

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO BE FIT FOR THE MASTERS USE Handout #7

- 1. God has made vessels for His use, and you are one of those vessels** (2 Timothy 2:20-21, NKJV, MEV).
 - a.** In the natural world, a vessel is made of a specific material, and the owner can use it however he or she wishes.
 - b.** In the spiritual realm, you—as a vessel—can determine to serve the Master with honor.
 - c.** You must get in shape, get fit, cleanse yourself and be set apart so Jesus can use you. God wants to help you change from the inside out. Ask yourself these questions: Are you fit? Can God use you? Are you in shape, ready for the work
 - d.** You should be: 1. Useful to the Master. 2. Prepared for every good work.
 - e.** Prepared means to be ready beforehand, ready when the time comes.
 - f.** Ask God what He expects from you. When do you need to be ready?
 - g.** You must be getting ready and getting in shape for His use and for every good work as you look forward to the plan God has for you.
 - h.** “Every good work” is the work God has called you, as a unique individual, to do. It’s the best, most satisfying work you can do. It is different for each person, and yet it is necessary to complete the plan of God.
 - i.** If you know something new is awaiting you, it means you are not yet ready for it. You need to begin now to prepare yourself, so that you are in shape and ready for new things in your life.
- 2. Jesus predicted all that we are seeing around us. However, we need to stay focused.** (Matthew 24:3-14, NLT).
 - a.** All that Jesus described is happening right now. He knew these things would happen; He warned us not to let it trouble us.
 - b.** In the midst of everything going on today, God is poised to move. What is about to happen will be greater than all the evil we see around us. People who we never expected to be saved will come to Jesus, because the Holy Spirit will move in the earth.
 - c.** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God (Romans 14:11).
 - d.** We are in a spiritual battle. The devil may think he is winning, but his defeat is imminent.
 - e.** At this particular time, we must not forget or let slip the things of God we have learned. (Hebrews 2:1).
 - f.** So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it (Hebrews 2:1, NLT).
 - g.** It’s important we stay focus on our Source and not be distracted- (Luke 10:38- 42),
 - h.** Martha was focus things other than Jesus; Mary was at peace, content to

listen to the Word.

i. God's Word is all everyone needs to live successfully.

J. Mary choose wisely; we must also make the right choice. Regardless of what we see and hear around us, we must maintain our faith and keep our focus on Jesus

3. To be Fit We must develop Our Faith to be persistent and focus (James 1:2-8)

a. There is a direct connection between focusing on the Word of God and the operation of effective faith results.

b. Verse 6: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."

c. Waver (GK) = to be at variance with one's self

d. AMPC: "Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind."

e. Verses 7-8: "For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

f. This means a single-minded man is stable in all his ways.

g. Single-minded = Focused; to concentrate on, give total and undivided attention to

h. Our Faith needs to be laser-beamed focused on the desired result, instead of the dreaded outcome. Focus is the bridge that vision travels on.

4. Those who are Fit always Focused on the Word (Proverbs 4:20-27)

a. Verse 20 (HEB): Mark well and pay attention to My Words.

b. Verse 21: Let them not depart from your eyes—stay focused!

c. Verse 25 (AMP): "Let your eyes look right on [with fixed purpose], and let your gaze be straight before you." -

NLT: "Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you."

d. Verse 26 (AMP): "Consider well the path of your feet and let all your ways be established and ordered aright."

TLB: "Watch your step. Stick to the path and be safe."

e. Verse 27: "Turn not to the right hand nor to the left (from the Word of God): remove thy foot from evil."

f. NLT—" Don't get sidetracked." b. NIV-84—" Do not swerve."

5. There is a law of receiving: Whatever you major on with your eyes, your ears and your mouth will come upon you. (Mark 5:35-36)

a. Staying Focused Is a Matter of Life or Death

b. vs 36: "Overhearing but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; only keep on believing."

c. In other words, "Stay intensely focused on Me!" (Hebrews 12:2): "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...."

d. Look at the results Mark 5:40 (AMPC)

e. The result of focused faith: The girl was raised from the dead.

6. Focused Faith know how to resist the devil (James 4:7)

a. Resist (GK) = To stand against; to stand in opposition

b. "Stand firmly against the devil! That's right—be unbending and unyielding in the way you resist him so that he knows he is up against a serious contender. If you will take this kind of stand against him, he will tuck his tail and run like a criminal who knows the day of prosecution is upon him. Once you start resisting him, he will flee from you in terror!", (RR)

c. The devil was determined to wear down Jesus' resistance through the temptations in the wilderness. Jesus showed us exactly how to resist the devil's persistence. (Luke 4:1-14)

d. Jesus Resisted the Devil's Persistence.

Verses 1-4 (NKJV): "Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days, He ate nothing.... And the devil said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

e. Just like Jesus we answer the temptation. - We answer the fear. - We declare out loud, speaking the Word of God.

f. Verses 5-8 (NKJV): "Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. AND the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.' And Jesus answered and, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

g. Just like Jesus we Speak the Word of God—that's how the devil backs off. . The spoken Word of God contains the necessary dynamite—explosive power—to cause the devil to back away from you. - Remember in 2 Chronicles 20:22—Praise pushes back the enemy and causes him to fall.

h. Verses 9-12 (NKJV): "Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'It has been said, You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

i. James 1:2-4—Just like Jesus when the devil is pounding at you, it's an opportunity to stand strong in the Word.

j. Verse 13 (NKJV): "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time." TPT: "That finished the devil's

harassment for the time being. So he stood off at a distance, retreating until the time came to return and tempt Jesus again.”

k. VS 14-Just like Jesus as you resist the Devil, fully armed with the Holy Spirit’s power he will flee, and you will continue the path God has for you.

7. . My FOCUS Faith Confession: Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your Word. I give it first place and final authority. I am walking in focus persistent faith more and more every day. The devil will not stop me from walking in the fullness of THE BLESSING. I refuse to quit. I refuse to let go. I refuse to give up. My faith is aggressive. My faith is persistent. My faith is determined. My faith is focused. My faith is fully persuaded. What God has promised, He is able to perform. I take it! possess it! I claim it! This is the victory that overcomes the world, EVEN MY FOCUSED FAITH!