

Understanding Are You Fit for The Master's Use Handout #4

1. **God will strengthen your heart to do what He has called you to do.**
 - a. Wait on the Lord, and He will strengthen your heart (Psalm 27:13-14).
 - b. You must always be ready and in shape for Jesus to use you (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
 - c. Many are called but few are chosen because they are not ready (Matthew 22:14).
 - d. Something is coming that's going to require you to be in stronger shape spiritually than you're in right now. God is looking for someone who has a strong heart, who won't quit.
2. **Jesus is looking for people who will put Him first and step out in faith, right now.**
 - a. Some people have a strong draw toward home. They don't want to step out.
 - b. In Luke 9 when Jesus gave the invitation to "follow Me," both men basically said, "Yes," but they wanted to go home first. They said, "Let me first..." (Luke 9:57-62).
 - c. Jesus is looking for people who will put Him first. The invitation was for NOW!
 - d. Nothing comes before Jesus. Don't have a "me first" mentality. Do not put Jesus off anymore.
 - e. As long as there is something else to do in your plan before submitting to the plan of God, you're not ready.
3. **Follow the Father of Faith in trusting God (Genesis 18:16)**
 - a. God expected and believed that Abraham would train up his children in God's way.
 - b. Why is that important to God? Because the next generations are to finish the vision where you stopped.
 - c. So Teach your children to rely on God to accomplish His plan for their lives and trust Him for their supply.
 - d. Fathers encourage your children to follow the call of God in their lives. Be willing to let them walk with God. Ask the Lord for words to speak to guide them, so they can hear the Lord speak to them about His vision for them.
 - e. Children are visionaries; they dream big. They are not intimidated by cost because they have not had to support themselves.
 - f. At the appropriate time, parents should wean children off of dependence upon them, and onto a dependence on God for their supply.
 - g. Rather than teaching them the value of a dollar, teach them the value of a dollar sown into the gospel!
4. **God has given us many promises, and one of those promises is who are Fit know and believe this!**
 - a. There are five specific things we can do to keep ourselves Fit for the master's Use
 - b. The first thing is to walk in love; we cannot go any further than our

character.

c. But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another. Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more. Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, NLT).

d. Regarding life together and getting along with each other, you don't need me to tell you what to do. You're God-taught in these matters. Just love one another! You're already good at it; your friends all over the province of Macedonia are the evidence. Keep it up; get better and better at it. Stay calm; mind your own business; do your own job. You've heard all this from us before, but a reminder never hurts. We want you living in a way that will command the respect of outsiders, not lying around sponging off your friends (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, MSG).

e. The first thing the Holy Spirit does is pour God's love into our hearts; mistreating others grieves the Holy Spirit.

f. Following the law of love empowers us, so that we will not have to rely on others.

5. The second thing is to trust and seek God; when we trust Him, we will seek Him.

a. We can put our trust in any number of things that can let us down; we must trust God. It matters who we give priority to in times of trouble. (Psalm 34:10, NLT).

b. Young lions on the prowl get hungry, but GOD-seekers are full of God (Psalm 34:10, MSG).

c. Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honor GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent GOD's discipline; don't sulk under his loving correction. It's the child he loves that GOD corrects; a father's delight is behind all this (Proverbs 3:5-12, MSG).

d. To stay Fit for the Master's use, we also need humility, and patience in God's promise to us.

6. The third thing to do to stand to stay Fit for the master's use is to have patience by staying in faith concerning God's promises.

a. To be patient means to be consistently, constantly the same, before, during, and after lack.

b. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by

Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

c. When lack shows up, we employ patience, and remain the same about what we believe. Panicking and failing to remain the same take us out of the no-lack zone.

d. Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing (James 1:2-4, ESV).

e. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4).

f. No one is happy to encounter financial issues; however, joy and happiness are two different things. Joy is based on what we know; happiness is based on our comfort. We must absolutely know God's promise.

7. The fourth thing we must do is to walk in humility.

a. This involves submitting ourselves to God, and being ready to comply and cooperate with His plan. (James 4:10).

b. Pride wants to do things our way; humility wants to do things God's way.

c. Jesus knew the role faith plays in positioning ourselves to receive abundantly from God.

d. When we encounter lack of any kind, we must turn it over to Jesus. He causes increase when we allow Him to take our insufficiency.

e. Humble people know God loves them and will never lead them to fail: God's eye is on those who respect him, the ones who are looking for his love. He's ready to come to their rescue in bad times; in lean times he keeps body and soul together (Psalm 33:18, 19, MSG).

f. Things happen when we know God loves us. Because of His love, He will supply us. (Romans 8:32).

g. We must look for God's love in bad times, even when the enemy tells us God doesn't love us. (Psalm 37:18, 19, NLT).

8. The fifth thing to stay Fit for the master's use is to know and believe he is his only Source.

a. We can trust in God's promise to always provide what we need; He will keep His Word.

b. God takes care of those who worship, honor and respect Him, who hold Him in reverence and awe.

c. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine (Psalm 33:18, 19).

d. Watch this: God's eye is on those who respect him, the ones who are looking for his love. He's ready to come to their rescue in bad times; in lean times he keeps body and soul together (Psalm 33:18, 19, MSG).

e. God will never let us down in lean times; He will make sure we have plenty

of what we need. It is not His will that Christians suffer insufficiency; we simply must look to Him.

f. The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied (Psalm 37:18, 19).

g. Day by day the LORD takes care of the innocent, and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever. They will not be disgraced in hard times; even in famine they will have more than enough (Psalm 37:18, 19, NLT).

h. God's nature is that of a provider. We must believe He is willing and able to provide for us better than anything or anyone else.

i. God's character is not to steal, kill, or destroy, but to give us life, and give it more abundantly (John 10:10).

j It is God's nature to ensure there is no lack in the lives of those who rely on Him. When He is with us, it is impossible to lack for anything. It is imperative that we know that God—not the world—is our supply source