

Background

- > The prophet, Jeremiah was called by the Lord to condemn Judah in her sins and to predict her down fall.
- > He had to contend with idolatries and wicked priests.
- > In the process, he became very discouraged and asked the Lord, "Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are they happy?" [Jeremiah 12:1]

The Lord replied to Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 12:5 If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan? (NKJV)

Jeremiah 12:5 "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan? (NIV)

Running with footmen and **Running With Horses**

Is About :

Luke 16:10 - faithful in little and then in much

Momentum

No Condemnation, Comparison but Encouragement

Making Progress in Romans 8:29 and Ephesians 2:10

Running with footmen =
well within your capacity and ability and yet wearied - tired - worn out!

Spending beyond your means	Serving together in a CG and got offended	Constant quarrels with your spouse
Complaining about the car park	Criticizing pulpit messages	Grumbling about your leaders
		Frequent relational conflicts

Running with Horses - by the flood-plains of Jordan =
being stretched and challenged in capacity and ability

Opposition	Persecution	Obstacles	Scarcity of Food
Lose contact with your CGL and Pastors	Constantly watched by religious police	When things do not go well	
Calamity Strikes - Earthquake - Tsunami - Floods	New Responsibilities	Riots in City	

1 Corinthians 10:13 **NS Mission Trip Storm**

Running with footmen and Running With Horses

Mostly, it is a **Personal Choice**

At times, there is **NO Choice**

Implications of Consequences of Choice

Issue of Ultimate Accountability before God!

SUFFERING

Common to Man
in a Fallen World

For **righteousness**
sake

Due to our own
"faults"

All suffering by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

1. Suffering in a **fallen world** - **No** choice
2. Suffering due to our own "**faults**" - **Wrong** choice
3. Suffering for **righteousness sake** - **Right** choice

God is NOT glorified in All our sufferings!
Only for Christ and Righteousness sake!

Running with Horses



We must **grow** and **develop** the whole person.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your **whole spirit, soul,** and **body** be preserved **blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We must **grow** and **develop** the whole person.

God wants all our capacities to be **Whole** and **Blameless**.

- I. **Physical** Capacity
- II. **Mental** Capacity
- III. **Emotional** Capacity
- IV. **Volitional** Capacity
- V. **Spiritual** Capacity

We must **grow** and **develop** the whole person.

We need to:

- (1) **Protect** them from leakages.
- (2) **Strengthen** them.
- (3) **Enlarge** them in order to run with horses.

God wants all our capacities to be **Whole** and **Blameless**.

I. **Physical** Capacity

1. **Desire to intentionally** walk in Divine:
 - A. **Healing**
 - B. **Health**
 - C. **Life**

God wants all our capacities to be **Whole** and **Blameless**.

I. **Physical** Capacity

2. Pay attention to:
 - A. our **diet**
 - B. our **rest** and **sleep**
 - C. our **exercise**

Pray the **Word** to walk in divine healing, health and life

This will greatly help us run with horses!

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I. **Physical** Capacity

2. Pay attention to:
 - D. our **relationships**

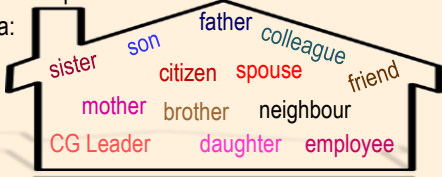
Being godly does not exempt us from making efforts to develop **good** and **healthy** relationships.

2. Pay attention to:

- D. our **relationships**

Our responsibility to fulfil our roles in the various relationships we are in.

As a:



The diagram is a house shape with the following roles listed inside and around it: sister, son, father, colleague, friend, citizen, spouse, mother, brother, neighbour, CG Leader, daughter, employee.

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II. **Mental** Capacity

1. This is our **thinking**, our **cognitivity**.
2. This is our world of **thoughts, ideas, propositions, suggestions**, etc.
3. This is the faculty that must move from knowledge (facts) to **understanding** (clarify) to **wisdom** (to know how to respond and decide).

II. **Mental** Capacity

4. Our mind i.e. thought life must be centered in **God**.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in **perfect peace**, whose **mind is stayed on You**, because he trusts in You. **4** Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.

Isaiah 26:3-4

II. **Mental** Capacity

- Our mind i.e. thought life must be centered in **God**.

Psalm 16:8 I have **set the LORD always before me**; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

II. **Mental** Capacity

- Our mind i.e. thought life must be centered in **God**.

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit**. **6** For to be carnally minded is death, but to be **spiritually minded is life and peace**.

Romans 8:5-6

II. **Mental** Capacity

- Our thought life must be **surrendered** to God.
i.e. Our minds must be **renewed**.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

II. **Mental** Capacity

- Our thought life must be **surrendered** to God.
i.e. Our minds must be **renewed**.

Ephesians 4:23 and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind** ...

e.g. Q1 : Why is there Pain and Suffering in the World?
e.g. Q2 : Can what happened to Job happen to me today?
e.g. Q3 : Why is XYZ not healed?
e.g. Q4 : Physical Manifestations of the HS - why "messy"?

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III. **Emotional** Capacity

- We need to know our **emotional** make-up.
- We must strive to be emotionally **healthy**.

Our **Natural** Emotional Make-up

feelings	baggages	lusts	mood swings
envy	insecure	fits of rage	impatience
low self-image / esteem	easily swayed		Cannot rejoice with other's success
Need to boast / defend self vs have nothing to prove	strife		jealously

3. **To run with horses**, our natural emotional response must be surrendered to the **Holy Spirit**.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

We are not easily offended and hurt!

We are not easily stressed out!

We can then handle SAF!

This will greatly help us to run with horses!

God wants all our capacities to be **Whole and Blameless**.

IV. Our **Will - Volitional** Capacity

1. This will be the culmination of our **mind** (how we think and process information) and our **emotions** (how we feel about them).

Our **Natural** Will



God wants all our capacities to be **Whole and Blameless**.

IV. Our **Will - Volitional** Capacity

2. We need to seek the **wisdom** from God to respond and make an enlightened decision.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that **good and acceptable and perfect will of God**.

God wants all our capacities to be **Whole and Blameless**.

IV. Our **Will - Volitional** Capacity

2. We need to seek the **wisdom** from God to respond and make an enlightened decision.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him **ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 3:13-18

Yielded Will

[Colossians 1:9-10]

Our will must be aligned with God.

We then have the knowledge, spiritual wisdom and spiritual understanding to make correct enlightened decision and choices.

God wants all our capacities to be **Whole** and **Blameless**.
Our soul comprise our:

- A. **Mind**
- B. **Emotions**
- C. **Will - Volition**

This is our PERSONALITY

Romans 8:29

God wants all our capacities to be **Whole** and **Blameless**.

- V. Our **Spiritual** Capacity
 1. To grow spiritually is to grow in our **spirit-man**.

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man** ...

1 Corinthians 2:11

- V. Our **Spiritual** Capacity
 2. There are **3 main functions** of our spirit-man:
 - A. Our **relationship** with God.
 - B. Our **conscience**.
 - C. Our **discernment**.

**When our spirit-man is strong,
we will be over-comers in Life!**

This helps us to run with horses!

**How to strengthen our
spiritual capacities?**

**How to build our
relationship with God?**

We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

1. Build our Altar of **Thanksgiving, Praise** and **Worship**.
 - A. The essence of thanksgiving is a **grateful** heart.

Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were **thankful**, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Gratefulness is the beginning of the wisdom

We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

1. Build our Altar of **Thanksgiving, Praise** and **Worship**.
 - B. The essence of praise is to **know** God.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the **fruit of lips that confess his name**. (NIV)

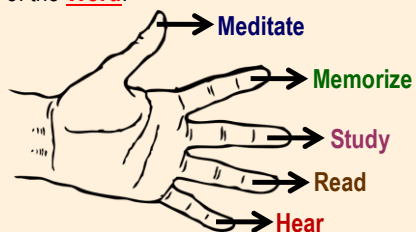
We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

1. Build our Altar of **Thanksgiving, Praise** and **Worship**.
C. The essence of worship is **surrender**.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And do **not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God**.

We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

2. Intake of the **Word**.



We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

2. Intake of the **Word**.
A. We must **intentionally** partake the Word regularly.

We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

2. Intake of the **Word**.
B. We pay attention whenever we hear God **speaks** to us personally (**Rhema**).

Proverbs 4:20 My son, give **attention** to my words; incline your **ear** to my sayings. **21** Do not let them depart from your **eyes**; keep them in the midst of your **heart**; **22** for they are **life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh**.

We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

2. Intake of the **Word**.
C. Keep a **journal** - record your QT thoughts and Rhema received. Share with others.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to **seek** the Law of the LORD, and to **do** it, and to **teach** statutes and ordinances in Israel.

When you partake the Word, posture with a view of sharing the Word to others.

We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

3. Develop your **prayer-communion**.
Pray the **Word**

2 Corinthians 4:13 And since we have the same **spirit of faith**, according to what is written, "I **believed** and therefore I **spoke**," we also **believe** and therefore **speak** ...

Whenever in pain, trials and struggles, look to the Word from God and not allow your situation to choke the Seed of the Word.

We must develop disciplines in the following **3 areas**:

3. Develop your **prayer-communion**.
Pray the **Word**

2 **Corinthians 1:20** For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him **the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.**

Declare what the scriptures declare
Say what the bible says
Pray the Word

Application - Running With Horses
A Church in Australia - Goals for 2012



1. *Increase your giving*
2. *Serve and give yourself to a cause*
3. *Pray for the nations / world - Joshua Project*
4. *Read the Bible in a year*
5. *Go on a mission trip*

Application - Running With Horses [BBTC IDMC Template]

INPUT →	YOU - the Believer	→ OUTPUT
	via 3 vehicles	
Edify →	1. Small Groups-CG	→ Serve
Equip →	2. Equipping Tracks	→ Evangelize
	3. Mentoring Relationship	→ Disciple Another
		→ Missions

Application - Running With Horses
[BBTC Direction & Priorities]

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    GOD
    ↑
  Anointed Worship
    ↑
  Anointed Word → BBTCian in CG → Anointed Works
  Anointed Altar → Anointed Body-Life → of Faith as
                                                    Priest and King
                                                    of the Most High
                                                    God
  
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Courageous Movie - The Resolution

I Do solemnly resolve before God to take full responsibility for myself, my wife, my children.

I WILL, love them, protect them, serve them and teach them the Word of God as the spiritual leader of my home.

I WILL, be faithful to my wife, to love and honor her, and be willing to lay down my life for her as Jesus Christ did for me.

Courageous Movie - The Resolution

I WILL, bless my children and teach them to love God with all of their hearts, all of their minds, and all of their strength.

I WILL, train them to honor authority and live responsibly.

I WILL, confront evil, pursue justice, and love mercy.

I WILL, pray for others and treat them with kindness, respect, and compassion.

Courageous Movie - The Resolution

I WILL, work diligently to provide for the needs of my family.

I WILL, forgive those who have wronged me and reconcile with those I have wronged.

I WILL, learn from my mistakes, repent of my sins and walk with integrity as a man answerable to God.

Courageous Movie - The Resolution

I WILL, seek to honor God, be faithful to His Church, obey His Word, and do His will.

I WILL, courageously work with the strength God provides to fulfill this resolution for the rest of my life and for His glory.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord
[Joshua 24:15b, NKJV]

CONCLUSION

Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11** if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. **12** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Philippians 3:10-12