an extensive thing, but I want to take you to that point and get you there.

These principles that I'm going to give you today will be added to the other principles that you should be putting in the back of your Bible that help you deal with people. Every man or woman who has a specific trade that they do will have a specific set of tools to do the job. They always will. Plumbers have a certain set of tools that electricians don't necessarily use. Electricians have a set of tools that bricklayers don't normally use. Auto mechanics have tools that carpet layers don't use. Nurses and doctors have tools that lawyers don't use. Lawyers, they have their own set of ethics that they go by and the tools, the law books that they use, just like all the other specialized people.

I don't care what job you do that is a specialized job, other than maybe a Walmart greeter. But if you have a specialized job that you do, you know that you have a set of tools that you use in doing that particular job. You also know that to do the job right, you've got to have the right tools. If you don't have the right tools, the job is not going to get done to the quality that it probably should be.

This will be our third set of principles. Again, what I'm doing here is giving you the tools. I'm helping to equip you to get ready to do a job. This will be the third set of principles, and again, these will number from 1 to 17. If we get through them all today, we probably will. But this will make it easier for you to follow because now this will be our third set so far. Each one contains between 10 and 15 principles each, so it makes it kind of easier. John is taking them and completely laying them out for you so that you can get the worksheets and use them for that. There's really no excuse for you not getting this material other than the fact that you're just too lazy to do it.

This is what we will use when we start to deal with people. You've heard me say it: these principles have to go in your own life first. I'm giving you the tools, and I'm trying to prepare you as a Christian minister who will work with people to solve their issues of life. We need a

specific set of tools. John 3:16, as great as it is, won't cut it for just dealing with what we've got to deal with. This is what I'm doing: trying to equip you, to give you what you need, and then as we get on to next year, show you how to actually use the tools.

If you're here this morning and you're someone who's struggling with your own issues in your life, these principles are great for you. I don't want you to think that you came here today and you're saying, "Oh man, I've missed out on this and it really won't be relevant to where I'm at." No, absolutely not true. These principles this morning that I'm going to give my people are the principles of life that you need to have to solve problems in your life. So if you're here this morning and you are struggling with something in your own life, you're going to find today a number of Bible principles that are going to help you. If you so desire and you want help, you come and let me know and I'll get you the help that you need to make it all work for you. That's our job here.

## II. The Bible: Our Essential Tool for Life

I told you that the greatest aspect of the Bible, I think, and the Bible has a lot of great things with it. We look at our Bible chart back there that we use on Thursday night. We talk a lot about a lot of deep things in the Bible, the end times and where we're at with everything. That's certainly all important. But more important than all of that is your everyday relationship with God.

I heard Neil Armstrong, who was the first guy that walked on the moon. I don't know if you know about his life, but when he came back from walking on the moon, you would think that he would have everything he could want in life, being the first guy to do that. His life went absolutely into chaos. He lost his wife through a divorce. He lost everything he had. He got out of the astronaut program after a while, and his life just really went south. At some point in his life, he found the Lord as his own personal Savior, and it really changed his world.

I heard him give his testimony one time, and it was one of the greatest things I ever heard. He said this, and I never forgot it. He said, "NASA and everybody around me prepared me to walk on the moon." But he said, "My problem was that they prepared me to walk on the moon, but no one ever prepared me to live my life on planet Earth." I thought to myself, "Man, that is absolutely so true." All of the things that are the deep things in the Bible are really important, but the most important thing is your personal relationship with God. Do you get to the point in your life where you really fulfill what God wants you to do for Him?

We could define success many ways today, but I want to tell you, success from the Bible is simply not a man or a woman who makes a lot of money, or necessarily has a lot of friends, or has a lot of things, or has a big house. Success from the Bible standpoint is simply a man or a woman who finds out what God wants them to do with their life and then spends the rest of their life doing it. That's success.

Remember the greatest aspect about the Bible, I think, is to help you and I accomplish that and to help us deal with the issues of life. This is what we're going to be doing with people. We're going to help people who are just like yourselves, who have issues in their life that they struggle with, and things that they need to get worked out, and things that they come through, and we'll talk

about all of that. But the Bible is our textbook. We don't go to sociology or psychology or psychiatry. I know many, many preachers today, they embraced all the psychology and psychoanalysis and all that. If I have anything that I deal with in the Bible, I deal with psychoceramics. Psychoceramics is a biblical process of dealing with people. I deal with crackpots trying to fix the cracks in people's lives.

What you learn in time is the Bible is the book for you. The greatest single thing the Bible does is the Bible will show you and I a standard of what's right. It will give us what is right in life, what is absolutely God's viewpoint and truth from a right standpoint. The second thing the Bible does, and you've heard me say this before, the second thing the Bible does after it shows me what's right, it shows me what's wrong.

My mother asked me years ago, and she was never really deep into the Bible, she asked the question that so many people ponder about. Because the Bible is supposed to be a holy book, the Bible is supposed to be a good book, the Bible is supposed to be a book that is all about God, and God is love, God is righteous, God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. She asked me the question, "How come in the Bible, if the Bible is God's Word and it's all about right and what to do, how come there's absolutely almost in every story you find some of the most wicked sins and wicked things laid out and displayed in a Bible that's supposed to be God's Word and supposed to be holy?"

I thought that was a good question at the time, years ago. I told her, "Mom, it's because the Bible not only shows you what's right, the Bible shows you what's wrong." If the Bible does anything, it shows us what is true and what is right, and then it shows us what happens to you and to me when we don't do what's right with the Word of God. So you have page upon page, chapter upon chapter, story upon story of men and women who lie. Every sin with all of its wickedness, every sin with all of its ungodliness, everything that a man or a woman can get into is found between the pages of that book because it shows you what happens to you and me when we don't do what's right.

Many of you probably find yourself in that scenario today. You're here this morning, and maybe you wouldn't admit it to me or the person sitting next to you, but you have some real issues in your life. There are some things that are dogging you, some things that you just can't get past in your world. That's why the Bible is the book for you because not only does the Bible in its greatest aspect show me what's right and show me what's wrong, but the next thing it does, and this is where we are going to focus today, it shows me how to fix what's wrong.

Boy, wouldn't it be a terrible world if all the Bible did was show you what was right and show you what was wrong and then left you hanging? The beautiful thing about the Bible when God wrote it in its practical form to me and you is He shows us an absolute standard of right, an absolute standard of wrong, and then He will take you and me in the middle of that and fix and show us how to fix what's wrong with your life. That's really what the ministry is. That's really what these principles are all about today. That's really what we want to accomplish in a select group of people in this church who choose to allow God to put these things in their life, and then that's what we want to do. We don't know how long we have until the Lord comes back, but we

simply want to band together as a church to help people with their problem based on the Word of God, and that's just where we're at.

So the Bible shows you what's right, an absolute standard. It's an absolute standard for what's wrong, but then it shows you how to fix it. But boy, thank God for this: the last thing it does, it shows you how to maintain it and how to keep it fixed. So many people never solve their problems because they do with the Bible like we do with medicine when we're sick. No medicine tastes good. So most of us, because we're so unstructured and so undisciplined—I'm speaking of myself now—when I was younger, I went back to the doctor for the same thing about four times before I finally figured out what my problem was. He'd give me, I had an infection, a strep throat or whatever it was, and he gave me pills to take care of it. But as soon as I was supposed to take them for 10 days, as soon as I started feeling better, guess what I did? I quit taking the medicine because I felt better. Then it just reoccurred over and over again. Finally, I just woke up one day, and I don't even remember all the circumstances, but I took the medicine to the end and it solved my problem.

This is what people need to do. They don't understand that the Bible shows you what's right, it shows you what's wrong, it shows you how to fix it, and then it shows you how to keep it fixed. There has to be a constant maintenance in our life. I don't know why people have a tough time with that. I just don't know. If you have a car, how many of you drive a car? Does your car not constantly have to be maintained? How many own a house? Do you not have to constantly maintain your house? I'm an always breaker. Some say, "We got a big house." I look at that, and I'm glad you do. But in my mind, the bigger the house, the more breaks.

Some of you people have these cell phones. We have one for the church. We put our Wi-Fi on. But some of you have these things that do everything. I was going to say everything but talk to you. It's Wi-Fi. What are you talking about? What is it? No, that's what you got. We got Wi-Fi. What do we got? It does everything. And yet, my little cell phone, all it does is make phone calls. I mean, it will do a lot of other things too. But I'm a firm believer that the more complicated it is, the more pieces in it, the more there is to break. It's a thing where maybe that's just me. But it's something that you and I have to maintain ourselves. There has to be a constant maintenance. So I want to show you not only the principles that will help you fix somebody's problem, show them what's right and wrong in their life. I want you to have enough understanding. If you're here this morning, you're going to get this out of here because even the principles that we're going to review are great for you wherever you're at today because the Holy Spirit of God will take them. But you need to learn to maintain yourself.

### III. Understanding Bible Principles: Direct vs. Practical

The main thing I want you to see today is I want you to understand something about Bible principles. Bible principles come in two formats, and this is very important. Bible principles come in two formats. In time, you will learn how to use both of these formats. Today, it's simple enough that you recognize that and see the difference here as I was explaining to you.

Some of the Bible principles that you're going to use, they are direct doctrinal concepts. They apply directly to it. For instance, when the Bible says over there in 2 Corinthians 6:14, where it says:

*2 Corinthians 6:14*

*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

You see, that's a principle, but that's a direct principle. It's right there. That's an absolute direct principle that's a hardline Bible principle. You're going to find that some principles are like that. Some are hardline doctrinal principles.

Other principles are basically principles of life. In other words, there's something that you always keep in your mind that you always view every circumstance through it, no matter what the circumstance is. For instance, 2 Corinthians 6:14 is a principle that's only used in one circumstance: dealing with unsaved people and relationships. But a practical principle is something that you'll keep to yourself, give it out to people, help people with as one of your tools. But it's something that you always keep in your mind and you view everything through it. It will be a principle that you'll use across the board in many, many, many applications. It's like one of those nifty little hammer, screwdriver, flare gun, compass, bottle pop opener tools that you buy. It's got multi-purposes where a hammer does one thing: it drives a nail. Multi-purpose principles will cover many, many aspects. They're principles that you just keep. You know them all, but you keep them in your mind and you view everything through life through it.

## IV. Core Principles for Personal Application

- 1.) Many times we are not responsible for the situations that we find ourselves in, but we are responsible for how we deal with it because it has to be by the Bible. Our first principle is one of those. It's a counseling principle that is a general principle that you're going to do, and we've talked about it many, many times, but it's something that you want to get down. It's the principle basically that many times we're not responsible for the situations that we find ourselves in. Many times we get into circumstances through no fault of our own. Many times, if not most of the time, that's probably not true. We cause our own issues. But there's going to be a time that you deal with people who have problems in their life that they are in it because of no consequences to themselves. I'll give you a great example. You have a husband and a wife, they get married and they're both unsaved. Because they're both unsaved, they don't go to church, they don't do anything for God, so who cares? They get married. Somewhere along the process, either the wife gets saved or the husband gets saved. Now we have an issue. Now we have a saved spouse and an unsaved spouse trying to reconcile. That can cause some problems, trying to work through life, trying to view things where the wife, say the wife got saved. Now, she looks at things totally different. The husband, he doesn't see it that way. We automatically have a conflict. That's a situation that's perfect for this principle. There are many of them. You're going to find as you start dealing with people many times, like this wife, she's in a situation that she didn't cause. When she got married, she was dead in

trespasses and sins. She was doing what an unsaved person does. Now she's gotten saved and her scenario has changed. Now she's married to an unsaved guy, she's a saved person. That's going to cause some issues if she's going to try to be everything that God wants her to be. This is where this principle comes in. She's not responsible for the situation she now finds herself in. But she is responsible—here comes the key to the principle—she is responsible how she deals with that situation that she's now in. In other words, she just can't say, "Well, he's unsaved and I'm saved, I'm leaving him." She can't say, "Well, I should have never married him before. I should have known now what I know now, and I never would have got married, so I'm out of here." Or she cannot be patient with him because he's unsaved and he doesn't see it like she does. Can't do that. Many times you're going to deal with people and you're going to find yourself in scenarios, if you stop and think about it, where what you're in happened to you because of nothing that you brought on yourself. You're really not responsible for the circumstances you're in. But you've got to remember that you always are responsible, you and I, for how we deal with any scenario. I may not have done anything to be in this scenario, but now that I'm in it, I have to make sure I do it by the biblical principles because I am responsible how I respond to it. That goes back to that great principle of reaction versus responding. Reacting will always be what the world would do. Responding is looking at a situation and doing through the biblical principles what the right thing to do is. This is where the book of Proverbs is such a great book. Chapter 8 through chapter 30, it's just loaded with scenarios that really show you a course of action and direction. The book of Ecclesiastes is that way too, except on a worldly perspective. It basically shows you the cause and the effect of why things happen in our life. So, principle number one, that's a very practical principle that you want to always remember. When you're dealing with people, you're going to find this scenario, and it's a great principle for yourself. That is the fact that many times we are not responsible for the situations we find ourselves in, but we are responsible for how we deal with it because it has to be by the Bible.

- 2.) Understand the three aspects of ministry: Perspective, Motive, and Attitude of Heart. The second principle, and you need to be able to explain and need to understand, and this is a practical one too, you need to be able to understand the three aspects of ministry. The greatest aspect of your life and my life, the greatest single thing, is keeping a balance in our life. We're not getting too busy, not getting this going here or not doing this, but keeping that balance between your job, your family, the relationship with God, your church, and all of those areas, your ministry and all of those things. Crucial, absolutely crucial. Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight. There are three things that I gave you that always help you to keep that balance. 1.) Perspective. Very important. Perspective is how you see things. I tell you all the time, "Don't see things," and I try to drive this into you. I try to, when you come to me and ask me something, I try to make the point that you see it. You never see things as they appear. Most of the things that you're going to deal with in life are not really what you have. I don't mean that anybody is purposely trying to deceive you, sometimes they will, but people have a tendency to tell the story when they're involved in it from their own standpoint that benefits them. That's just an act of human nature. It doesn't make them a bad person. We all do that. But what happens is, is that when you get into a scenario, you have to have perspective. Perspective is using the biblical

principles not to see the scenario as it appears, but as it actually is. Because that's the only way you can really work with it and you can really deal with it. Perspective forms the basis for that good balance. It really does. When you begin to see things by the principles through the Word of God and you begin to see them from God's standpoint, it brings everything into crystal clarity. I told you before, and we already talked about this principle, the importance of keeping your emotions out of things. Don't take things personal. This is the number one problem that keeps you from getting the right perspective. Your own emotional viewpoint clouds the biblical principles, and you just can't let that happen.2.) Motive. Motive forms your passion. Motive is what drives you and I. It's the passion. Right motive always forms the right passion behind what we do. When it comes to the Word of God, the reason why some of you will never minister is because you have no passion for the Word of God. It's real simple. The reason why some of you will come to church the rest of your life and you're a great person but you'll just simply never get involved and do anything is because you have no motivation along those lines. Your motivation means that you have no motivation, it means you have no passion. That goes back simply to this: you have never seen the Bible and why God gave it to you the way He did and the purpose by which He saved you. You never see the Bible as your book, your handbook. You have a relationship with God, you're probably saved. But you just never let God get that close to you. That affects everything you do. Some people, they love the things of life. They're saved and they're on their way to heaven. But money is everything to them. Big, fancy this is everything to them. That's what drives them. Those kind of people, bless their hearts, never get into ministry. You know why? Because the passion for God cannot contend with the passion you have for the things of this world. There's only one thing that takes the things of the world out of your life and puts it into the right motive, and that is understanding the book that God gave you and why He gave it to you.3.) Attitude of heart. That forms your purpose. Attitude of heart is why you do what you do. It goes back to because of what God did for you. So you have perspective, that forms the basis of the balance, and motive, that forms your passion. Attitude of heart forms your purpose. One of my, I think the greatest verse in the Bible on purpose is Daniel 1:8, where Daniel's down there in Babylon and he's caught up in all of this and taken from his family. Every temptation that you can imagine is being laid at his feet. If you could put yourself in Daniel's position, there's a case where Daniel is in a place where he had nothing done wrong to be there. He was God's man. He was doing everything right with God, yet he's caught up in a nation that's against God. So here, without him doing one thing wrong, he's rooted from his family, thrown down in Babylon, and now he's held captive in a foreign land. He's in a situation that he absolutely did nothing wrong, but now he's here. He's a great example of how the fact that he didn't choose to be there, he didn't do anything to get there, but now he has to respond to the situation that he's in. Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. That's what it comes down to. It comes down to you and me as God's child purposing in our heart, "I'm done with the world. I'm done with the things of this world," because there and there alone lies the value of understanding this great principle. In dealing with people, I'd say that your success rate of helping people is probably

90 percent, these three working in your life, and 10 percent Bible. Ten percent Bible with these three in place will go a lot farther than 100 percent of the Bible with these three things out of balance. They are so simple, but yet they're so profound. As we go through these today, I think you'll see these three, perspective, motive, and attitude of heart, blending in everything that we do.

- 3.) Never lose the victory in your life, no matter what the circumstances. The third principle is understanding probably the simplest, greatest verse in the Bible on never losing the victory in your life, no matter what the circumstances you find yourself in in dealing with people. In dealing with people, this is absolutely invaluable: how to maintain your personal victory in the chaos of somebody else's disaster. Let me tell you something, folks, when you get into dealing with people, you're in the salvage business. You're dealing with train wrecks. You're dealing with circumstances that sometimes are so chaotic and absolutely so destitute that you don't even know where to begin. The first thing that we all do is, because we're human, throw our emotions into it. You just can't do that. You've got to realize in dealing with people that many of the people that you work with, many of the people that come to this church and say, "I want to change my life," they never make it. They never do. They never do because they won't do what they've got to do. I have people after counseling sessions all the time, especially in marital couples. They'll lay out their sad story and tell me all the problems, and then they'll all look at me and they'll say, "Well, what do you think? Pretty bad, huh?" And I'll say, "Uh-huh." And they'll say, "Is there anything you think we can do?" At that point, I always look at them and I always give them a little scholarly finger, like the principal, and I always say, "You know what? That's the wrong question. There's always something you can do. The real question is, will you do whatever you've got to do to fix this?" That's where it breaks down. It's not about what can we do. It's not about can we do anything. That's never the question. The question is, will you do what you've got to do to fix the problem you're in? When you won't, you won't. That's just the way that it is. But you and I have to maintain the victory. I would have been in an asylum long before my time if I wouldn't have had this verse. I'm there now. But I gave it to you out of 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. If it isn't marked in your Bible, and you've been around since we started this study, all I can say is shame on you. It's the reason why you're not going anywhere. It's a great verse. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? I love that last part of that verse, "And who is sufficient for these things?" What he's simply saying there, how in the world can we grasp what I just said? It's probably the most tremendous principle anywhere in the Bible on the principle for ministry and your relationship with God. He says, "Thanks be to God which always, always, always causes us to triumph." Then in the passage there he tells you that there's some people who are going to die and go to hell and you're to triumph over that. Some people that are saved and going to heaven, you're to have victory in that. In other words, as the minister, somebody who's ministering the Word of God, you never lose the victory. It

comes down to getting your perspective right, and this one fits into perspective. You're going to see how all three of these just fit into every principle I give you from this point on. This is your perspective. This is why you understand who you're working for. Now you're realizing that you're doing God's work. You're not doing your own work. You're doing God's business, not your own business. Now you realize that your job is to be the emulator of truth. Your job is to be the conduit pipe. Your job is to be the, as we studied, the high priest that takes the sacrifice that Christ did and applies it to the people. But whether the people take it or leave it, that's where it ends. I love people as much as anybody and always want to see people, always want to see people do what's right. Yes, it does bother me when I see people who have a lot of potential. Well, it doesn't matter if they have a lot of potential or not. It bothers me when people don't do what's right, but it doesn't bother me to the point where I'm going to go down the tube just because you do. You've got to maintain the victory, and the victory is in understanding what this great principle says. The Bible talks about a sweet savor in the nostrils of God. You remember I took it back and told you how that back there in Genesis 8 and Leviticus 28, when they did the Old Testament sacrifices, they took that innocent lamb and they put it on that fire, that brazen altar, and they burned it. The Bible says that the smoke of that burning flesh of something innocent rose to heaven. God smelled that smell and He was appeased of His anger. It's a picture of the day Christ died on the cross. He went through the agony He went through, and God smelled His sacrifice and then was appeased of sending you and me to hell and made a way through His Son's death. That's what it's a picture of. The Bible says that it doesn't matter in the sense of victory whether a person accepts the message of Jesus Christ or rejects it. Hey, I want you all to accept it, but I'm going to have the victory here this morning in spite of anybody not caring about what I'm saying. I'd be a fool this morning if I thought that people getting up and leaving just because they don't like what I said. It's a thing where you can't let that happen. You realize that when you speak about Christ, it's not the results that gives you the victory. God is pleased and smells that sweet savor when you speak His Son's name. The results are never important. I want a person to get saved. I do everything in the world to try to help a person get saved. But at the end of the day, I realize that that's not my job. That's between you and God. I have the victory always knowing that I spoke the name of Christ in a way that was pleasing to God. There is the victory. So many people today are result-oriented. Everything has to be about results. I learned a long time ago that my job is not to worry about the results. My job is to worry about preaching the truth. God will take care of the results. That's probably one of the greatest passages in the Bible that you just need to keep and view in everything that you do. When you're working with people and they get defeated down the line with their this or that, then you give them that. You help them understand that. But it's certainly one of the greatest things that you're ever going to look at and understand in your life.

## V. Core Principles for Ministry Application

- 4.) View the church as a hospital. The fourth principle, and this is another one that goes to perspective. This is something you will always want to keep in your mind. We as God's people, we all have our bad days. I'll be the first to tell you that people sometimes can drive

you crazy. Sometimes we let our own personalities get into it, our own personal feelings. We get an attitude towards somebody because of something that they did or we don't like. So that taints our looking at them when they may come in with problems or issues. I'm telling you, one of the greatest single aspects of all three of these—perspective, motive, and attitude of heart—is that thing I gave you a while back: simply viewing the church as a hospital. This place is a place where people who are in sin can come and get right with God. I have never understood why that's what the church is supposed to be. Somebody will come in with sin in their life, and because we don't like the person, we want to keep on them instead of trying to help them. I don't care what the person did. It's immaterial. The church is a hospital. The church needs to be one thing: the church is a place where you give out healing to people who need to be healed. I had a friend of mine years ago that was a missionary in a war-torn country. Where anybody else left and everybody else had to leave, he stayed and had one of the most productive ministries. You know why? Because he presented himself as a neutral party. He didn't take sides. He wasn't political. He would help either side because that's what he was there to do with the gospel. He was not in the war of a nation. He was in the war of people going to heaven or going to hell. Everybody understood that, and both sides respected him. The moment he would have taken a side, the other side would have killed him or expelled him. That's just the way we have to look at it and understand: we're neutral. We don't take sides against anybody one way or the other. Our job is life and light. Our job is the Word of God, and our job as a church is a hospital where sick people can come no matter what their disease is, and they can get what they need to get well. That's the way it has to work. I told you in my own mind I did this years ago. You old folks who have been with me for many years, you remember this. But I broke down dealing with people in a medical concept in three aspects. I tell people all the time that when you start to deal with people, you're going to deal with them on three levels, and it just simplifies everything. 1.) My first level, I know it's goofy but it helps me figure it all out, I call "band-aids and Mylicon." That's what you put on little people's knees who get little ouchies. They fall down and scrape their knee. They got a little cut or they get a bee sting or something. It's very simple, basic stuff. These people that come in, they don't have a lot of problems. Maybe they're lonely. Maybe they just were looking for the Bible. Maybe they just need discipleship. They just need Bible basics, and off they go. There's not a lot of problems in their world. Whatever problems they have, they get fixed when they get plugged in and they get plugged in very quickly. Those are really the best ones you have. 2.) The next level is a little more complicated. I always call this "broken arms and appendectomies." It takes a little more. You don't fix a broken arm with Mylicon and a band-aid. It takes a little time. You've got to know what you're doing. You've got to be able to realize where the break is. You've got to be able to realize where the appendix is. You don't want to start taking out somebody's appendix and say, "Boy, he had a long appendix. It was 36 feet," and you realize you just took out his small intestines. Not a good move. You've got to understand what you're doing in this thing. It's a little more complicated. This is where you'd have people who maybe have bad relationships. They've had multiple bad relationships or they've just got a good dose of the world. Maybe they're involved with unsaved people. It may be a thing where they have a drinking problem or cigarettes or even drugs in a certain way. But personal issues. Things that take a little more

time, and you have to spend some time going through some principles, breaking down whatever their problem is.3.) The third level is where very few Christians ever get to. It's the level that I call "heart transplant and brain surgery." It's the stuff that's down and dirty. This is where you're dealing with what the Bible calls satanic strongholds. This is where you're dealing with marriages that are basically hopeless. I call these problems here get this way because of what I call compounding effects. It's like an older person falls down and breaks their leg or breaks their hip. It's a fragile thing, and they can heal. They put them in the hospital, and everything is okay. But what happens is they get, because they're down, complications set in. They get pneumonia and they wind up dying. They didn't die because of the broken hip. They died because of the compounding effect of pneumonia. These are the kind of problems that have a lot of compounding effects to them. It makes them much harder. My greatest scenario is I see it all the time in my life, and there's many scenarios, but just to show you a great example is you have a young girl that gets pregnant, and she's not married. What happens is in 90 percent of the cases, everybody thinks because you've got pregnant, you have to get married. That's your first bad mistake of compounding a problem. If you're not ready to be a parent, I guarantee you're not ready to be a husband or a wife. So you compound it, you see, and you compound it into a situation that never biblically was based on anything. So now you have this, and then they go on and they start to have the child, and then that's another compounding effect. See, now you have a third party to it. You're not really ready to handle your own relationship. Now you got a third party to it, and it even gets compounded more. Then you get the fourth thing that compounds it: finances. Finances become a problem because you can't work now because you got a baby, and this is that baby's sick all the time. Maybe you can't afford health insurance or you don't have good health insurance. There's your fourth compounding effect. Those things over time will wear you down to the place that when you start to deal with that, it's like peeling back the layers of an onion. Many years down the line, the girl who never should have got married in the first place and kept the child now resents the child, doesn't really want the child, never should have had the child to begin with. The husband, they grow farther apart, not closer together. If it would have been a given scenario, they probably never. These are the things that you've got to work through. These are the things that you've got to be able to help people. You don't make value judgments on it. You don't say, "Well, you got pregnant out of wedlock." You don't go there. This is a hospital. This is where people want it. We want them to come here when they're sick. I wish they would come when they had an ouchie, but they won't. So you get them when they've got to have the appendix out, or you get them when they're at a place where it's a disaster. I don't care. That's our job. Our job is to be prepared on any one of those three levels to be able to deal with those kind of scenarios. Give them the right advice. Help them make the right decision. Maybe they won't listen to you. That's immaterial. The bottom line is you do what you're supposed to do. You follow through with it and keep that compounding effect. A lot of times dealing with people on the third level, have you ever seen in a video or things that they have them, they have these at Chuck E. Cheese all the time. You have this thing where you put in two tokens, 50 cents, and you get this big padded hammer, and all these, you got 12 holes with little gophers sticking their heads up, and your job is to beat the gophers in the head, and every time you hit a gopher, you get points. I truly, I don't

understand the reality of this, but it's the way it is, and that little, they're popping up everywhere, and you find yourself basically wearing yourself out beating gophers' heads, and they keep popping up, and you don't know where they're popping, so pretty soon you're just smashing everything trying to get it all, and they're going all over the place, and you can't stay up fast enough, so you're just beating the fire out of it. I thought to myself many, many times, that's a lot like dealing with third level problems. Those little gophers just are sticking their heads up so fast, you just don't know which one to deal with first. It's a lot like that. But this is where the principles have to be instilled. Maybe people don't make it on this level all the time, but it's beside the point. It's a hospital. Thanks be to God which always causes us to triumph, and you deal with it, and you deal with it the way that it needs to be dealt with. That's the key.

- 5.) The church is the Cave of Adullam. The fifth one, and this is another one, it goes along with this one, and this is the great aspect of what a church really should be. This forms our perspective. These are things you keep in the back of your mind at all times when you're dealing with people, or you're going to get the wrong perspective, which leads to the wrong motive, which brings the wrong attitude of heart. It's found in 1 Samuel 22:1-2. It's my famous story on David down at the Cave of Adullam. I love this story, and I've told you before that this is the verse on which I, in the Old Testament, that I build my church on right here. 1 Samuel 22:1-2

David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men. That's a great passage, and that's what a church ought to be. I believe that that sets a good standard for how big a church should be, about 400. I think all the principles are right there. The thing that is amazing about that when you study that, I look at David as the pastor, and I look at all the people, and listen, I love it. The people who were in distress, all the people who were distressed went down to David in this cave. All the people that were in debt, and all the people that were discontented with life. Boy, if that isn't a church scenario, I don't know what is. The thing that amazes me about this is when you look at this whole bunch, there isn't one well person in the whole crowd. Well, starting out, it says David escaped. He's running from Saul. He's running. He's not where he needs to be. It just goes to show you that we all got problems. It goes to show you that none of us are above the problems of this life. It goes to show you that we're all in the same cave. But it also shows you that our job is not to look down at people who have problems, or put our nose up at them, or get angry, or not wanting to do with them, or brush them off, even though you may want to. You've got the wrong perspective. I don't care who they are, what they got into, whatever the scenario is, this church is the Cave of Adullam, and we all got our problems. There's not too many scenarios in life, my dear friend, that you can look at somebody going through that you want to criticize or you want to talk about, or you want to do that, that you couldn't put in the context, "Yet but for the grace of God, there go I." Those are the things you've got to remember that keeps it perspective, and these principles form your attitude of ministry. It gives you the right purpose and the right attitude of heart.

- 6.) When you get with God and have a relationship with God, you pick up the characteristics of God. The sixth one, we saw this in 2 Corinthians 3:13-16. This is another one that you want to have for yourself, but you want to teach your people in time when they get to that point. That's that great passage on the face of Moses shining because he'd been with God. 2 Corinthians 3:13-16

And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face; that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. We talked about how that back in the passage in Exodus 34, Moses had been up with God. He'd been up with God for 40 days, and him and God were having a relationship much like the relationship that you should be having with God right now. The Bible says when Moses came down, because he had been with God, everybody saw it. His face shone with the glory of God. I told you how that's exactly what God does. He shines through us. Moses had to put the veil on his face because the people were afraid of him. But it shows you that when you get with God and you have a relationship with God, you pick up the characteristics of God. Boy, that is so powerful and so true. One of the things that you're going to learn in dealing with people, one of the things that you're going to learn in dealing with people once you get the Bible principles down, is simply that you can pretty much tell where a person is at. You can tell where they have been by this principle right here. When Moses came down, he had the characteristics of God in his life. The more you get with God, the more you become like God, and the more you pick up those characteristics. When you see those characteristics in somebody's life, that's what you're looking for. But remember this: he scared some people.

- 7.) People who do nothing for God will always have an issue with the people who do something for God. That brings us to our seventh principle, and you better learn this one too, because this one will defeat you. People who do nothing for God will always have an issue with the people who do something for God. All my life I've had people who were working in ministry, doing things, and other people would come to me and say, "Well, this guy's not, or this guy's not doing it for the right reason. They're not doing this or doing that. They're just doing it for this, that, or the other." I always marveled at that. I always marveled at how somebody who had done nothing for God would have that intuition to be able to read somebody else's heart. I always would say to myself, "You know what? This is amazing to me." Now I know that neither one of these people are perfect, and a guy who's doing the ministry for God, he's got as many problems as anybody else, or the girl, whoever. It's a thing where nobody's perfect. But it amazes me how somebody who would absolutely do nothing for God will be so critical of somebody else who is doing something for God. My answer to that is, "You know what? I know what you're saying, but I like what he's doing better than what you're not doing." Because people who do nothing for God will always criticize you for doing something for God. I've had people criticize me over the years because of my family. I was so close and worked with me in ministry. I've had people that will take cheap shots at my family over the years because they were always so tied into my ministry. I look at that and I don't ever say anything. I could really care less because I understand why people do that.

People whose kids are not involved in ministry will always have a problem with somebody whose kids are involved in ministry. I know how it works. I know exactly how it works. I'm sorry that your kids don't want anything to do with church. I'm sorry about that. I'm sorry you couldn't get your kid to walk across the street to disciple somebody or do something. One of the great things about Restart, one of the greatest things about Restart, is I am seeing in the little kids that come down there, I am seeing what mom and dad is putting into those kids' lives. I don't think he's here today, but I'm going to say it, and this is true of so many of them, but I saw this one, the little guy of yours that's always running around here, the oldest one, Riley. He's running everywhere. He's into everything. That guy has got a heart to serve. Amen. I watched him down there serving those people down there, and I watched him down there doing everything, running. He's running around for God and serving just like he's running around here. I know he's a kid yet, and we all run around, but this is what I'm seeing. I watch some of you little girls down there going up there, working with those other kids, giving them this, giving them that. I'm telling you what you're doing at home is showing through because you young parents, I'm telling you, don't lose this sight. Do not lose your children growing up ministering beside you, because when they minister beside you when they're 18, 19, 20 years old, they'll be ministering with you. You can't lose that. You cannot lose that. That is an invaluable aspect. It's a truth: people who don't really want to do anything for God will always have a problem with those that do, and you just got to deal with that. I tell people where that is a badge of honor. Take that as a compliment. Take the cheap shot that somebody puts on you because they're not doing anything and they're bugged because you are. I think that's the greatest compliment anybody could give you, and I commend you young kids or your parents, I really do, for having the wisdom of following the directions and getting your kids involved down there. I know so many people look at it as just something else that they don't have time to do. Well, I'll tell you what, you put your kid in all of the youth leagues and all the things you want to do, and you put your kid down there, and when they're 20 years old, we'll see who's serving where. You can take that one to the bank because I'm telling you right now, you think the devil missed that one? You're crazy. I see it, and you want your children growing up in this church ministering beside you now and ministering with you then. I'm just telling it, you can blow it off, you can smoke it off, you can drink it off, you can do whatever you want to do with it and put it wherever you want to put it and do whatever you want to do with it, but I'm telling you a dying truth that's going to come back and bite you someday. You think I'm some crazy old yeehaw running off into the sunset up here with the Bible. I'm telling you right now, there are some absolute things the devil will not miss, and your children will be one of them. So you learn that. I find some of God's people that they bend to that. They, for whatever reason, they cannot make the hard line choice when they have to. But I'm just telling you, the more you're like Him, the more countenance you have, the more His characteristics you have when you get in ministry and you start working with people and you bring your children along in there with you now when they're the ages they are, seven, eight, nine, ten. I know they're goofy little kids. I know you'll probably have to whip them Sunday morning before you go to Restart, and if you don't have to do it anyhow because you missed something someplace along the line. They're kids. They're going to do dumb things. They're going to go out at Restart and they're going to get a

fight at wherever you go to eat afterwards because somebody took whatever from them. But their brother and sister, they're going to go down there and they're going to pass out food to the people, and then they're going to get down here and they're going to fight over an iPod or something and punch each other out. They're kids, my friend, they're kids. But you have to begin at some point in their life to instill in them what God has saved them for, or if they're not saved yet, what He is going to save them for. It only comes through you. It comes through you and letting people manipulate you and take cheap shots at you because they don't want to serve God and you want to serve God. Wait till the kids are 20, 15 or 16, we'll see where they're at, but it'll be too late by then. These are principles you learn now. Principle number seven is people who do nothing for God will always have an issue with people who do something for God. That shines in your face. If I brought two women up here, and the one was the most beautiful woman in the world, and the other was the most ugly woman in the world, and I said, "Let's all stand up and clap for the prettiest woman up here," and I put my hand over here and everybody stands up. And I come over here and I say, "Now how about this one over here?" And nobody stood up, nobody clapped, and everybody laughed. Do you think she would feel the difference between the beautiful woman and realize, "I am that ugly one"? Well, that's what happens when you have the glow of God in your face and somebody else just has the ugly old glow of this world, and they don't like it. You can do what you want to do with it. I told you last week a dying truth. I wish I had the right and the privilege to come into your world and tell you, "You're doing this wrong," and "I love you to death, but you better fix this because it's a disaster." I know you can't do it. I know. So you better listen to what I'm telling you. You better listen to what I'm telling you. God bless you parents, and I see you doing it. You are putting money in the bank, and I know you don't see it because you've got to kill the kids all day long. You've got to whip them. When you're tired of whipping, you stick the dog on and let him chew them up for a while. I understand that. But I'm telling you, I'm seeing it pay off, and God will take that and God will use it.

- 8.) We are ministers of life. The eighth one, this was 2 Corinthians 3:6. It says in verse 6:2 Corinthians 3:6

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. I told you how that we give life to dead things. Dead things will be unsaved people first and foremost, and then obviously dead Christians. I've learned over the years, and I'll give you this, and this is something that you want to remember: I can pretty much tell where a person's at by just five things in their life. There are five things that you and I do that if you pay attention, will tell you just about everything you need to know. I use this as a kind of an evaluation when I'm talking with people, dealing with people, or dealing with anything. When I'm in a long relationship with people, I've seen it even in my own church. The Bible says, "Know the state of your flock," like we talked about last week. These five things will always tell you. 1.) What you eat. You can tell a lot about a person by what they eat. You can tell how disciplined they are by what they eat. You can tell how structured they are by what they eat. Now, I'm not just saying you don't judge it on one meal. I mean, you watch this thing over a period of time. 2.) What they look at. What they watch on television, what kind of movies they go to, what kind of books they read. You can tell a lot about a person by what they put in. What you eat affects your

body, but what you take in and what you see affects your spirit. The Bible says that we're to be ministers of life by the Spirit of God, and it's the Spirit that giveth life.3.) What they listen to. You tell me what they listen to. Don't you just love pulling up with a light and you got your windows up and it's January and December and somebody pulls up beside you and your whole car is rattling because their stereo is blowing up the deal? That's not a person you'd say, "Hey, I got a daughter, I'd love for you to come home and meet." Some of you listen to the most god-awful music I ever heard in my life when you call it Christian music. I don't know where you get it from.4.) What they talk about. You take these five things, they're infallible. You may not like it, you may not even believe it, but if I was in your case, I wouldn't believe it either. But I'm telling you, it's an absolute truth because what you take inside your body in your mouth, what you eat, affects your body. The rest of these things affect your spirit, and your spirit affects your relationship with God. But the Spirit giveth life. That's why some of God's people don't give life to anything. They've fed their spirit with the wrong things: what they look at, what they listen to, what they talk about.5.) Who they hang out with. This thing is infallible. You will be exactly like the people you hang out with. I tell young Christians all the time, they never listen to me, but I tell them all the time, "You want to be something for God, hang out with people who do something for God. You want to be nothing for God, hang out with people who do nothing for God." You know how simple that is? That is probably the simplest thing I ever said to you in all the years we've been together. You want to be godly, hang out with godly people. You want to be in ministry, hang out with people who minister. You want to be a zero and a stump someplace, hang out with the ones who never do anything. I've actually seen this process. I've actually seen people start out and then hang out, hook up with somebody else who wasn't doing anything. When they were hanging out with the ones who were involved in ministry, they never missed a thing. They were there. But when they start to slide that way and get a new set of friends, you know why? Because you are who you hang out with. That's why. So I don't believe that when you go ready to go out, rip that part out of your Bible. You know why Moses' face shone? Because of who he hung out with. You didn't see anybody else down in the camp face shining, did you? No, they're making a golden calf. So those five things were worth you coming this morning for. I'm telling you, you can tell who a person is by what they eat, by what they look at, by what they listen to, what they talk about, and who they hang out with. Why some of you, in your whole day conversation with everybody, your wife included, you never talk about the Bible one time. There isn't one thing that you talk about about the Word of God and anything you do. It's all this, it's all that, it's all whatever you talk about, but it sure has nothing to do with God. An unsaved man in his unsaved condition, he has no light, and the Bible says he's dead in trespasses and sins. When you win him to Christ or you give him the gospel or he gets saved, then you take a dead man, a dead thing, and you give life to it. That dead spirit comes alive. I laugh at this all the time, and I hear, just hear me out, I'm in one of my moods today. I hear this all the time. Young Christians will say, I'll talk to them and I said, "Well, how are you doing?" And you say, "Well, I'm doing, I got saved." And I said, "You did, huh? You got saved?" And he says, "Yeah, Zach saved me." Now don't get too pious about that because that's one of those things that out of the mouth of babes, my word has been perfected. Because if the Bible is true, Zach did save him. He's a priest, and as a priest, he has

the ability to forgive and to remit sins as a priest after the high priest. Now I understand, don't glorify in it, and Zach going around saying, "I'm saving the world." I understand that. Not that he would, his brother would, but he wouldn't. Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was me and you. Zacchaeus, give me a hug. Come on, man, you do this every week. I feel so bad for you. Come on, give me a, you feel the love, feel the love. Okay, good deal. But theologically, that's correct. Now in a practical sense, we don't want to brag about it and boast about it, and I just kind of smile at those things and laugh, but I'm laughing because I know that it's true. You say, "Well, God saved him." Did he? I didn't see God anywhere around. No, God's up in heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father. He enabled him and me and you as a priest after the order of Melchizedek. We studied the priest under the believer. You have the ability to remit and to retain sins. You have the ability on the basis of the authority of the Word of God and the Spirit of God in you, with you. But you see, we don't understand that. Now I'm not saying every time somebody says that you walk around puffed up about it because I know the practical side to it, but the doctrinal side, it's true. So I got a guy, a woman said one time to me years ago, she said, I said, "Well, I have," she said, "I'm sure glad I, I really, I made some reference that this was my Bible study." And she's very piously, she raised her hand and she says, "Well, Brother Bob, don't you mean it's the Lord's Bible study?" I said, "Yeah, you're right. Let Him teach it." I left. How many people think the Lord came down and taught it? Anybody? How many people think that right about after they got out the door, a light began to get here and bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger, and then a voice, "Moses wrote the wrong story," a voice, "Okay, open your Bible." Didn't happen. God uses men. God uses men to do what He won't do Himself because that's what He saved you for and made you a priest. Your job and my job is one-fold: give life to dead things. You are the author of life. You have the Holy Spirit of God living inside you. It's one with you. You're one with it. It's living inside you. You have the ability to take the Word of God and on the authority of you being a priest, take the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and make that guy's sins go away. As a priest, we're ministers of life, ladies and gentlemen. Maybe the fact that you understand that, you'll take it a little more seriously and what your job is.

- 9.) Our lives are an open book that people read. The ninth one, it talks about the epistle of God written on our heart and read of all men. Matthew 12:34

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. You see, you and I are a book. You and I are a book, and people read that book. When I talked a little while ago about a simple little five-thing plan there of what you eat and what you look at and what you listen to and all those five things, I'm basically reading your book. I'm reading your book. You're a book, and the people and the places you hang out with write your bio of who you really are, and everybody reads it. It's just that simple. So you and I realize that when you're dealing with people and you're working with people and people you're involving yourself with them, you read them, but they're reading you. The Bible says, "No man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Somebody's always watching your life.

## VI. Review of Foundational Principles

Out of 2 Corinthians chapter 3, I want to give you these here, and then we'll add. Out of chapter 3, there are some great principles that you want to remember, and you want to instill them in your own self first, and then you want to give them to the people you work with. This will be 10 through 16. Each one of these will be a principle.

Remember, the end result in dealing with people is to get them to learn through their adversity, and then for them to help somebody else. Bottom line is, when you're helping somebody that's a saved person to get what they need to be, or an unsaved person to get saved, you've got one bottom line goal: turn them around and get them to minister with you. Everything we do has that end. You're doing it with your kids. You people who are discipling, I give you somebody brand new, and you bring them through, and you're teaching them so down the line they can do it. That's all that it's about. You go through discipleship and you get disciplined, and for the first time you just got saved, I fully expect you at some point to disciple somebody else. Maybe not right away, but I expect you to get there. I expect you to minister. That's what God saved you for. That's what this church is here. You can have problems in your life, and you can come in. I can fit in Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine. We can all get around and diagnose the problem and fix the problem, make you feel better, get you buried together, get your family together, get your life together. When we're all done, we did that for one reason. Guess what that reason is? For you to do it with somebody else. Minister. The only reason we exist.

- 10.) The only real proof of our salvation is the ministry we have. The first principle we talked about was in 2 Corinthians 3:1-2. It is the only real proof of our salvation is the ministry we have. That's why it's so imperative to get you to a point where you start doing something. You do with what God has called you to do with your life, and that is to give life to somebody else. You give life to dead things.
- 11.) God called us to be totally sufficient in Him. This will be number 11. God called us to be totally sufficient in Him, and you do that by learning the principles of the Word of God that I give you and then applying those principles in your own life, and you become totally sufficient to Him. 2 Corinthians 3:5  
Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Philippians 4:19  
But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. There's the verse that goes along with it.
- 12.) By our sufficiency, we become able ministers. Number 12, found in 2 Corinthians 3:6, and by that sufficiency, then we become able ministers that He wants us to be. Your willingness to get God to be the able factor in your life, that's really what it comes down to. You're willing for God to be the able factor in your life. You're willing for God to take your life and to make it what He wants it to be for Him, not you, for Him.
- 13.) Our life is an open book that people read. Number 13, we saw this tremendous principle in 2 Corinthians 3:2. The principle of our life is an open book that people read. People are one way at church and they're another way at work. I don't know how many times I hear this, and I feel bad about it and I feel ashamed of it, but I don't know how many times over the years I've heard people say about people in this church and other churches that I was associated with, that you're one way at church and you're totally someplace else when you

work. You don't even see it. You don't even know, or maybe you don't care. You go to church, you come to church, and everybody you work with knows you're at church, and you go to work and you do this and you do that and do this or talk this way or do this or tell this joke and do that, and then you invite people to church, and you do not even see that you are the most hypocritical person. I'd just assume you quit coming to church, go back to the world and quit being the middle of the road, or if that won't work for you, get rid of the world and do what's right. But if you're not going to do that, it happens all the time. People read you. They know that. The Bible says, and I say it again, "No man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Somebody's always watching your life, and you think that nobody sees. Everybody's watching, especially if you say you're a Christian. If you go to church, they're going to put the spotlight on you.

- 14.) The New Testament is better because it brings life. Number 14. The Bible says that in 2 Corinthians 3:6, the New Testament is better because the Old Testament brings death, but the New Testament brings life. The law couldn't save us. The law couldn't pay for our sins. The law couldn't make you righteous. But the New Testament, when Christ comes, He pays the price on Calvary's cross and He gives you His very own righteousness.
- 15.) The New Testament is eternal, unlike the temporary Old Testament. Number 15, we saw the aspect in 2 Corinthians 3:7 that what really makes the New Testament better than the Old Testament is the fact that the Old Testament was temporary. The New Testament is eternal. It's forever. Somebody asked the question one Thursday night, the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. There it is right there. The Old Testament was literal, here was the kingdom of heaven, therefore it was temporary. The New Testament is eternal. It's spiritual, based on Christ being God's eternal priest and you and I being part of that priesthood. That's why you got two priesthoods in the Bible. You got Aaron's priesthood that was temporary. You got Christ's priesthood that's eternal. That's why Zach's a priest. That's why you're a priest, and you do the work of the High Priest. It's the most incredible concept you're ever going to get.
- 16.) It is important to have the right spirit in our lives. The 16th one, we saw how important it is in all that we do to have the right spirit in our lives, and that's our spirit with God's Spirit in the way we minister. John 16 is something you ought to look at at some point. It will be a great question on Thursday night Bible study because in John 16 is the great chapter on the Holy Spirit of God, and it shows you the seven things the Holy Spirit of God does in His job. One of them is He leads and guides us into all truth. When you have a Spirit-filled life based on the principles of the Word of God, then it's your spirit matched up with God's Spirit that produces the ministry that's pleasing to God. It all pulls together.
- 17.) The Bible is a spiritual mirror. The 17th one, and that is the concept of the Bible being a spiritual mirror. Boy, this is something that you never want to forget yourself, but it's something that you always want to teach your people. The characteristics of the mirror, the Word of God. 2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? You already had that principle before. When you look at that thing, you need to have light to look in the mirror. Have you ever noticed how lights like this or lights in your home don't always give a

true color? You can look at something, it's dark blue, and you think it's black, but when you put it on and walk out in the true sunlight, you see that it's really blue. These are all lights, but they're somewhat false light. They don't portray this true spectrum of color. There's only one light that portrays the true spectrum of color, and that's sunlight. In your life and my life, we have a lot of false light sometimes that don't always portray the thing as it really is. That's why you've got to get the Holy Spirit of God and get the light of God's Son in your life and that mirror to really show you what you're looking at. It's just that simple. I told you, you start every day looking in the mirror of the Word of God because the mirror never lies. It shows us our true condition. We convince ourselves the mirror isn't true. We can put a dress on we wore when we were 19, and now at 30, it doesn't fit the same. It's like the thing I said the other day. I said a woman decided to work out. So she ran, and she groaned, and she pulled, and she pushed, and she twisted, and she moved. Then she was so worn out after getting her leotards on, she decided not to go work out. You're looking at a mirror, and it shows you what you really look like, and yet you say to yourself, "Well, it looks pretty good." Yeah, the mirror's over there laughing at you. It shows you what's real. No matter how many mirrors you have, they'll always show you the same thing. Find people that want popular opinion polls. They go around asking, "What do you think I ought to do? What do you think I ought to do? What do you think I ought to do?" And then they find the one that most lines up with what they really want to do. The Bible won't do that. The Bible will tell you what God thinks. I've told you before, no matter how many mirrors you have, they won't do you any good if you don't use them correctly. We basically, have you ever thought about this, we basically look in a real mirror. When you go buy something and you put it on, the first thing you do is going to go look in the mirror. This is why women carry little mirrors in their purses. I know we all thought they were for signaling planes on a life raft when you were sinking a ship. That's not true. They flip that little thing up and they look. They want to see if there's something wrong with them. That's why we look in mirrors. We really don't look in the mirror to see if anything is right. We look in the mirrors to make sure nothing's wrong. So she looks in there and she says, "Oh, don't have enough lip gloss on. Oh, got to powder my nose. Oh, my hair is not right. Oh, that dress is too tight. Oh, that dress doesn't fit me. Oh, that's not my style." We look in to see what's wrong with ourselves. And yet the Bible says in Jeremiah 17:9: Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? We deceive ourselves in what our true condition is when we don't look into the mirror of the Word of God and see it for what it is. Our second principle today, the three aspects: the perspective, the motive, the attitude of heart. This is what you check out when you look into that mirror. This is what you take and you give to your people when you're working with them. You help them understand. If you're working with somebody right now or you're here somebody today and you're having issues, you can a lot better see now what I said when we started, how no matter whether you've been here before or not, now you know that these principles will help you wherever you're at. If you're here this morning and you've got issues, I can help you. I can give you everything that you need. These are the tools that you need in dealing with people. These are the principles that you put into your own life first and then in the lives of other people. Some of them, as I said, are very direct principles. They're directly

to the subject, hard line, that directly address the issues. Some are practical principles, and today you view everything in life through them. Some are very narrow when they go to one problem. Others you spread out and you look at multiple things through them. Principles that you will, as you know, use as operational principles in what you do. A couple of Thursday nights ago, I gave you the seven judicial concepts out of the book of Psalms, and I told you to put it in the beginning of Psalms. I defined for you the seven judicial things that you find talked about in the wisdom book, Psalms particularly. I defined for you what the Bible said a law was, a statute was, a commandment was, a judgment was, a testimony was, an ordinance was, and then we came down to precepts. I told you that a precept is our word, is the Bible word for what we call principles. I told you that principles are directives that always give us a rule of action. That's what a principle is. A principle is a directive or a direction. It's a directive, something said to me that gives me a rule of action that I follow. When you're struggling with life and everything that are in life and you're dealing with people, this is what they need. They need a rule of action that will give them a direction that will get them out of the circumstances they're in. This is why biblical principles are the key. They're the key to my life. They're the key to your life. They're the key to dealing with people and dealing with their problems. It comes back to being able to use the tools of the trade, being able to take the tools that I'm giving you and equipping you, and being able to sit down in scenarios and remembering all of this, using all this. I know right now it's a blur to you, but in time, as you stay with it, it'll become second nature, and you'll actually begin to work through these things and to see how they work. We'll hold up there. You got your next set. I'm sure John will have them all ready to go for you here by next Sunday.