



## *The Fisher that God Uses*

By Kurt von Schleicher

If you are a real Christian, then you will undoubtedly have a strong desire to be regularly used of God in witnessing *one-on-one* or *one-on-more-than-one*, open-air or inside different venues, at work, at school, at the store etc. You will also have a desire to lovingly help other Christians do well in these areas as they walk close with the Lord. And Christian, that desire should not go away as long as you are sucking air on this planet. We don't graduate beyond fishing before the time of the rapture or when they bury us. When the Spirit is living big on the inside of a person that's just how it is, simple as that. Now if you are merely a nominal Christian you will lack the kind of evangelistic impetus that God wants you to experience in relationship with His Son. Why? I'll tell you why; it's because you do not yet have a new nature inside of you from God. You do not yet have God's evangelistic Holy Spirit living inside of you. But you can! Our God is a soul-winning God and every verse of His Bible is a soul-winning verse.

May I respectfully ask you a question? Have you ever longed for your life to make a positive difference in the world? Have you ever had a desire to discover your purpose and the reason for which you were created for? Everyone experiences loneliness for God at some time or another even if they don't recognize this. The Lord has set eternity in our hearts. He is calling you to Himself primarily and to be a part of something bigger than yourself—the Cause of all causes. How exhilarating! Christian, do you have a desire inside to go fishing for people in need? No people are needier than lost people. Politics, green peace, save the planet recycling, and animal activism can't help them much. God has something bigger. Christ said, ***"Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"*** (Lk. 5:10).

It's a God-given desire inside of a person that will make them want to get involved in serving the Lord, working with believers and with unbelievers for their ultimate betterment and eternal welfare. And God will back such a fisher to the hilt if their heart is solely His. The Bible affirms this, ***"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him"*** (2 Ch. 16:9). Maybe you've spent some time wondering about the world-changing principles, the qualifications, the proper motives, the requirements and the characteristics that God is looking for in the life of a person that He would take pleasure in using.

***God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him.***  
—Hudson Taylor

**In the Book of Joshua, we can find some great principles that apply to the fisher who God is thrilled to choose and to use in His great soul-winning Cause:**

- ❖ **Angler's Principle Number One:** *God uses Christians who realize that they are weak.* In Joshua 1, God commanded weak Joshua to **"be strong and courageous"** three times in only four verses. Why did He do this? It might have been because He knew that Joshua was a little bit afraid. It was surely because God wanted Joshua to lean hard on Him—on the One who is strong and courageous. Josh's leader Moses was now gone and this group he inherited so to speak, was a big challenge to say the least. Think about it. God raised up Joshua to guide His people Israel, and it's understandable if Josh hardly felt adequate for such a great assignment. It isn't a bad thing to discover that we are personally weak when God calls us to do something! In fact, it is quite good. Some Christians are so full of themselves today, thinking that God's Cause really needs them. They view themselves as *"the anointed, appointed, SUPERstar saint."* Man, no one even wants to even be around Christians with that kind of superiority complex. Yes indeed, with an attitude like that, I don't even think God feels like hangin' out with them. God doesn't need you or me at all; His plan will be fulfilled. While in prayer, God said to Paul, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses"** (2 Cor. 12:9-10 nasb). Warren Wiersbe once said, **"You can never be too small for God to use—only too big."**
- ❖ **Angler's Principle Number Two:** *God uses Christians who are faithful for He is faithful and they must represent Him well.* Joshua had been Moses' loyal helper; **"Moses' assistant"** (see Joshua 1:1 kjv). Joshua was the guy who was there to help Moses get the job done right. He had been born in Egypt and, along with Mister Caleb, they together would be the only Israelites from the great exodus wanderings to survive the wilderness and make it into the Promised Land. Joshua had faith and was a faithful man. He was a worthy successor to Moses and over and over again God showed Himself faithful by strengthening him. We have all let God down, but He can change us into faithful people, for He is faithful. The Bible says, **"Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies"** (Ps. 36:5). Robert Ekh said, *"God doesn't want us to know that He is faithful just because the Bible says so, but He wants to show Himself faithful in our lives."*
- ❖ **Angler's Principle Number Three:** *God uses Christians who study and live by His Word.* God commanded Joshua, **"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night..."** (1:8 nkjv). He wanted Joshua to be careful to do according to all that was written therein. If you want to be used of God, then you need to know the Word of God and be a doer of what the Word says to do. **"Meditate in it day and night,"** God said to Joshua. The word, *"meditate,"* means, *"to ponder, to consider, to contemplate."* This is where you'll have the authority when you are used of the Lord! God is glad to use those who love His authoritative Scriptures and the very Source of those sacred writings (God Himself). Paul told us in Second Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture is God-breathed—it was breathed out of the very nostrils of God—and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness". Listen, when you're in God's Book and God's Book is in you ...and in your shoe leather as you properly apply it, you indeed won't be into sinning. But if you're in sin, you indeed won't feel like being in God's Book. Get honest with God, repent and read it anyways! When you live by God's Word, you will find balance; you will lead a moral, upright and holy life before the Lord! Helen Keller agreed with this and challenged us with these words: *"Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness."*
- ❖ **Angler's Principle Number Four:** *God delights to use the person who is patient and waits on His timing.* Imagine wandering around the dry wilderness for forty years, and then you are finally on the brink of entering the Promised Land. You've been looking forward to this for so

long. Wouldn't you feel a little anxious? Then God says, ***"Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land . . .'"*** (1:11 nkjv). We need to learn to wait on God's timing, because there is a time and a way to do what God calls us to do. If we miss His timing, we will miss His blessing. The Bible says, ***"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord"*** (Ps. 27:14). It says, ***"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint"*** (Isa. 40:30-31 nkjv). Paul commands: ***"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience"*** (Col. 3:12). We don't always see all the ramifications of acting prematurely, but Frances Havergal beseeches us, ***"Let us be calmed and steadied and made patient by the thought that what is hidden from us is not hidden from Him."*** In our day too many Christians lag behind the Lord in disobedience. And others run on ahead of the Lord to do His will their own way. They're impulsive and what a mess they can make of things! Waiting on the Lord's timing is fundamentally important!

- ❖ ***Angler's Principle Number Five: God uses the person who truly cares about lost souls.*** There was a lost person to be saved before the Jews entered the Promised Land. She was a prostitute named, Rahab. And God waited to judge the city of Jericho until Rahab and all who were with her had been reached and told what to do to avoid the coming judgment at the time when the Israelites would attack.<sup>1</sup> How cool that God would use Joshua and the spies to save a harlot, to save her father, to save her mother, to save her brothers, and to save all that she had in her abode! God's heart is all about rescuing lost people—fishing for souls! Did you know that Jesus came from Rahab's line? God's heart is all about redeeming the sinner. It's about protecting, feeding and nurturing His children and that's how we should be! Just like it is with sheep, it's the well-fed and protected ones who naturally reproduce. Every soul is valuable and very precious to God. We can see His missionary heart beating strong all through the Old Testament Scriptures just like we can see it revealed in the New Covenant. God always cares about individuals. That's why He did something about it on Calvary's cross. David Wilkerson said, ***"Christ came into this world for one reason—to reach and save lost souls! Yet, this was not merely to be Jesus' mission alone. He made it our mission as well: 'He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature'"*** (see Mark 16:15). Do you care about reaching drug addicts, criminals, homosexuals, nominal Christians, street urchins and prostitutes like Rahab was? Does it bother you to see unbelievers in their hopeless situation? Many Christians could give a flip and that is so sad, but we will live to change that!

***We must be global  
Christians with a global  
vision because our God  
is a global God!  
-- John Stott***

- ❖ ***Angler's Principle Number Six: God uses the person who sets them self apart.*** Joshua told the people, ***"Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you"*** (3:5 nkjv). The word, ***"sanctify,"*** here means, ***"to set yourself apart, to live a consecrated life."*** It comes down to this: if you want to be a fisher who is used of God, then you will want to live a holy life that is pleasing to Him. You don't have to be perfect. But you do need to be someone who is attempting to live godly without allowing yourself to be pulled down by wicked people in the world. It's time to prioritize our relationships so that we have Jesus as our very best Friend and on-fire Christians also as close friends. Sure we are to love all people in a non-preferential way, but if you will also learn to limit your time with carnal Christians, with lost people, with people who would tear down the work of Christ in your life, then God will use you to catch souls for His Kingdom! We are to be in the world but not of the world. There is no time for idols!—for people or things that we would place before our relationship with Jesus Christ. Many Christians make idols out of things that are not bad—like their child who has it's physical needs met but still wants it's own way when it's time for family devotions, like a job that's demanding

way too many hours, like an extremely shiny car that should be driven to church but never arrives. Put God first, spouse second, family third and then should come the others. Don't even allow well meaning family members to pull you down spiritually when they start cursing and talking trash about you following the Lord. Show them respect even when they don't deserve it, and then do what God says! When worldly people start mocking your level of Christian love, just so you'll hang too much with them and go party then just brush it off and invite them to church. Overcome evil with good! The Bible says, ***"Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.'"***

- ❖ ***Angler's Principle Number Seven: God uses the uncompromising Christian who knows how to work well with others as unto the Lord.*** A wise fisher of souls will communicate with and encourage the people with whom he or she works. They don't prefer to be a solo-soul-winner. Follow the example of Joshua's leadership—he worked with others and communicated well. He called the people together and sincerely encouraged them. They were worshipers and Joshua sought to build them up spiritually. These people were about to undertake a very difficult assignment that would take lots of faith. Joshua told the people, ***"Hear what God is saying to you, and let's move forward."*** Yes, Joshua was very thorough in conversing with the people that he was leading, and he was wholeheartedly encouraging them in love. If you want to be a fisher who is used by God, then this is what you also need to do. You remember how Jesus sent out His disciples to fish for souls in twos rather than separately. The Bible says Jesus, ***"called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits."*** It says, ***"The Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go."*** It says, ***"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor"*** Paul even told the Corinthian believers, ***"Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy..."*** (2 Cor. 1:24, niv). The Psalmist wrote, ***"Turn away from evil and do good. Work hard at living in peace with others"*** (Ps. 34:14, nlt).

### **Here are some more characteristics of a fisher that God delights to use:**

- A. The fisher that the Lord loves to use always loves the supreme Fisher (God) more than fishing; they seek the Lord's presence more than His presents (gifts), they want to know Him more than they want to serve Him. They don't become a workaholic for Jesus, because they don't want to lose the fruit of the spirit and flesh out in anger and frustration. They want to work hard in the Kingdom after they've spent time alone with God, hearing His instructions. In fact they love to inquire of Him for His marching orders, and go back to Him for confirmation and the details of how to perform it. They love Him more than their spouse, their children, their relatives, their friends, their stuff and everything else! The fisher God uses is obedient to Jesus Christ who they will allow to be Lord of all their decisions.
- B. The fisher that God is overjoyed to use walks in righteousness and is prayerful in the Spirit! They are truly regenerated inside and they fully rely upon the Lord with a regular, fervent prayer life. They're not merely a poser Christian who looks good and prays form prayers. Charles Finney asked a good question: ***"What is the testimony of your closet? Can it bear witness to your sighs and groans and tears over the wickedness and desolations of the world?"***
- C. The fisher that God uses has received a burden (a deep supernatural, heart-felt concern and love) for unbelievers stuck in their horrific plight. God alone is the one who can make a Christian care for the lost enough to do something about it.

- D. The fisher God is excited to use walks according to God's will. They are a person who has the faith of God to do the work of God, God's way rather than their own way. Doing God's will matters more to them than doing the will of the most holy saints around them. So many well-intentioned people have an opinion, have a plan, have a good idea, have a calling for you to do, but you need to get your go from God!
- E. The fisher God uses hates all forms of sin, but loves God and right living so much that they regularly cultivate relationship with Him as they walk in victory and minister to His people.
- F. The fisher that God is eager to use is not man-centered, self-promoting or seeking credit, glory, applause, admiration, or financial gain for them self. The fisher God uses must be about their Father's business seeking only to bring honor, praise and glory to Him. So many churches waste so much of the people's time as the ministers are constantly giving recognition, awards and applause to each other. It's kind of like the countless award ceremonies and TV programs that Hollywood puts together for the purpose of the reprobate actors giving one accolade after another to each other ...and for nothing good accomplished. With pretence, it can be so political and reciprocally remunerating in God's house too, but lost people are there to be won and God's sheep are there to hear about Jesus and be accurately fed with His Word!
- G. The fisher that God uses daily experiences and sincerely expresses God's love for unbelievers; so much so that it moves them to think and act with wisdom and propriety. We are to avoid all appearance of evil and never trust our fleshly nature. We are not here to make other believers stumble. There's a kind of competition that's wrong, a kind of ambition and striving in the flesh that are selfish. The one who abides in the vine will bear fruit.
- H. The fisher God is enthusiastic to use trusts God's Word implicitly; the fisher that God uses is a person of the Word who seeks to apply it in the right way. They let the Word of Christ dwell in them richly—they are full of His Spirit, His Message and they are overflowing with His joy! It's infectious—it can be caught. Effective fishers love to hang out with enthusiastic fishers that point to Jesus!
- I. The fisher that God uses must be willing to suffer persecution and death for their first-love vertical relationship of faith in Jesus Christ. They trust Him for sufficient grace to obey God in all the challenging and blessing-situations He leads them into.
- J. The fisher that God wholeheartedly uses is filled with, empowered by and then is repeatedly refilled with the Holy Spirit! They are a fully committed person whose life has been transformed as they continue to allow the Lord to mold, form, and mature them into the very image of Christ Jesus. They have power to live, witness and share their testimony!
- K. The person that the Lord is uses is a fisher who is convinced that salvation and eternal life can only come by being born again through repentance and believing in Jesus Christ alone (the Bible Jesus).

- L. The fisher that the Lord is passionate to use is a person with firm convictions who is tactfully bold in their non-verbal and verbal witness for Jesus Christ. They have Holy Spirit backbone and will not back down in the face of fierce opposition for they constantly draw from the Spirit's knowledge and enabling.
- M. The fisher that the Lord uses is a person who is wholly submitted unto the will of God no matter what trail, temptation or hardship comes their way. They are led by the Holy Spirit moment by moment every day.
- N. The fisher that God zealously uses is a Christian who gladly places them self under authority—they are compelled to obey their highest Authority (God) rather than people. They do not make spiritual compromises according to their fleshly impulses or according to the dictates of this world system. The fisher God uses does not want to become unequally yoked with unbelievers. They are not into seeing how far they can get with their girlfriend or into dating carnal or worldly Christians. They are not into breaking the law, or disobeying their boss, or their teachers or their parents or their girlfriend's parents. They're not into doing anything that would hurt their body, mind or spirit or someone else's. They are not into unclean self-gratifying habits or viewing any perverse material anywhere including on the internet. They are not into cheating ...especially on their spouse. They don't take any unnecessary shortcuts for they know that character development doesn't happen over night. They are non-rebellious and uncompromising in their pure devotion to Christ! They are not boring, puffed-up, or hyper-negative but are often a lot of fun to hang around with.
- O. The fisher that God uses has a good humble attitude. They are wise enough to work with their healthy local church and spiritually balanced Bible teaching pastor in winning the lost and building the Kingdom.
- P. The person that God uses is a fisher who is a good steward over all the things that God has entrusted to them and sees these things as tools owned by Another that they are to use to help people rather than to hurt them. They don't live for instant gratification but rather have financial integrity ...trusting that where God guides, He provides. The fisher God uses not only wants to accomplish what is right, they want to accomplish it in the right way ...even if it takes a little longer.
- Q. The fisher God uses is one who is willing to change their wrong thinking, their attitude, their useless method in how they practically serve others for the purpose of pleasing God.
- R. The fisher that God uses has a strong sense of urgency, holy affection and the permeating fear of God inside of them. They realize that their time and abilities are limited, that they can miss God in what they say or do, and that they must make every opportunity count in the light of Christ's Great Commandment and Great Commission. In fact this fisher will seek to make all their personal decisions, everyday with ***“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”***<sup>3</sup> in the forefront of their mind.

The fisher that God ardently uses has become willing and available to leave their comfort-zone. They're a meek and surrendered person who is willing to obediently sacrifice to make an evangelistic impact at home or abroad; wherever the Lord leads them to worship, fish and prepare others for this kind of enormously important stuff.<sup>4</sup>

Can God use a dweeb or someone with poor character qualities and the wrong attitude? Sure, you remember how He used a donkey and He even used Balaam and Sampson before. But God radically delights in using fishers with godly character and the right motives!

Be encouraged! God can and does want to use you, Christian. We all just need to cooperate with His Spirit. It's w-a-y exciting too! Whether you succeed in winning one or a multitude—each one matters! In Luke 15:10, Jesus says, ***"... I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*** Each seed we plant, each person we witness to, each one we pray for, and each one that we serve in Christ's Name is significant! God is looking for people today to use as His channels of His grace to bless and help unbelievers. But it's probably not the person that many in the world or in the Church would choose. So many Christians are waiting for that A-list film star to convert before God's program can kick off. I praise God for how powerfully He has used, Joni Eareckson Tada, around the world for decades. She is a paraplegic with a right spirit, a right Message, a right heart and right relationships. She wasn't a rock star BC.

We might immediately feel like saying: *Hey God will use that "educated person," that "famous person", that "good looking person," or that exceptionally "talented" person.* But in Scripture we don't always see that kind of thing happening. No, what we see is the Lord using ordinary down to earth people, the weak, the uneducated, the poor, the unattractive. We see Him going out of His way to choose the unexpected person as the Scriptures say, ***"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence."*** Again, did you notice the reason for Him doing it this way? It's so that, ***"No man may boast before God."***<sup>5</sup>

When the up and outer religious elite of Jerusalem encountered roughhewn Peter and John post resurrection of Christ, they didn't know what to make of these sandy beach dudes. Weren't these guys just common, under-educated fishermen? Where did all their new boldness, insight and anointing arrive from? Why were they now so different from the other fishy-smelling beach bums they used to hang with? The Jerusalem religious leaders had to acknowledge that these men had spent time with Jesus Christ. Would they notice that you've been with Jesus?

God wants the glory for what He will accomplish. It's no ego trip on His part. His fishers might appear a bit different from people the world would choose, but God has His reasons. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks for something else. Man looks at people's long impressive resumes, at their bank, stock and real-estate assets. Man looks at their mode of transportation, at their watch, their jewelry, their shoes, at the designer label inside their suit lapel. Man check out their decades of experience and an individual's connections, but God

looks right past all that into the very heart of a person. Sure He'll need to clean His fishers up after He catches them. Sure He'll need to teach them some things if they remain willing to learn from Him.

God loves to use everyday ordinary people to do non-everyday type of extraordinary things! Do you seek Him on your knees and ask God to use you when you wake up in the morning? The Bible says, ***"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits"*** [Dan. 11:32 nkjv]. God uses spiritual people who choose to grow up in Christ. I'm not talking about some pompous *"holier-than-thou"* type with a fault-finding critical attitude of non-gratitude. No, I'm talking about the real deal here. Spiritual people are often a lot of fun to be around but they don't live for fun. They love to laugh, but they don't laugh at dirty jokes. They are very down to earth with a simple wisdom beyond man's worldly wisdom. They're not simpletons by any means, but they are profound in what they say and do. Who takes interest in posers or in the phony head-in-the-clouds type of spooky mystics? Not many!

***Expect great things  
from God; attempt  
great things for God!  
—William Carey***

Intimately knowing and walking with God in a genuine seven-day-a-week relationship is what it is all about! This spirituality thing is essentially a very practical matter, and those who really know the Lord are some of the most real, most approachable, most touchable people you can ever meet. They weep with those who weep; they sympathize and mourn with those who mourn.

The leaders in the Bible that God used were people with like passions as you and I have. They weren't double-minded, hypocritical, worldly, carnal, or ritualistic people even though they had their customs, made their own blunders and had their frailties. Some church folk think cloneliness is next to godliness, but that simply ain't true! They weren't just like each other talking the same lingo, dressing the same, acting exactly the same, having the same forced personality quirks as perhaps some of the fake cookie-cutter type of dead religious people you might have known. They were very much human—flawed humans—with a flawless God that they could talk with and walk with. He listened to them intently and answered their prayers. He will listen to you if you've got the time.

God wants His children to be loyal people rather than among the unrepentant fickle traitors of the land—the fair-weather followers. You remember David as a young lad. He was anointed to be king a long time before he actually started to reign as the ruler. Young David's job was to carefully tend his dad's sheep! How humdrum and menial! Man, does that sound slightly mundane and blue-collar to you like it does to me? David didn't get to lead armies decked out with splendor yet or get to fight in glorious battles like his brothers had the opportunity to do. He didn't get to dawn the regal garb of a monarch immediately. Even after he heard the news that he would become the king it didn't go to his head, David just kept on faithfully carrying out his lowly shepherd duties among the sheep, because he was loyal. He was faithful in the small things. Instead of getting bored out of his gourd, David would spend hours cultivating his first-love relationship with God, skillfully playing his instrument, singing and simply worshipping the Lord as he performed his duties among that little flock. Yes, God had David leading the woolly ones for quite awhile in pastures way out in the wilderness. That was his responsibility and he did his very best in this. He took it seriously rather than shirking or excusing himself from it. We know that there were times when David fought off a lion and a bear just to protect those woolly ones too. It wasn't always comfortable and safe. Yes, out there in the open pasture it could get dangerous, but David trusted in the Lord.

God calls us to be loyal too—to Him first and then to our friends and family members. He doesn't make leaders per se, He makes servants and those servants that are faithful he turns into leaders. God makes the feeders of His flock into the leaders of His flock! Yes, He is the One who can change us into the faithful servants we need to be. He might have called you, but that doesn't mean you're ready to rule right now! There are tests, trials, and temptations that need to be overcome, and God can give you the victory. It was like this with others in the Bible too. Did Elisha lead immediately right after he was recruited by God through Elijah? No. Elisha, Joshua, and Joseph all needed preparation time before they got their own respective opportunities to be leaders. They learned obedience in serving and in suffering in situations they probably didn't feel like being in.

The training for reigning isn't glamorous. Maybe you have been distracted. Maybe you've somehow gotten out of fellowship with the Lord and His people. Maybe you've been disloyal, disobedient and have miss-prioritized in multiple areas. Maybe you haven't followed through with your particular assignment from the Lord. Maybe you've been trying to stay busy just to block out the thoughts of guilt and confusion about it all. Do you hate to be alone when it's quiet? Do you feel and unrest and discontented. Maybe you've felt like God was far away, didn't care at all, and was disgusted with you. Maybe you've majorly flaked out on God and on your Christian friends and are now wondering what you should do.

I would encourage you to do what the Beatle's sang when Paul McCartney and John Lennon belted out: *Get back, get back. Get back to where you once belonged. Get back, get back. Get back to where you once belonged. Get back Jojo!*" The Lord hasn't forsaken you even though He hasn't answered every prayer in the affirmative. Get back; God has a place for you! He isn't finished with you. He does care and wants you to grow-up in the faith. He hears your cry for help. Don't be mad at Him.

Maybe you've heard of the **"Three Rs of Recommitment."** We can apply these basic steps from what we find in the book of Revelation: **Remember, Repent and Repeat!**

Jesus lovingly challenged the wayward Christians at the church of Ephesus saying, ***"I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works"*** (Rev. 2:4-5). Christian, do you remember all those things you initially did to grow and gain edification when you were a new baby in the Lord? You went to multiple Bible studies, pancake-breakfast-prayer-meetings, all nights of prayer, and sound church services each week. You loved to have quiet time all alone in the Word every day and prayed like you really meant it. You would stay up all night sometimes reading good Christian books and hearing tapes—you were both an excited bookworm and a tape worm ...or maybe an MP3-worm! You started experiencing so much joy that you would find yourself witnessing to your lost friends and this even built you up. You would drive many miles to go pick up friends to take with you to church.

Remember and then go back to Christ and do all those things again—a whole lot, until you are a strong believer again. This I say, ***"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully"*** (2 Cor. 9:6). You need to sow to the Spirit aggressively with discipline! Or perhaps you're not even sure now if you've ever gotten right with God in the first place. Maybe it's doubtful that you've ever been [really saved](#).

Then here are some more "Rs" for you if you desire the forgiveness of God—if you want Jesus to make you into a fisher that He can use.

I call these: "*The Seven 'Rs' of Regeneration.*"

1. **Recognize** that you are a sinner (admit your need).
2. **Repent** of your sin (be willing to hang a 180 degree turn away from a life of sin to Jesus).
3. **Realize** that Jesus Christ died in your place on Calvary's Cross and rose from the grave.
4. **Receive** Jesus as Lord into your life by faith, so He can begin to empower and control you through His Spirit.
5. **Resolve** to do it publicly. Everyone, who Jesus called, He called openly and publicly.
6. **Respond** to Christ now! Be born again. Why NOW? Because God says now—TODAY is the day of salvation, NOW is the acceptable time. The Devil will say "Mañana" (tomorrow), but Jesus says today – right now.
7. **Rejoice** in Jesus, thanking Him for what He has done!

Now go **REPORT** your new commitment to another person. God is looking for ordinary people to use that are willing to obtain His righteousness and the qualities of faithful compassion, who truly want to please Him as they cast the smartly-baited-hook and throw the net in the right way, place and time. This can be you!

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<sup>1</sup> See Joshua 6:17.

<sup>2</sup> See Mark 6:7, Luke 10:1 and Ecclesiastes 4:9 nkjv. Also check out Matthew 11:2, Matthew 21:1, Luke 19:29, Mark 11:1, Mark 14:13.

<sup>3</sup> See Matthew 28:19.

<sup>4</sup> I would like to thank my old pastor Chuck Smith for so many of these great ideas here that I heard him faithfully teach about for years in California.

<sup>5</sup> Please see 1 Corinthians 1:25-29 in the nkjv and nasb translations.