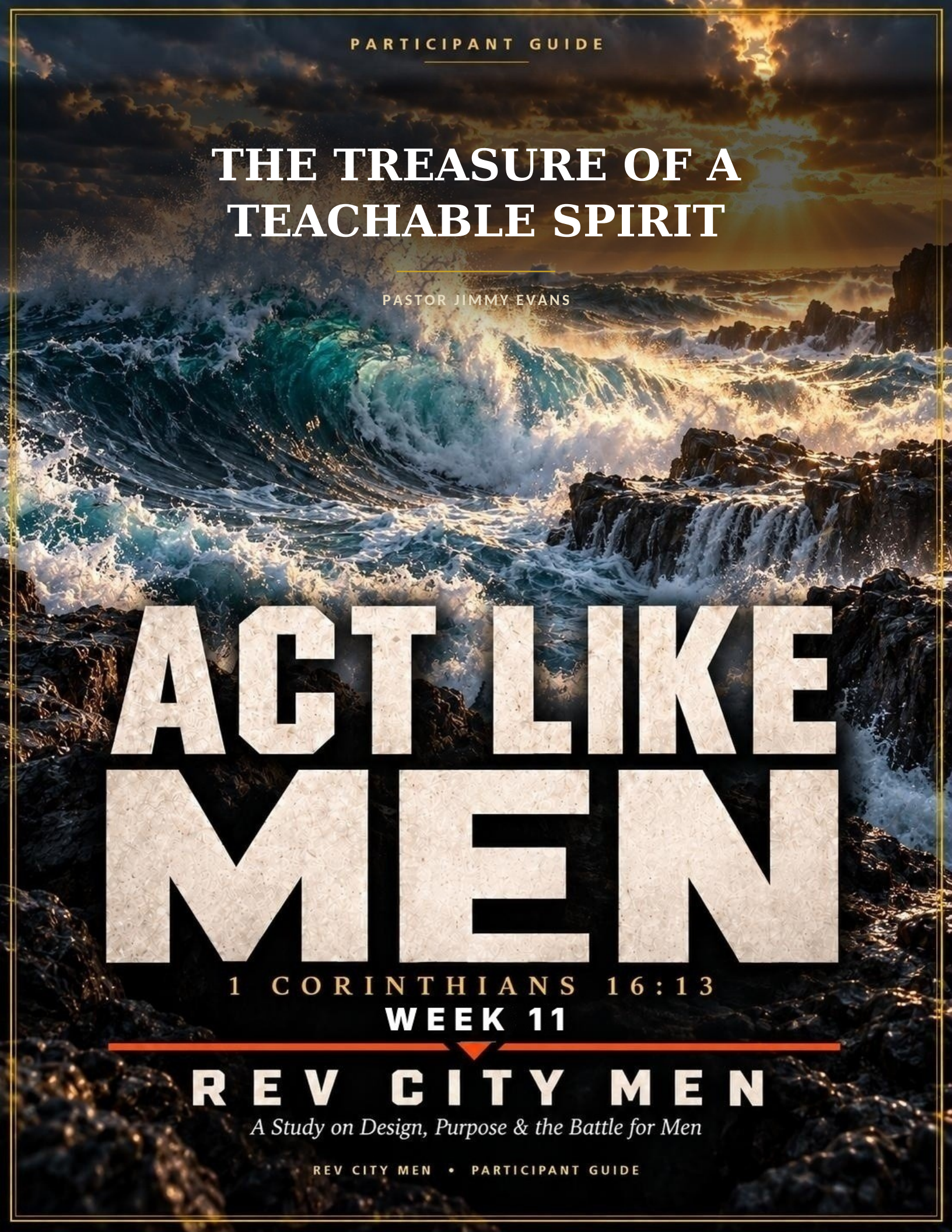
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

THE TREASURE OF A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

PASTOR JIMMY EVANS



1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

WEEK 11

REV CITY MEN

A Study on Design, Purpose & the Battle for Men

THE TREASURE OF A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

Pastor Jimmy Evans • Proverbs 12:1 • 2 Chronicles 1

SOLOMON'S REQUEST

PROVERBS 12:1

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

2 CHRONICLES 1:7

That night God appeared to Solomon and said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

2 CHRONICLES 1:10

Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

MY NOTES

2 CHRONICLES 1:11–12

God said to Solomon, “Since this is your heart’s desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.”

When we get wisdom, we get everything else.

Question: **If God came to you and was willing to give you anything, what would you ask Him?**

MY NOTES

ATTITUDE OVER APTITUDE

A teachable spirit is the only hope of gaining the knowledge we need to be successful.

No one is born with all the information. The foolish and the wise all start at point zero.

The difference between success and failure is not aptitude, it is attitude.

Some of the greatest failures in the world are the most talented, gifted, skilled people.

Some of the greatest success stories in the world are people with lesser skills and a better attitude.

Question: Do you agree that attitude is often a better predictor of success than aptitude? Why?

MY NOTES

A DISCIPLE IS A LEARNER

The word "disciple" means "learner." You cannot be a successful disciple of Jesus unless you have a teachable spirit.

Every person who becomes spiritually mature has a teachable spirit. Spiritual maturity and success is 100% dependent on having a teachable spirit.

You can be saved for many years and not become wise or mature.

You can be teachable in one area of life and unteachable in other areas.

MY NOTES

In the areas you are unteachable, you can likely look back into your family history and see they were also unteachable.

Every area of our life that is successful can be traced back to a willingness to learn and have a teachable spirit.

Question: **Is it possible to grow in spiritual maturity without a teachable spirit? Why?**

MY NOTES

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN UNTEACHABLE SPIRIT

1 CHRONIC FAILURE

MATTHEW 7:7–8

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

JOHN 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

MY NOTES

2 AN ARGUMENTATIVE AND DEFENSIVE NATURE

PROVERBS 9:8–9

Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

PROVERBS 9:13

A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing.

PROVERBS 21:9

Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

PROVERBS 21:19

Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.

PROVERBS 25:24

It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

MY NOTES

PROVERBS 27:15

> A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike;

4 PREDICTORS OF DIVORCE WITH A 93 PERCENT RATE OF ACCURACY

1. Criticism
2. Defensiveness
3. Contempt
4. Stonewalling

"You put grape juice in a bottle for a long time and it becomes wine. You put anger inside of you for a long time and it becomes contempt." — Pastor Jimmy Evans

Question: Have you ever struggled with any of these four challenges above?

MY NOTES

AREAS WE SHOULD BE TEACHABLE

- **Marriage**
- **Friendships**
- **Work**
- **Athletics** — The best, most successful athletes in the world are still surrounded by coaches.
- **Finances** — The most financially successful people are surrounded by advisors. Unsuccessful people won't even read a book about it.
- **Every Pursuit**

MY NOTES

3 ISOLATION AND WITHDRAWAL IN DIFFICULT TIMES

> PROVERBS 18:1–2
>
> A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

MY NOTES

Getting help is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of wisdom.

Question: Have you ever struggled with getting help because you viewed it as weakness?

MY NOTES

4 BLAME TRANSFER

GENESIS 3:12

The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

GENESIS 4:9

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Question: Do you find it interesting that blame transfer was part of some of the earliest examples of people blowing it in the Bible?

MY NOTES

5 SURROUNDING YOURSELF ONLY WITH PEOPLE WHO AGREE WITH YOU AND FEELING THREATENED BY THOSE OF DIFFERING OPINIONS

Question: Why is it tempting to surround ourselves only with people who we know will always agree with us, or won't have the willingness to speak up or correct us? Why is this a problem?

MY NOTES

FIVE ROOT CAUSES OF AN UNTEACHABLE SPIRIT

1 PRIDE

ISAIAH 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;

PROVERBS 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

MY NOTES

JAMES 4:6

And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

The Greek word we translate “resist” more literally means “to set yourself in battle formation against.”

The person who loves you is not the person that watches you walk over a cliff and destroy yourself.

The person who loves you is the person who sets themself between you and the cliff and tries to keep you from it.

God loves us, so when He sees us operating in pride, He resists us to protect us.

Question: **Has there ever been a time when you know God was resisting you because of pride?**

MY NOTES

2 REBELLION AND INDEPENDENCE

Much of the wisdom and instruction we receive in life comes from authority figures. People who are rebellious or independent often reject wisdom and instruction.

EPHESIANS 5:21

…submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

In a healthy marriage, no one talks about who the boss is. Husbands shouldn't bully or browbeat their wives into submission.

If God speaks something to you, there should be fellow believers that can help confirm what God has said.

MY NOTES

3 INSECURITY

Everyone is insecure about some area of their life.

Insecure people refuse to be vulnerable, show weakness, or admit they need instruction.

People that act tough are often the most insecure people.

Insecurity in an area of life can cause us to put up a facade, instead of seeking help and wisdom in that area.

Question: Why would insecurity in an area of life lead to an unteachable or defensive spirit in that area?

MY NOTES

4 FOOLISHNESS

PROVERBS 22:15

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

PROVERBS 15:14

The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

MY NOTES

5 LAZINESS

PROVERBS 26:16

The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

PROVERBS 13:4

The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

The number one financial secret in the book of Proverbs for being blessed financially is diligence.

Question: **What does it mean to be diligent? What are some examples of how to live this out?**

MY NOTES

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

1 HUMILITY

Humility admits that we need help and instruction.

Sheep are completely dependent on a shepherd.

Pride is a boast against God. It's the original sin and it keeps us from having a teachable spirit.

MY NOTES

2 GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTING CORRECTION AND INPUT

PROVERBS 9:8

Rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

Don't make people lose their dignity when they correct you. Be gracious about it. In fact, thank them for it, even if you don't agree with everything they say.

Question: What were your thoughts about the Christian politician that reached out to Pastor Jimmy welcoming accountability and correction?

Question: What does it accomplish when you thank people for input or correction, even if you don't agree with what they say?

MY NOTES

3 SEEKING WISE COUNSEL AND INPUT IN TIMES OF DECISION, DIFFICULTY, OR CHRONIC FAILURE

Seeking counsel is not weakness, it is wisdom.

PROVERBS 11:14

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

PROVERBS 15:22

Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

MY NOTES

2 QUALIFICATIONS ABOUT RECEIVING INPUT AND COUNSEL

1. Don't ever receive counsel that goes against the Word of God, even if it is from a secular source.
2. It should come from someone that is experienced or successful in the area you need input.

Get your marriage and financial advice, etc. from people who are successful in that area. (Not perfect people, but people who have overcome challenges and are doing it successfully.)

Question: **Why is it important to have qualifiers on the type of advice we listen to?**

MY NOTES

4 SUBMITTING TO AUTHORITY AND STAYING ACCOUNTABLE

ROMANS 13:1, 4, 7

> Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.... For he is God's minister to you for good.... Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Question: Have you ever struggled with submission to an authority figure in your life? What was the result?

MY NOTES

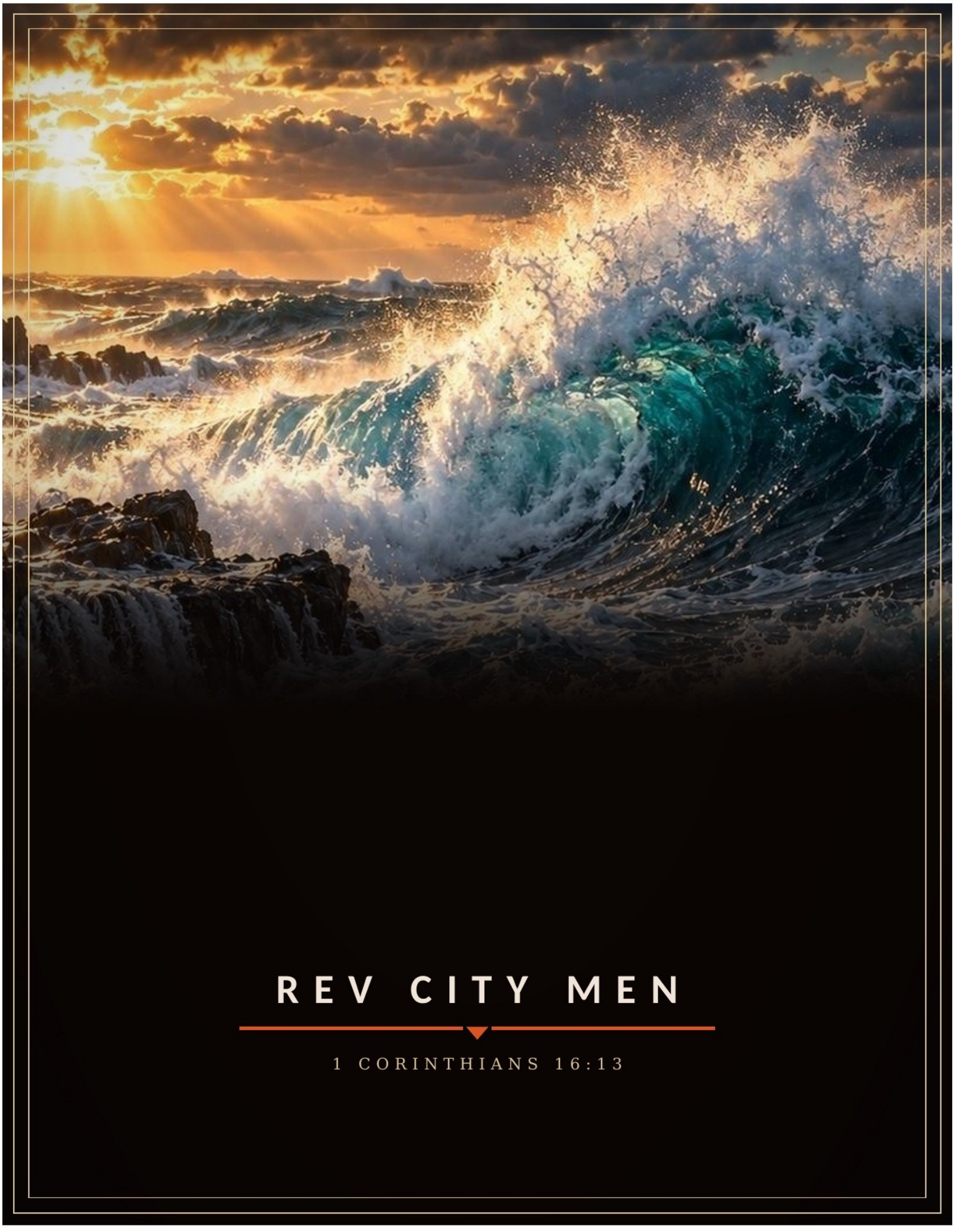
THE DETERMINING FACTOR

You can succeed in every area of life! The determining factor is often our answer to the following questions:

Questions:

1. Am I teachable?
2. Am I willing to admit that I know that I don't know?
3. Am I willing to seek counsel and advice?

MY NOTES



REV CITY MEN

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13