

Weakness Welcomed

More of Jesus / LESS of me!

Listen

Encourage

Smile

Serve



Purpose of Booklets

These are **Short Starter** Studies on **Sensitive** Subjects that **Stir & Stimulate** you toward **Biblical, Practical** Information that show that **Jesus** has **Great Answers** to some of life's **Hardest Questions**.

At www.FamilyBibleStudies.TIPS & the Family Bible Study App each booklet is a free download along with a short podcast explaining each booklet.

The website and App also has:

***“Ten Terrific Tips to make
Family Bible Studies
Everyone’s FAVORITE time of the week!”***

The website and App also give lists of different **Categories** for the booklets as well as ways to use the booklets in:

1. Bringing **Friends** to **Christ**
2. As a Resource for **Pastor’s Sermons**
3. **Small Group** Bible studies in a **Church**
4. As a **Resource** for Christian **Counselors**
5. Bible studies with **Friends** or **Co-workers**
6. For your own **Personal Growth & Bible Study**
7. Christian **Business Owners** to serve their **Customers** or **Employees**

What if I Don’t Agree with What I Read?

There is always a good chance that I am wrong or that I have poorly communicated. I always encourage each person to research on your own. It may be that your research helps me and others to find God’s heart more clearly.

We all seek His truth by the two Bible measures of:

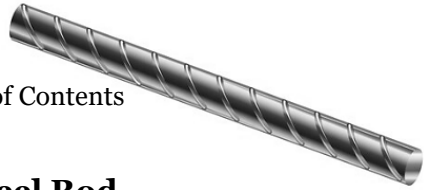
1. what is **clear** and **consistent** in **God’s Word** and
2. what bears the **Fruit** of **Jesus** in the lives of those who follow that application.

In heaven, all of God’s purposes in God’s Word will be clear and our actions will be aligned with God’s Word. I constantly ask myself, what will we **act** like and **believe** when we are in **heaven**. This is my goal in these booklets.

*“Thy kingdom come; thy **will** be **done** on **earth** as it is in **heaven**”*



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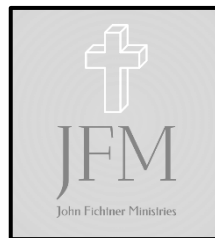
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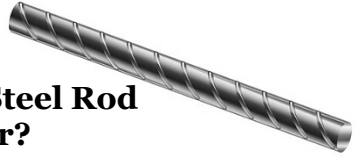
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A Garden Hose vs. a Steel Rod Which is Stronger?

Garden Hose or Steel Rod?

A steel rod gets its strength **internally**. It does **NOT NEED** anyone or anything to be strong. A steel rod is to be **feared**. It can **break** other objects and can be used to **beat people mercilessly**. It **wins** almost every contest. A steel rod is **strong**!

A garden hose is **WEAK**. It has **no internal strength**. It **collapses** under almost any external pressure. The **only advantage** the garden hose has over a steel rod is that a garden hose was created to be a **conduit**.

When water flows through a garden hose, it does the one thing that a steel rod can never do. When a garden hose has water flowing through it can **bring permanent CHANGE** into other's lives.

- Water flowing through a garden hose can extinguish a fire.
- Water flowing through a garden hose can bring life to thirsty soil and cause abundant life to explode in that soil.

There is a price tag to having this great effect on others. The garden hose **NEVER** gets the **CREDIT**.

The garden hose is simply a conduit. It is the water flowing through the garden hose that brings the change in other's lives.

We all want to be **STRONG**!

- When we think of a healthy **soul** – we call them “*Strong*”
- When we think of a healthy **body** – we call them “*Strong*”
- When we think of a healthy **family** – we call them “*Strong*”

There is nothing wrong with wanting to be strong! It is a God-given desire! This desire to be strong is so instinctual that it is often the **buried motive** in our subconscious.

The question is whether we have **TRUE** strength or **FALSE** Strength!

*II Cor. 12:9 (NMB) And he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for **My STRENGTH** is made **perfect** through **Weakness**.*

*Very gladly therefore will I **Boast** in **My Weakness**, so that the **STRENGTH** of **Christ** may **Dwell IN Me**.*

The Command to every Christian! Love = “LESS”!

The command for Christians to be a conduit of the Love of God is stated specifically or implied **over 100 times** in the New Testament.

For practical application of **HOW** to **Love** others, I am using the acronym “**LESS**” in this study.

Listen

Encourage

Smile

Serve

Later in this study, I will break down these four traits, but I ask you to begin by examining them in an overview.

The **instant** I **embrace** the **command** to *Listen, Encourage, Smile* and *Serve* **EVERY person** I meet, **EVERY day** – I feel **WEAK!** I am unable internally to do this. I need help! I need the water of Jesus’ love to flow through me.

When Jesus’ love flows through me, I am a conduit of the **greatest strength** and **power** in the universe.

*II Cor. 12:9 (NMB) And he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for **My STRENGTH** is made **Perfect** through **Weakness**.
Very gladly therefore will I **Boast** in **My Weakness**,
so that the **STRENGTH** of **Christ** may **Dwell IN Me**.*

Steel Rods are TERRIFIED to show how WEAK they are!

For decades, I have puzzled over **young men** who are raised in godly homes and great churches and yet they harden their hearts to the message of Jesus.

It took me decades of watching and listening to realize that a huge portion of these men want to be **Steel Rods**. They want to **Win!** They want to be **Impressive**. They want to be seen as **Internally Strong**.

They are so **subconsciously DRIVEN** by this **manic identity** that they **passionately refuse** any **responsibility** to love others as Jesus loved them. They **know** that they are **too WEAK** to do those things.



This does NOT apply to Everyone who rejects Christianity.

I have seen many others who truly want to be kind to everyone but have not done quality research on Jesus and Christianity.

For those un-researched individuals, the command to Listen, Encourage, Smile and Serve everyone is actually an **ATTRACTIVE** concept.

I have great hope for those individuals. I have seen hundreds of them become vital Christians after studying the top 5-7 booklets on researching Jesus.

The Dividing Line – ATTRACTED or REPELLED!

Let me be clear! This command to Listen, Encourage, Smile and Serve every person, every day is our **ONLY Purpose in Life!**

Every other goal is laid down and we ask **ONLY** one thing in this life.

*“Jesus, please live through me
to bring your love & life to others!*

I don’t ever want credit or attention.

All I want is for people to see YOU thru me. ”

Jn. 3:30 He must increase, I must decrease

If you present this truth to these hardened young men who were raised in godly homes and great churches, you will find a **quick negative** reaction. They either completely **tune you out** or **scoff** that you dared ask them to them to always Listen, Encourage, Smile and Serve others.

***2 Pt. 3:3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days
Scoffers will come, Scoffing and following their own evil desires.***

These very **shallow** young men **never examine** their own reactions. The command to Listen, Encourage, Smile and Serve every person, every day **TERRIFIES** them because it **EXPOSES** how **WEAK** they are.

- They find this command **repulsive** but **don’t know why**.
- Their ability to scoff, criticize or shut down is **lightning fast**.

A primary goal of this booklet is to appeal to these young men to actually **face** how **TERRIFIED** they are to see their own weakness.

Chap. 2

WHY would I WANT to Live this Life
 of Loving others by Listening, Encouraging,
 Smiling & Serving Others Every Day?

There are two reasons!

1. Respect
2. Joy

All men Crave Respect!

Self-Centered shallow men may **gain** some **small measure** of respect through their **victories** and **accomplishments** but it never seems enough. They constantly find themselves trying to subtly point out their own victories and accomplishments so others might notice them.

When you see a man who lives to Listen, Encourage, Smile and Serve every person, every day, so that they might see Jesus thru him, he is **Not Seeking** respect but it **OVERFLOWS** into his life in **Massive** Amounts. He does not seek respect but it chases him down constantly.

Joy is either Central or Non-Existent!

- Joy is an **inward** fountain that becomes **STRONGER** the **WORSE** life becomes.

Joy is amazing, intoxicating and addictive. When you see someone, whose joy **INCREASES** the **Worse** life becomes, they stand out like a single bright star on a dark sky. Joy **EXPLODES** in our lives when the water of the Holy Spirit flows through us to change people's lives.

- Happiness is **completely dependent** upon **positive external circumstances**.

In fact, the word "*happiness*" comes from the Middle English/Old Norse root "*hap*", meaning "*what happens*". In other words, the Self-Centered shallow man can **only** be happy when **everything** "*happens*" the **way he wants**.

For many shallow self-centered men, it never occurred to them to seek "*Joy*" instead of "*Happiness*". "*Joy*" is a Non-Existent concept in their lives.

However, many of these young men are very smart. Once they consider a concept, they can choose to evaluate it carefully.

Hopefully, once they realize that the **REWARDS** of living **ONLY** to let Jesus shine through us are so **AWESOME**, they may be willing to evaluate their **subconscious** life goals.

Chap. 3

Does EVERYONE feel WEAK
 in the command to
 Love others by *Listening, Encouraging,*
Smiling & Serving Others Every Day?

Yes!

For many of these young men raised in godly homes and great churches, they had a sibling or parent who was AMAZING at always Listening, Encouraging, Smiling and Serving others.

If a man feels that he can **NOT** succeed in a venture, he will often **QUIT Before** trying.

For many of these young men, they saw their sibling and their parent and they made two assumptions. They assumed:

1. I can NEVER be LIKE them!
2. That is EASY for them!

Both assumptions are incorrect!

It is true that young women tend to learn social skills much earlier than young men. However, in the long term everyone has the same opportunity to grow.

I have seen thousands of young men accept this call to let Jesus shine through them to everyone, every day. In practically every case, the young men grew in the skills of Listening, Encouraging, Smiling and Serving others every decade. There is no limit to what God can do if we are patient.

Secondly, the **assumption** that these skills were **EASY** for their sibling or parent is very **wrong**.

That sibling or parent was calling on Jesus with every breath and every human interaction in their lives. They had **embraced** their **NEED** for Jesus help. They **Welcomed** their **Weakness**!

The shallow, self-centered young man did not recognize how **NEEDY** they were because their **JOY** was so radiant that it distracted him.

Chap. 4

Why these Four Words: **Listen, Encourage, Smile & Serve?**

They Work, They are Biblical and
No One Starts Out being Great at all Four.

Listening

*Ja. 1:19 - My Dear Brothers take note of this.
Everyone should be **Quick** to **Listen**.*

May I ask you to read the booklet titled “**Active Listening** – How to help Long-Winded People Get to the Point & Closed People to Open Up”

*Prov. 18:13 - To answer before **Listening**
that is folly and shame.*

Encouraging

*Heb. 3:13 - But **Encourage** one another daily,
as long as it is called “Today”*

The word “Encourage” literally means to “Place Courage Inside Someone”. When we really listen well, we always find some task or responsibility that is weighing heavily on this person. One of the greatest acts of kindness is to listen so well that we give this person courage to tackle a tough task.

Smiling

A smile is a GIFT that you give to everyone. It is the easiest and one of the most effective gifts. It takes a very cruel selfish person to withhold this gift.

*Ps. 94:19 When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation **Brought** me **Joy**.*

*Phil. 4:4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again, I will say, **rejoice**.*

*1 Thess. 5:16 **Rejoice** always*

*Ja. 1:2 **Count it all joy**, my brothers,
when you meet trials of various kinds.*

Serving

Serving others is the Highest Calling of every Christian.

In the booklet “*Givers & Takers*” we cover the dangers of doing whatever anyone wants us to do to serve them.

If they are a “*Taker*” then they are very selfish and you are enabling them by doing what they want.

Our goal in serving is to always do what is BEST for that person.

- For many or most people this means extending ourselves in some way to bless that person.
- However, for some people, doing what is **BEST** for them may mean serving them by giving them “**Boundaries**”, “**Responsibilities**”, or even “**Consequences**”.

The wisdom to not enable a “*Taker*” is a foundational cornerstone of our serving.

“*Takers*” are sent by Satan to exhaust us and to drain our desire to serve others.

Once we learn to not be manipulated by “*Takers*” we are then free to passionately and joyfully serve others with the heart of Jesus.

*Mt. 20:27-28 And whoever would be chief, let him be your **Servant** - even as the Son of man came not to be served, but to **Serve**, and to give his life for the redemption of many.*

*Gal. 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **Serve** one another **Humbly** in **Love**.*

*I Tim. 3:13 Those who have **Served Well** gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

Options and Benefits

Do I have a choice?

Can I be a Christian without living every day to Listen, Encourage, Smile and Serve others?

Absolutely NOT!

Honestly it is scary that someone would actually ask this question.

If you are struggling with this subject, may I ask you to please read the booklet titled:

*Will Half-way Christians
go to Hell?*

Does God's Word Strongly Answer this Question?

It could make a huge difference in where you spend eternity to carefully study the subject of "Salvation".

Benefits

I have already listed 3 HUGE Benefits of living by "LESS".

1. We **NEED** Jesus' help **moment** by **moment**! This dependency creates a **deep, alive** and **rich** relationship with Jesus that makes us very **confident** in Jesus and heaven.
2. We become someone **Deeply Respected** by all who know us.
3. We are **FILLED** with **JOY** in seeing lives changed by Jesus.

There is a fourth benefit.

4. Our lives are filled with **GREAT PURPOSE**! We are actively engaged in the Highest Calling. Every **moment** is an **Exciting Opportunity**. Daily life has meaning. **Every human interaction** has great **worth** and **importance**.

Does this **ONLY** Apply to Young Men raised in godly homes and great churches?

Obviously, the truths in this booklet may apply to many other people. I will let you and the Holy Spirit decide which things apply in your individual life.

I focused on this specific small category of society because the Lord answered a puzzle for me about them.

Conclusion – Please ASK God to show this to you.

If you are one of those empty, shallow men who consider themselves a steel rod of your own internal strength – PLEASE recognize that you are not strong enough to face these issues on your own.

Every human heart is deceitful.

The verse below ends with a question.

*Jer. 17:9 The heart is **Deceitful** above all things, and it is
Exceedingly Perverse and **Corrupt** and
Severely, Mortally Sick!
Who can **Know** it **Perceive, Understand, be Acquainted**
with his **Own Heart** ?*

The answer is – “**NO ONE!**” You can **NOT** know your own heart **without God’s** help!

If you are **confident** in your **own strength**, you will decide to process this question and **REFUSE** to ask for God’s help.

Your heart will **QUICKLY distract** you with other things and you will **forget** these painful questions **without realizing** that you forgot them.

However, if you will read these words to yourself and pray them in your heart, then you have invited the God of Heaven to help you and He is always faithful.

*“Jesus, I am asking for your help!
In my deepest heart, if I am frightened of being weak
and I am afraid of changing my core identity from a
steel rod (My strength) to a garden hose, (Your strength)
please **show** me and **help** me!”*

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