



## Practical Steps for More

Adapted from “More: How God Increases” series by Scott Erickson

God has so much more in mind for every person than we can ever dream or imagine. He works in the ordinary, everyday things of life. We need to be more aware of His promptings and leading in our life.

Captain Johnson was serving as chaplain on an island in the South Pacific during World War II. He prepared to go on a bombing raid on enemy-occupied islands several hundred miles away. The mission was a complete success, but on the homeward course the plane began to lose altitude and the engines faded out. A safe landing was made on a strange island. It was learned later that the enemy was just one-half mile in each direction, yet the landing had gone undetected.

The staff sergeant came to the chaplain and said, “Chaplain, you have been telling us for months of the need of praying and believing God answers prayer in time of trouble, and that He does it right away. We’re out of gas, base several hundred miles away—almost surrounded by the enemy.”

Johnson began to pray and lay hold of the promises and believed that God would work a miracle. Night came and the chaplain continued his intense prayer. About 2 A.M. the sergeant awakened and felt compelled to walk to the water’s edge. He discovered a metal float, which had drifted up on the beach—an octane gas. In a few hours the crew reached their home base safely.

An investigation revealed that the skipper of a U. S. tanker, finding his ship in sub-infested waters, had his gasoline cargo removed so as to minimize the danger in case of torpedo hit. Barrels were placed on barges and put adrift six hundred miles from where Johnson and the plane crew were forced down. God had navigated one of these barges through wind and current and beached it fifty steps from the stranded men.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*, (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 519-520.

“Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.”

## COURAGE

**C1:** Describe an achieved goal that you have worked towards. What practical steps did you take to reach that goal?

**C2:** Have you ever written down practical steps to obtaining your spiritual goals? If so, what were they? If not, take some time to write down some steps you should take to obtain increase in your spiritual life.

**C3:** Read and answer the following.

**Psalm 37:30 (ESV)** The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

**Psalm 40:3 (ESV)** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

**Proverbs 10:11 (ESV)** The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

**Proverbs 10:31 (ESV)** The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off.

- From these verses, what do you glean about prayer?
  
- Describe your current prayer life.

## STRENGTH

**S1:** What we have been called to do is impossible in our own strength. There are things we must do in order to see increase in our life. Read and answer the following.

### **Acts 1:3–8 (ESV)**

### **Ephesians 5:18–21 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are two things we must do to see increase in our life?
- When you read Paul’s phrase “Be filled with the Spirit,” what comes to your mind?

**S2:** The Holy Spirit is a person, not a feeling, not a fire, or a dove. Read and answer the following.

### **John 14:18 (ESV)**

### **Mark 10:17–23 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are two things you glean about the Holy Spirit?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very aware and 4 being not very aware, rate how aware you are to the guiding of the Holy Spirit in your life. Write out a plan to increase your sensitivity and awareness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**S3:** Read and answer the following.

**Psalm 67:5–7 (ESV)**

**Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)**

**Psalm 100:2 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what do you glean about increasing more sensitivity in your life?
- Is God's presence honored through your lifestyle? If yes, how? If no, how can you improve?
- Is your life bringing glory to the One who died for you? If yes, how? If no, how can you improve?

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** Abraham honored God instead of talking about what he didn't have. Read and answer the following.

### **Romans 4:18–24 (ESV)**

- What are three dynamic principles for life you glean from these verses?

**E2:** Read and answer the following.

### **Romans 4:18–24 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are three things you glean about daily victories in your life?

**E3:** Sometimes our circumstances lead us to sorrow or despair. On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being you control your circumstances and 4 being your circumstances totally control you, rate yourself on how much you let your circumstances control you. Write out a plan to improve.