

Corrie recalls the incident in her book, *The Hiding Place*:

“He came up to me.. ‘How grateful I am for your message...to think that, as you say, He has washed all my sins away!’

His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often... the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side. Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more?

‘Lord Jesus’, I prayed, ‘forgive me and help me to forgive him.’

I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so, I breathed a silent prayer.

‘Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness.’

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.

And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than our goodness that the world’s healing hinges, but on His.”

“When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself”

(The Hiding Place, Fleming H. Revell Co.)

No matter how hard Corrie tried...she didn't have the power in herself to love this former enemy who had humiliated her.

Yet she knew that Christ had commanded her to love everyone...even her enemies.

By faith...Corrie confessed her sin, and turned the matter over to God. Her faith resulted in the power to obey. And, her obedience resulted in the great joy and peace that only comes when we abide in Christ.

Q Are there people in your life you can't forgive?

Q What does God tell you to do? (Eph. 4:32)

Take some time alone with God to confess your un-forgiveness, and ask the Holy Spirit to forgive them through you. As you abide in Him, He will give you the power!

And...then join other believers in running the race.

Q Jesus was our greatest example of forgiving others. Who did He forgive in Luke 23:34?



SO...ARE YOU READY TO GET CONNECTED WITH OTHER BELIEVERS?

It is truly awesome to “fellowship” with others who love Christ...and are living for Him! When each believer is using his gifts, it truly creates the “oneness” Jesus prayed for us. (John 17:21)

Remember though...abiding in Christ is the key to love. And love is the key to every relationship!

HOW TO GET STARTED:

- Ask God to direct you to other believers.
- Attend a Bible teaching and outreaching church.
- Join a small Bible study and prayer group.
- Use your gifts to reach others for Christ.
- Find a mature believer who will “disciple” you.
- Ask God for someone you can disciple.

“...If we are living in the light of God’s presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other...”

1 John 1:7a



Read Hebrews 10:24&25.

How do you plan to live according to those verses:

EXTREME PRIZE OBEDIENCE GOING FOR THE GOLD!

7

In John 15 Jesus tells us that an abiding life is essential if we are to produce fruit for Him. Jesus also tells us that the only way to abide in Him is to be obedient to His commands.

“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

John 15:10

If you are truly running to win the extreme prize God has for you... and are “going for the gold,” then aim to please Christ by obeying His commands. Jesus said,

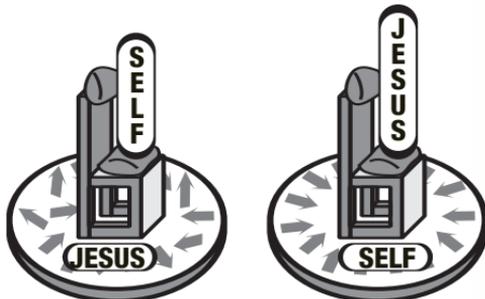
“If you love me, obey my commandments.”

The entire Christian life is to be lived by faith, not works. Other religions give lists of rules to follow. But when we see how much God loves us, and that Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins, we will want to obey Him. Trusting the Holy Spirit with your life will result in a life of obedience to his Word.

Don’t be disappointed when progress in your Christian walk doesn’t happen as quickly as you want. Christian growth is a lifelong process. God is patient with you, and will never take His love away from you. However, the Holy Spirit will give you victory any moment you choose to obey Him.

Many Christians say they trust God with their lives, but refuse to obey His Word. James calls their faith “dead.” The abiding life however, is to be lived by faith, trusting in God’s promises even when we are going through trials and don’t understand how God is answering our prayers.

Remember the two circles from Chapter 2?



Q Which circle represents your life? _____

If Christ is directing your life, it will result in a transformation of both your walk and your talk. In other words, your character will become more like Christ's character, and your words and actions will sound and look like Him.

THE WALK

We have already seen that a life of obedience to Christ is based upon faith in His Word. You and I are totally unable to live the Christian life in our own strength. However, by faith in His promises, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome trials and temptations. As we surrender our lives to Him, He conforms us into His likeness.

Jesus is totally unlike us. Let's take a look at just a few of the differences:

JESUS IS:	MAN IS:
Holy	Sinful
Loving	Unloving
Humble	Proud
Forgiving	Unforgiving
Obedient	Disobedient

But, in spite of the differences, the Holy Spirit is continually conforming us into Christ's image. What does Paul say in Galatians 4:19?

PERSONAL HOLINESS

The highest attribute of God is holiness, which means He is morally pure and righteous, set apart from any unclean thought or deed.

The Holy Spirit is working in our lives to remove all filthiness and lustful thinking.

Nancy DeMoss writes, "True holiness starts on the inside – with our thoughts, attitudes, values, and motives – those innermost parts of our hearts that only God can see. It also affects our outward and visible behavior: 'Be holy in all your conduct.'"

Q What does Peter say in 1 Peter 1:15&16?

Q What does Paul say in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20?

LOVE FOR OTHERS

The Holy Spirit is actively at work in giving us His supernatural love for others. His love is forgiving rather than judgmental, patient rather than irritable, and compassionate rather than easily angered and embittered towards others. Corrie ten Boom was only able to love the prison guard who demeaned and abused her when she made the choice to love him by faith.

Many Christians are able to put on a good front which appears loving, while holding deep grudges and resentments inside. Christ's love is totally different; it begins on the inside.

Since it is impossible for us to simply improve our sinful natures, our act of obedience is to surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to make us Christ-like.

Q What does Paul say in Galatians 3:3?

Q What is Paul's solution in Galatians 2:20?

Q What does a Christ-centered life look like? (Galatians 5:22)

Q What areas of your walk with Christ have changed to become more like Him?

Q What areas have not changed that need to be surrendered to Him?

Q Why not surrender those areas to the Holy Spirit now? List any areas you need to surrender:

THE TALK

You and I as followers of Jesus Christ have the awesome privilege of sharing the good news of eternal life with others. There is tremendous joy in winning other to Christ.

“Jesus came and told His disciples, I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations....”

Matt. 28:18,19a

As you continue your race, remember that Jesus’s command is to all believers...including you!

In this chapter you will learn how to invest your life to win others to Christ, thus fulfilling your Lord’s Great Commission.

YOUR GREATEST INVESTMENT

Have you ever thought of your life as an investment? Jesus did. He continually compared your life with an investment of money. Jesus wants you to invest your life for the greatest possible return. He wants you to help build His Kingdom.

Q How are you investing your life?

THE THREE SERVANTS

(Luke 19:12-27)

Jesus told the story of a prince who had left his three servants a huge amount of money to invest for him. He would settle with them when he returned years later. When the time came to settle, and reward them for their faithfulness, the prince asked them for an accounting:

The first servant said, “Master, I doubled your money”

The prince was elated, and said, “Great job! Because you’ve earned me so much on

that small investment, I'm going to put you in charge of ten cities!"

The second servant said, "Master, I made a fifty percent return on your investment." The prince said to him, "I'll put you in charge of five cities."

The third servant said, "Master, here's your money, safe and sound. I kept it hidden in the basement since I was afraid to lose it. I know you... don't put up with fools."

The prince was extremely disappointed... and told him, "You're right that I don't put up with fools... and you have been a fool! Why didn't you at least invest the money in a savings so that I would have gotten a little interest on it?"

Then turning to the others standing nearby, the prince ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who earned the most.'

They objected, and said, 'But master, he already has double...'

The prince then said, "That's what I mean: Risk your life and get more than you ever dreamed of. Play it safe and end up holding the bag."

(Luke 19:26 The Message)

Jesus told His disciples this story to give them the picture that God expects a return on our lives. In other words,

HE WANTS OUR LIVES TO "COUNT" FOR HIM.

Life on earth is short. Soon it will be over – then it will be too late to invest your life for Christ.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

The Bible makes it abundantly clear that when your life is over, you will have the great honor to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and receive rewards for your faithful service to Christ. (2 Cor. 5:10)
All believers will give an account of their walk with Christ, but unfortunately not all will receive rewards.

Q What does Paul say in 1 Cor. 3:11-15?

Jesus wants you to invest your life for the greatest possible impact for His Kingdom. Like the prince who rewarded the first servant who doubled his investment, Jesus greatly desires to reward you.

EXPAND YOUR TERRITORY

In The Prayer of Jabez, the author Bruce Wilkinson relates how a relatively unknown man from the Old Testament, Jabez, asked God for “expanded territory.” (1 Chron. 4:9&10)

Jabez wanted to be special for God. He wanted to invest his life for the greatest return. (This book will greatly challenge you.)

D.L. Moody was a man who asked God to expand his territory. He made this statement:

“The world has yet to see what one man who is totally sold out to Jesus Christ can accomplish. By God’s grace, I want to be that man!”

--D.L. Moody

Q What “expanded territory” are you asking God to give you?

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

In the same passage of Scripture that Paul tells the Corinthian believers about the Judgment Seat of Christ, Paul tells them another awesome fact:

“We are Christ’s ambassadors”

2 Cor. 5:20a

A country selects an ambassador to represent them in the highest manner to another land. Great care is made by the King or President to select the finest representative.

Your King has selected you to represent Him. You are God’s choice to reach others for Him. You are Christ’s “witness”.

YOUR WITNESS FOR CHRIST TAKES TWO BASIC FORMS:

**WITNESS BY YOUR “WALK”
WITNESS BY YOUR “TALK”**

WALK BEFORE YOU TALK

One reason to grow in your relationship with Christ is so others can see Christ by your walk. This can have a huge impact on others. Jesus said:

*“Let your good deeds shine out for all to see,
so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”*

Matt. 5:16

Q Your thoughts on being Christ’s Ambassador:

WORK IN PROGRESS

Don't let the fact that you are a "work in progress" stop you from sharing Christ with others. Satan would love for you to keep silent about your new relationship with Christ.

However, if you are not living for Christ, that behavior will be obvious, and sharing Christ will appear hypocritical to others.

Q Is there anything holding you back from sharing Christ with your friends and others?

TELLING OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS

Have you ever thought about how many kids you know, or rub shoulders with who are hurting...and are disillusioned with life? In fact, some get so despondent that they consider ending it all. Bob Phillips was one of those kids.

JUST IN TIME

Bob Phillips had everything going for him in high school. As the son of a multimillionaire, money was no problem. When Bob was sixteen his parents bought him a new Jaguar convertible.

Bob had an aura about him. His good looks and captivating personality made him Mr. "Cool"...the most likable and sought after guy in his class.

Girls were "blown away" by his flamboyant manner. He was elected president of an elite club for only the very "coolest" guys.

Since Bob had so much going for him, I was reluctant to witness to him. As a

new Christian, I had never witnessed to anyone personally. I thought kids would think I was weird...or some kind of religious fanatic. Since Bob was my best friend, I thought he would let me know if he wanted to know about Christ. Of course, that was just a “cop out”.

As the weeks went by, I realized I was not really being a friend to Bob by hiding the truth of Christ. I told him what Christ meant to me, and introduced him to my Young Life leader, “Doc”, who then led Bob to Christ!

Years later, Bob shared this shocking true story with me:

“I had reached a point in my life where I was fed up with what life had to offer. Everything had been too easy for me... money... toys... friends... girls... kicks. Nothing satisfied. None of it meant anything anymore!

I finally came to a day when I wanted to end it all. I asked God to show me if there was any reason for me to keep living. I decided to put off my decision to take my own life for a week to see if God would answer me.”

Bob then told me to my amazement, “It was during that week you told me about Christ...and ‘Doc’ led me to receive Jesus as my personal Savior!”

Years have passed, and Bob and I are still good friends. It’s great to know we will spend eternity together. It is a truly frightening thought to think that he came so close to dying before he had a chance to hear how much Christ loved him.

Q Can you think of some people you have the opportunity to share Christ with?



HOW TO SHARE CHRIST WITH OTHERS

You don't need to be an expert in the Bible, or have years of experience with Christ to witness for Him. There are several ways you can verbally share Christ on a daily basis:

INFORMAL SHARING

You don't have to make a complete presentation of the Gospel to make an impact for Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone who is open to hearing more about Christ:

- Invite a friend to church or youth group.
- Give your personal testimony.
- Ask a kid to join you at a Christian camp.
- Introduce a friend to other Christians.
- Give out a Christian book or tract.



Pray
“Go to God about men... before you go to men about God.” Ask God to prepare the person’s heart and to control you by His Spirit.

Use a Gospel Tract
In order to be concise and not get side-tracked, use a good Gospel tract, such as **The Four Spiritual Laws**, by Bill Bright. (New Life Publications), or **The Bridge**, (Navpress). You can also use Chapter One of this booklet.

Use a Bible
Carry a small Bible with you that has the key verses underlined. It’s best to use a modern translation, such as the New Living Translation. Try to memorize the key verses for each point of the Gospel.

Share Your Personal Testimony
Write out your personal testimony, and review it with a friend until you can present it naturally in 3 to 5 minutes. Keep focused on how Christ has changed your life...and how awesome He is to you. Be enthusiastic...but not phony. Be transparent...and let them know you’re “real”.

Stay Focused
You fight a spiritual battle when you share Christ with an unbeliever. There may be unusual interruptions...or the person might try to evade the real issues and get you off track. Pray, and keep focused on Christ’s love...and His death for them on the Cross. Emphasize how important they are to God.

□ Ask For A Decision

As the Holy Spirit leads, expect God to be working in their heart. Ask one of the following questions:

“Does this make sense to you?”

“Would you like to accept God’s Gift?”

“Would you like to make sure?”

“Would you like to ask Jesus into your life?”

□ Lead Them In Prayer

If they are ready to receive Christ, pray with them, using the prayer in your tract, or from Chapter One in this booklet.

THE NEXT STEP

Once a person has come to Christ, it is vital that you show them how the “pieces” of the “puzzle” fit together. Schedule a time to go through this booklet with them.

It is also vital that they immediately get “connected” with other Christians...preferably people they can relate to.



PASSING THE BATON

When you lead a person to Christ, you are “passing the baton” to them. Teach them from God’s Word the discipleship principle Paul taught Timothy, so they will pass it on to others:

“Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.”

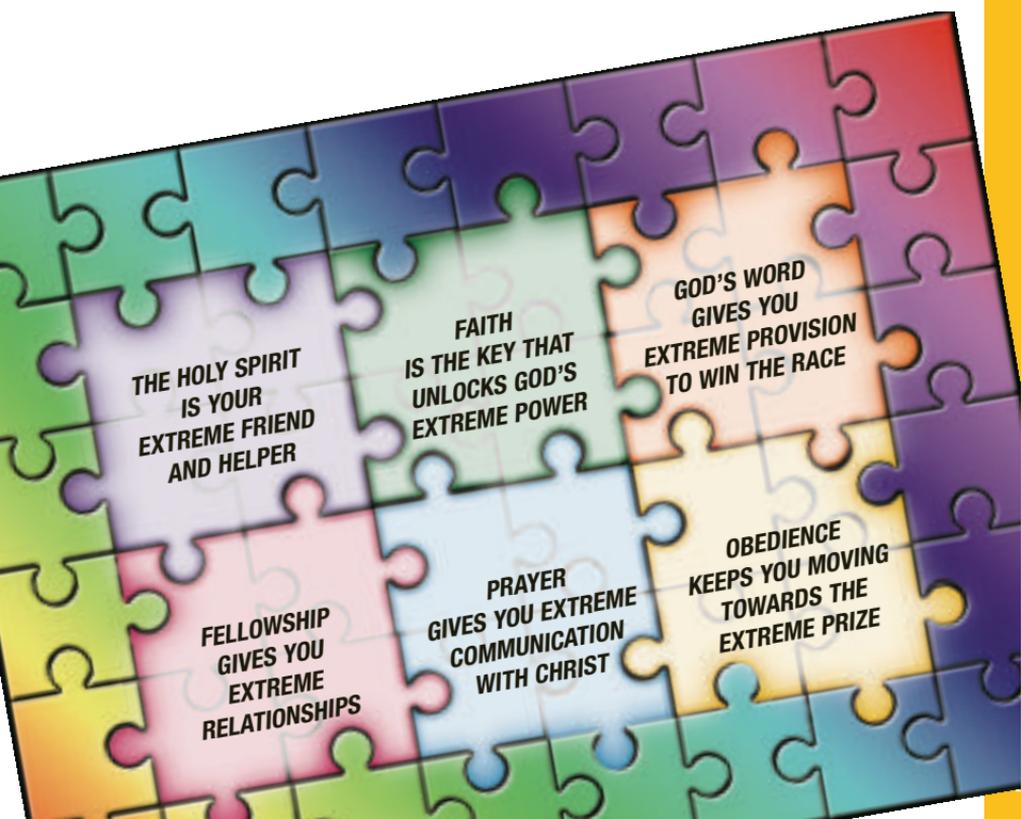
2 Tim. 2:2

For those who take God's Word seriously... and want to be discipled, it is strongly recommended that you schedule regular meetings (at least every other week), to get deeper into the Bible. Both a small group Bible study, and one on one discipleship are recommended for a new believer.

RUN TO WIN

Although this chapter concludes this study, your race goes on! There are many miles to go.

You now see how each "piece" of the "puzzle" is vital for your growth in Christ...all contributing to the awesome life God wants you to live.



Marathon runners often get weary during the long race. Some quit. Those who finish strong are focused on the finish line... the satisfaction of doing well, and the prize ahead.

God's Word tells you how to finish strong:

"...let us strip off every weight that slows us down...And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish."

Hebrews 12:1&2

Q What weight is slowing you down?

Q What changes have you made to assure a well run race?

Q What's the most important thing you have learned in this study?

SO...ARE THE PIECES COMING TOGETHER?

By now you should have a good understanding of what the “picture” of the completed “puzzle” looks like.

When Christ is the center of your life, everything will be different. Your life will be full of joy and peace. You will want to please Him. God will give you love for other people, even you enemies.

God can take ordinary people like you and me---and make our lives truly awesome and extraordinary. This is the extreme life God promises to every believer who trusts and obeys Him.

“By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.”

Eph. 3:20

Are you ready to risk it all for Christ? He is completely trustworthy...and will be with you in every mile of your race...even when you are weary and feel like quitting.

“But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

Is. 40:31

It is the will of God that you keep on running. Run well, and receive the prize! (1 Cor. 9:24-26)

**GOD HAS GREAT
PLANS FOR YOU!**

(Jer. 29:11)

LIVING THE EXTREME LIFE MOMENT BY MOMENT

In the final few pages we will learn from God's Word how you can overcome every trial and hurdle you encounter during the race set before you. Memorize God's promises. Knowing and trusting God's promises is the key to victory.

PROBLEM #1: *"I don't feel forgiven. I feel so dirty from my sins."*

MEMORIZE IT!

Ephesians 2:8,9
1 John 1:9
Isaiah 1:18

SOLUTION: Read of Jesus' total forgiveness in Chapter one.

PROBLEM #2: *"I find it difficult to trust Jesus with my problems and the details of life?"*

MEMORIZE IT!

1 Peter 5:7
Philippians 4:13,19

SOLUTION: Read about the Holy Spirit's supernatural help for you in Chapters 2 & 3. Jesus is God, and knows everything. He promises to take care of you and meet all your needs because he cares for you.

(Needs and wants are different.)

PROBLEM #3: *"How can I know God hasn't forgotten me when I experience trials and down times? If God cares about me why doesn't He take my trials away?"*

MEMORIZE IT!

John 16:33
James 1:12
1 Peter 1:7
1 Peter 4:12,13

SOLUTION: God's Word tells us we will each experience trials and hardships. (Remember Joni?) Jesus Himself and His disciples had many trials and were ultimately killed for their Faith. But God was always present through their trials and gave them supernatural peace and joy.

PROBLEM #4: *“I keep struggling over and over with the same sins and can’t seem to break free. How does the Holy Spirit give me the power to obey Him?”*

MEMORIZE IT!

Romans 12:1,2
Galatians 2:20
Galatians 5:22

SOLUTION: You must choose to trust the Holy Spirit with each thought and deed in your life. Practice Spiritual Breathing (Chapter 3). You will never totally eliminate sin in your life, but you can choose at any moment to confess your sin and walk in the total forgiveness and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

PROBLEM #5: *“Why don’t I experience the joy and peace Jesus promises to His children?”*

MEMORIZE IT!

Isaiah 26:3
Philippians 4:6,7
Acts 20:24

SOLUTION: It’s easy for all of us to take our eyes off of Jesus and get discouraged by our own circumstances. Jesus wants us to put our complete trust and hope in Him---not in this world. When our eyes are on Him, He gives us His peace and joy.

PROBLEM #6: *“Why aren’t my prayers being answered?”*

MEMORIZE IT!

John 15:7
John 16:24
1 John 5:14,15

SOLUTION: Read Chapter 5. God promises to answer prayers when they are the result of pure motives and in accordance with His will and purpose. However, God’s ways and timing are not the same as ours, and He answers our requests in the way He determines best.

Don’t despair, but keep trusting God and bring your requests to Him. Often God answers prayers in ways we don’t understand or realize. Someday we will fully understand His purposes, but until then, we must trust Him, and keep praying.

PROBLEM # 7: *“I believe Satan or an evil spirit has control over me. How can I be delivered from the forces of evil?”*

MEMORIZE IT!

Ephesians 6:11
1 Corinthians 15:58
Ephesians 5:18-20

SOLUTION: Satan has no power over an obedient Christian. While he may attack us, he is powerless when we are walking in the Spirit. However, a disobedient Christian who doesn't wear his armor (Read Ephesians 6:10-18) is not protected against Satan's attacks. The best way to defeat Satan is to walk in total obedience to Christ.

In cases of demonic oppression, one should call for the elders of the church to pray for you. Neither Satan nor his demons have any power or authority over you when Christ directs your life. You need to trust God's Word on that. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

PROBLEM # 8: *“How can I live an obedient life in the face of so much temptation?”*

MEMORIZE IT!

Philippians 1:6
2 Corinthians 5:14,15
John 14:21

SOLUTION: Review Chapters 2 & 3 and make sure you have surrendered your life to the Holy Spirit. Obedience will only come if you yield your life to the Holy Spirit moment by moment.

Strength to overcome temptation is greatly increased when you read and memorize God's Word, pray, fellowship with other believers, and share God's love with others. Begin each day with Him, and breathe spiritually throughout the day.

PROBLEM # 9: *“I can’t seem to have victory over sexual sins.”*

MEMORIZE IT!

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Corinthians 10:31

SOLUTION: God made your body, and he understands your desires. Sex was created by God as a good thing when it is an expression of love between a husband and wife. God’s Word condemns sex outside of marriage, but He still forgives us when we fall.

The Christian who has yielded his or her body to God can have complete victory over sexual sin. Satan will attack our thought life and tell us that we can’t win, but God’s power is greater, and He will give victory to those who truly want it.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

PROBLEM # 10: *“I don’t seem to be growing in my walk with Christ.”*

SOLUTION: Here is a secret. Most men and women who live godly lives spend time in God’s Word reviewing, and even memorizing His promises. Then throughout the day they “chew on” them, applying them to each situation they face. Living in the power of the Holy Spirit and spending time in God’s Word go hand in hand.



*“So I run straight to the goal
with purpose in every step.”*



1 Corinthians 9:26

GETTING STARTED IN EXTREME LIVING

"This booklet, Getting Started is a tremendous tool that provides direction and information for both leaders and new believers! I am anticipating using it to reach more teenagers with Christ's love."

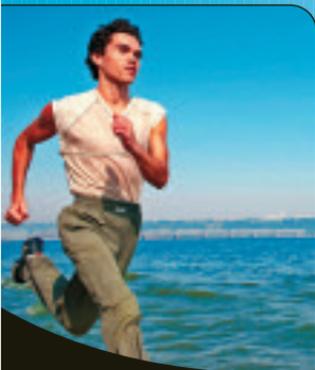
Rich Sweum, Metro Director, Snohomish County Young Life

"This book, Getting Started In Extreme Living, will inspire and challenge anyone serious about their growth as a new Christian. It will help them to go the distance and run the race...to win!"

**Mike Rohrbach, Founder/Director, Run To Win Outreach, and
University of Washington Huskies Football Team Chaplain**

"The direction for tackling life is contained in this book. A few weeks hard work learning the contents of this book will be well rewarded."

Henry Brandt, Ph.D., author of several books including *Heart of the Problem*



Reorders of this booklet, and its companion book, Getting Started - Leader's Guide, may be sent to the address below, or e-mailed to: chap@whidbey.com