

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO BE FIT FOR THE MASTERS USE Handout #5

1. **We are vessels that need to be fit and prepared for God's use and every good work** (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
 - a. *In the natural world, a vessel is made of a specific material, and the owner can use it however he or she wishes. In the spiritual realm, you—as a vessel—can determine to serve the Master with honor.*
 - b. Ask yourself these questions: Are you fit? Can God use you? Are you in shape, ready for the work?
 - c. Faith is key for fitness—Having faith in God makes a somebody out of a nobody (Mark 11:22)
 - d. Your finances and your health can all be improved by having faith in God. Have faith in the One who lifts you out of hell's grip.
 - e. We have the same measure of faith that God used to create this whole universe—that same faith Jesus had when He was on the earth (Romans 12:3)
 - f. To be fit involves a personal relationship with the Lord!
2. Most problems that we encounter are resolved through a personal relationship with God; we develop this relationship by practicing the art of being alone with Him
 - a. We find grace and peace by knowing Jesus Christ, not simply by reading about Him. **(2 Peter 1:1-3)**
 - b. We must trade our knowledge about God for knowledge of God. Knowing Him multiplies grace and peace in our lives
 - c. Spending time with God changes us. The whole purpose of salvation is so that we can have a relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - d. Everything we want out of life comes as a result of a relationship with God. "All things that pertain unto life and godliness" include healing, deliverance, prosperity, favor, and joy. (Matthew 6:33)
 - e. Who we are with is the key to our Christianity. God removes all impossibilities and limitations.
 - f. And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27). For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37).
 - g. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth (Mark 9:23).
 - h. Our relationship with God eliminates unbelief. When we spend time with Him, we will have no trouble believing.
 - i. Knowing God should be all about developing our relationship with Him, not about what we can get out of it. When we are focused intently on the relationship, we forget about material gain
 - j. When we focus on God, what used to bother us does not have the same effect anymore. This is because even if the situation stays the same, we have changed. God becomes our fortress and our shield.

k. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1).

3. Going to God first deepens our relationship with Him. We must spend time with Him. (Matthew 6:6).

a. When we enter in to our closet and shut the door, we are alone with God. If we practice the art of being alone with Him in secret, the outward manifestations will be visible to everyone.

b. We must ask ourselves if we are satisfied with the amount of time we have been spending with the Father.

c. God did not call us into a fruitless relationship with Him. When we seek Him, we will find Him.(Isaiah 45:29)

d. I have not spoken in secret, in a corner of the land of darkness; I did not call the descendants of Jacob [to a fruitless service], saying, Seek Me for nothing [but I promised them a just reward]. I, the Lord, speak righteousness (the truth—trustworthy, straightforward correspondence between deeds and words); I declare things that are right (Isaiah 45:19, AMPC).

e. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

f. God wants to be found; He will not play “hide and seek” with us. We simply must believe in Him

3. God reveals His will for our lives through the Holy Spirit. He wants us to see the light.

a. God does not want us to be uncertain about His will for our lives; we should be very clear and sure about what it is.

b. Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life” (John 8:12, NLT).

c. Jesus once again addressed them: “I am the world’s Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in” (John 8:12, MSG).

d. And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us (1 Corinthians 2:12, NLT).

e. We must know the Spirit of God; most people neither know nor understand Him. He is not simply a jerk or a jiggle at church; He wants to be with us everywhere and at all times.

f. The Spirit reveals God’s will for us.

g. But he lets us in on it. God offers a full report on the gifts of life and salvation that he is giving us... (1 Corinthians 2:12, MSG).

h. The Spirit gives us a full report on what God is doing in our lives. He does not hide anything from us.

i. A relationship with God lets us in on His plans.

5. Trusting God positions us to receive more understanding of His will for our lives.

- a.** For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication (1 Thessalonians 4:3).
- b.** We must obey what we already know is God's will.
- c.** Sanctification says, "I am going to stand opposite to the world."
- d.** By trusting God to help us with what we already know to do, we prepare ourselves for learning His will for the rest of our lives.
- e.** Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety (Proverbs 11:14).
- f.** Seeking godly input keeps us safe. We must not depend solely on how we feel; spiritual counsel is important.
- g.** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).
- h.** God equips us with the skills we need to do His will. We must pay attention to the individual gifts He has put inside each of us.(Romans 11:29)
- i.** God gave us our gifts to serve others, not ourselves. (*1 Corinthians 12*)
- j.** But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) (Ephesians 2:4, 5, AMPC).
- k.** Mercy is when we do not receive the bad we deserve.
- l.** We must understand God's true nature. He is not just the God of love; He is love.
- m.** God loves us too much to enjoy seeing us broke, sick, or hurting. He wants us to be happy