



**MATURING**  
*in the* **LORD**



A wide-angle photograph of an iceberg floating in the ocean. The iceberg's tip is visible above the water, while a much larger, jagged mass of ice extends deep beneath the surface. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the sky is a lighter, hazy blue. The overall scene is serene and emphasizes the concept of hidden depth.

## BBTC MISSION

We **SHARE** Christ as  
we **MATURE** in Him

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We **SHARE** Christ as  
We **MATURE** in Him

**PUBLIC LIFE**

Strong Smart Talented

Able Articulate Wise

Charismatic Gifted

**SEEN/VISIBLE**

**PRIVATE LIFE**

**SOLID CHARACTER**

**UNSEEN/INVISIBLE**

Obedient Just Humble

Good Traits Teachable Integrity

Accountable to  
higher authority

Secure  
Self-esteem

## BBTC MISSION

We **SHARE** Christ as  
We **MATURE** in Him

**PUBLIC LIFE**

“1 Hour-Message”

**30-40%**

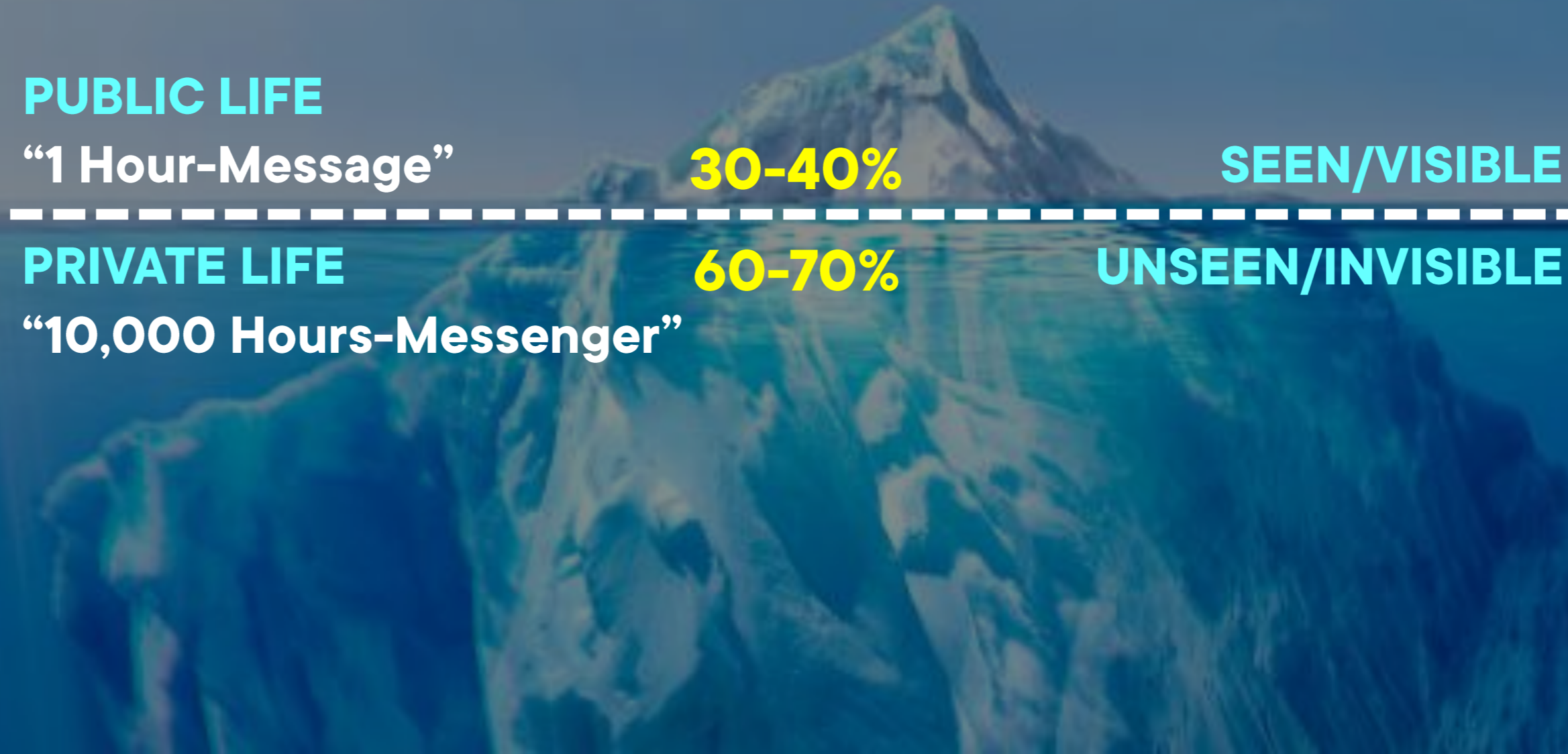
**SEEN/VISIBLE**

**PRIVATE LIFE**

“10,000 Hours-Messenger”

**60-70%**

**UNSEEN/INVISIBLE**



# Maturing in the LORD

- I. **DIE** to **SELF** always
- II. **DEAL** with **PERSONAL BAGGAGE** completely
- III. **DEVELOP** a **WHOLESOME PERSONALITY**
- IV. **DEDICATE** ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES TO GOD
- V. **DECIDE** to **FOLLOW THE LORD** wholeheartedly



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95% of the problems in our lives  
and the Church has nothing to do  
with God or the devil!

They are due to us living from  
our **carnal self-life** instead of  
living out the **Christ-life** in us.

A wooden cross is placed on an open Bible. The Bible's pages are visible, showing some text. The background is a dark, textured surface.

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Philippians 1:21 **For to me, to live is Christ,**  
and to die is gain.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is  
**no longer I who live**, but **Christ lives in me**;  
and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith**  
**in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself  
for me.

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**Luke 9:23** Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross daily**, and **follow Me.**”

- **DENY** our **self-life**
- Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**
- **FOLLOW** Jesus



➤ **DENY** our **SELF-LIFE**

➤ Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**

➤ **FOLLOW** Jesus

**DENY** our **SELF-LIFE**

**CHARACTERISTICS** of our self-life

Spiritual babies

Still drinking milk

Carnality

Living in the flesh

Divisive

Old Man (*Eph4:22*)

Selfish

Sinfulness

Worldliness

Not Spiritual (*1Cor3:1-4*)



➤ **DENY** our **SELF-LIFE**

➤ Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**

➤ **FOLLOW** Jesus

There are **2 aspects** of the **FLESH** in our lives:

**1.** The flesh that **SINS**

➤ of **commission** (*Gal5:19-20*)

➤ of **omission** (*Jas4:17*)

➤ **DENY** our **SELF-LIFE**

➤ Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**

➤ **FOLLOW** Jesus

**2.** The flesh of our **OWN NATURAL** goodness, abilities, zeal, wisdom, strength, power, etc.

Zeal of the Flesh **OR** Zeal of the Spirit Moses

Understand the **WHY** of Spiritual Disciplines x3

Understand the **WHY** of Serving and Ministry

There are **2 aspects** of the **FLESH** in our lives:

**1.** The flesh that **SINS**

➤ of **commission** (*Gal5:19-20*)

➤ of **omission** (*Jas4:17*)

➤ **DENY** our **SELF-LIFE**

➤ Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**

➤ **FOLLOW** Jesus

95% of the problems and conflicts we face are due to us responding from the **CARNAL FLESH**





➤ **DENY** our **SELF-LIFE**

➤ Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**

➤ **FOLLOW** Jesus

To deny our self is **NOT** to respond and react from our sinful nature, but from **CHRIST** who is in us

**Romans 6:11** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to **sin (sinful nature)** but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**e.g. #1** - taking revenge - get even - backstab

**e.g. #2** - keeping a record of wrongs

**e.g. #3** - vicarious anger

**e.g. #4** - expectations and being judgmental

1Cor15:31;  
2Cor4:10-11

A silhouette of a person carrying a cross, set against a dark blue background with a subtle light gradient. The person is shown from the side, carrying the cross on their back.

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**Luke 9:23** Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross daily**, and **follow Me.**”

➤ DENY

➤ Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**

➤ FOLL

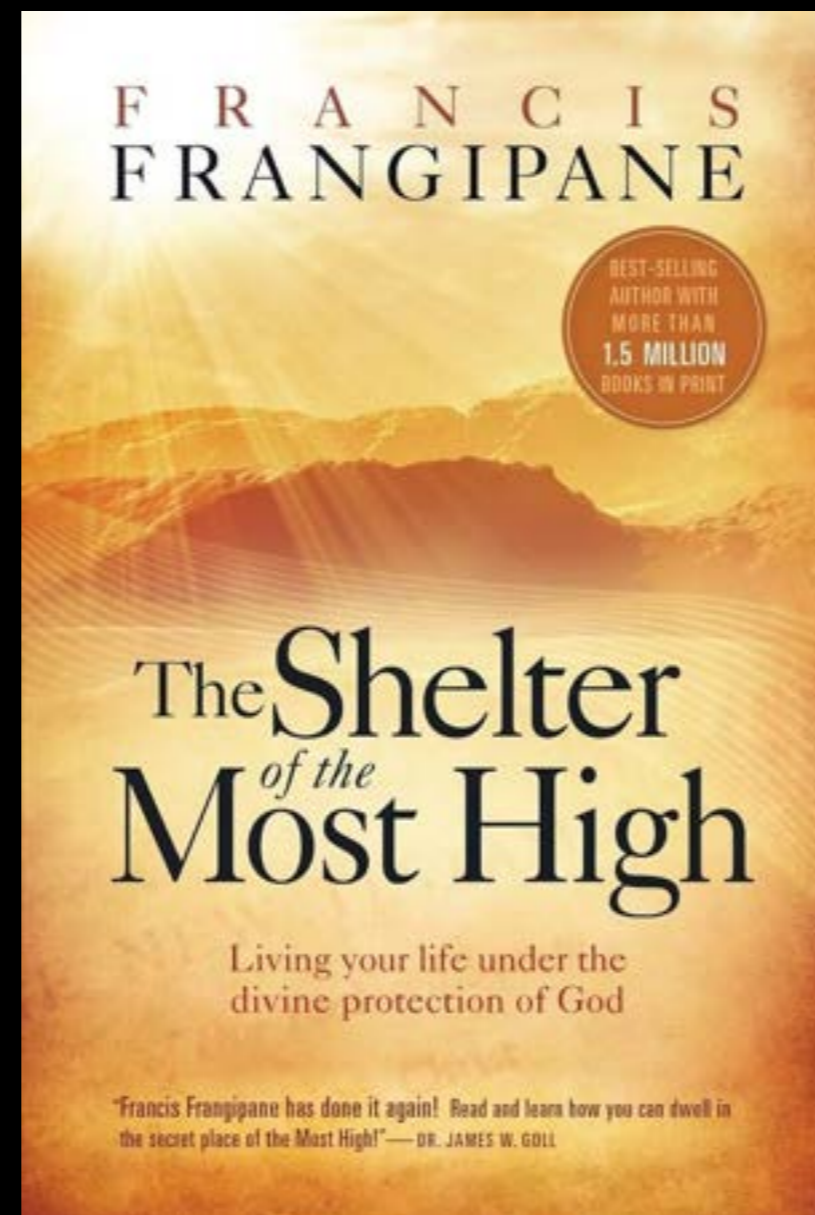


➤ **DENY** of **SELF-LIFE**

➤ Take up our own **CROSS DAILY**

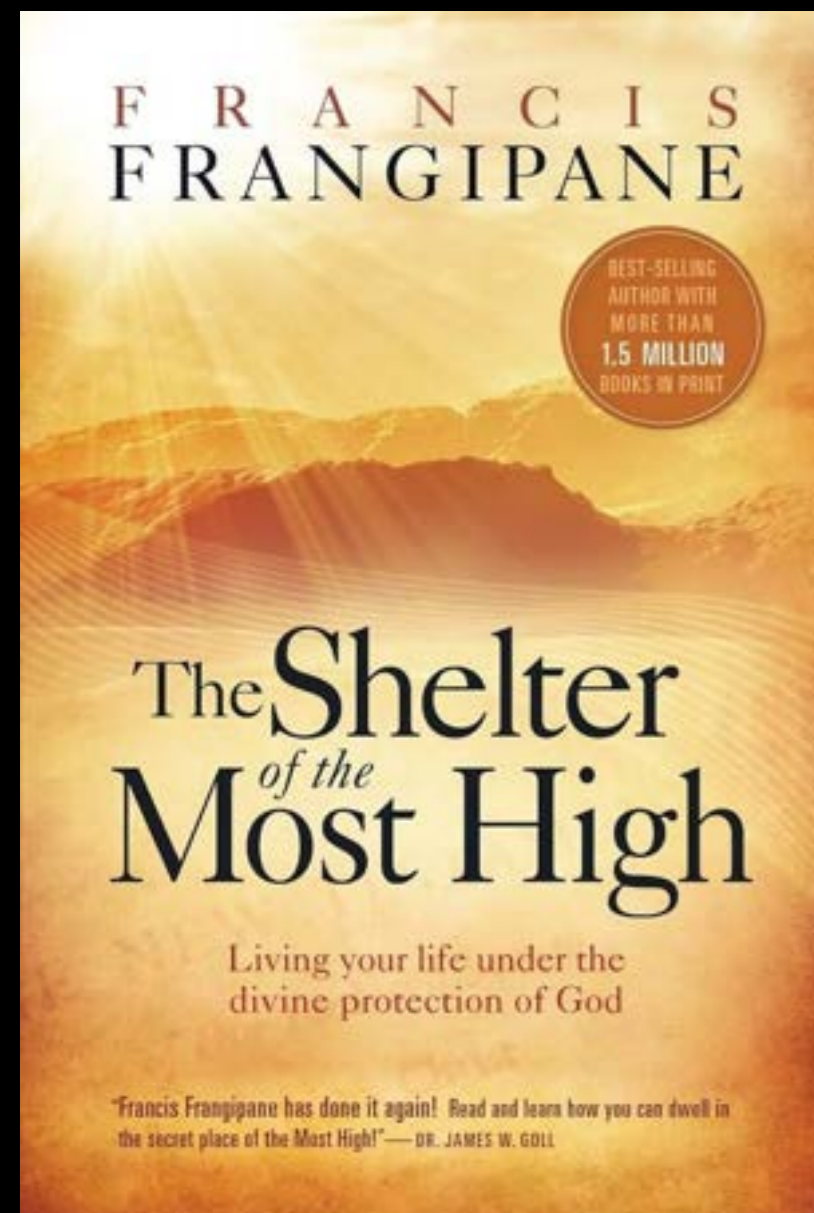
➤ **FOLLOW** Jesus

- The cross means crucifixion and death to our **SELF**.
- Our cross is not our **SISTER'S OR BROTHER'S** cross.
- Our cross is unique and a **PERSONAL** one.
- The instruments of our cross are:
  - The **PEOPLE** that cross our paths;
  - The **CIRCUMSTANCES** that we are in; that invokes the **SINFUL**-nature in us which must be crucified and dead.



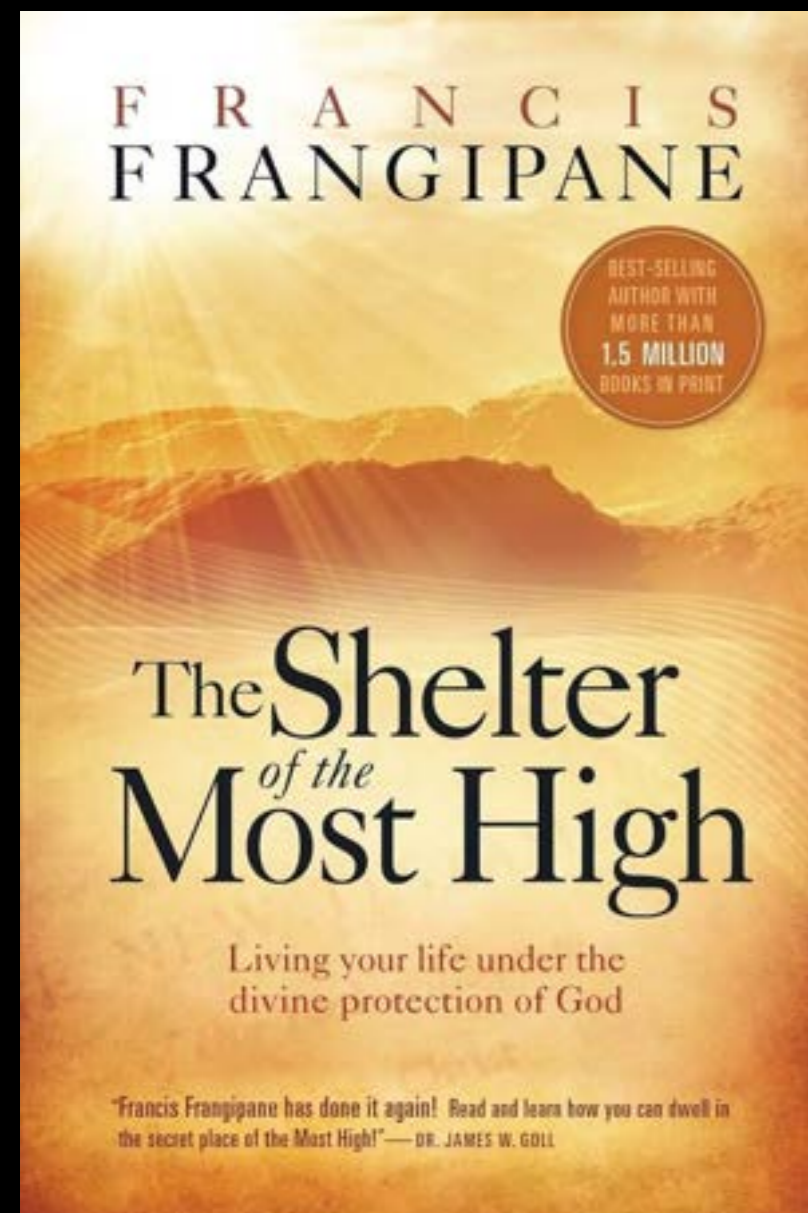
Adapted from  
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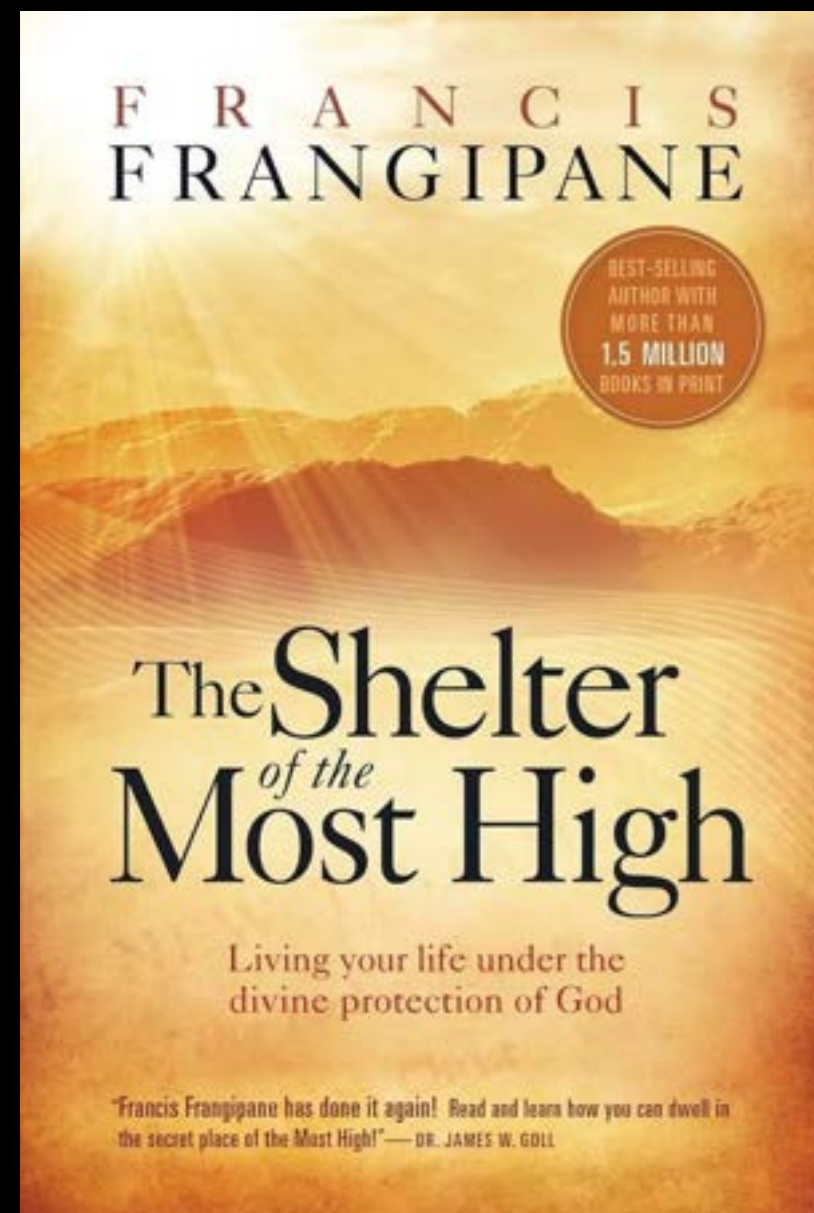
A number of years ago I went through a difficult time during which a handful of people made me the target of ongoing criticism. There is a type of constructive criticism coming through people who love you that teaches and helps you to prosper, and there is a different type of criticism that comes through an embittered spirit that is not meant to correct you but to destroy you. It was the latter relationship that I had with these people.



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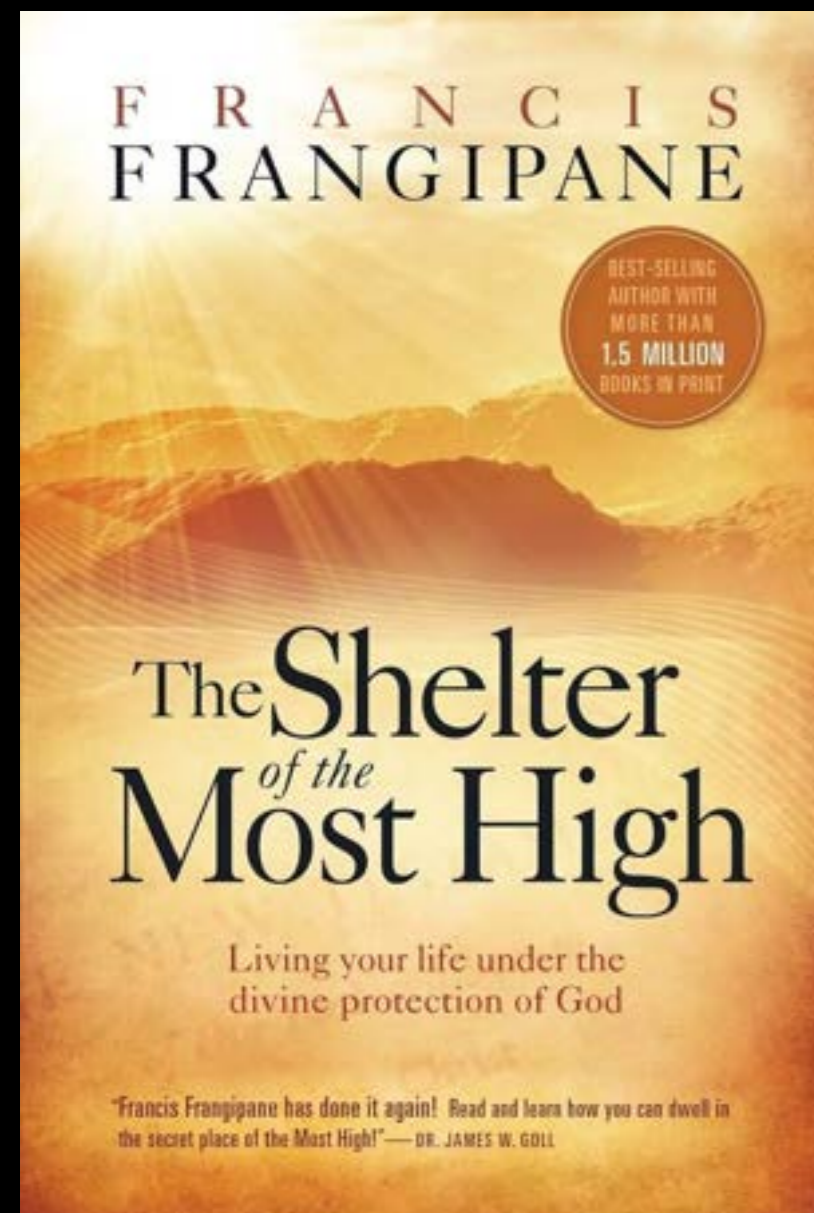
For three years I sought the Lord, yet He would not vindicate me of their accusations. Instead, He dealt with me. He reached deep into the very substructure of my soul and began to touch hidden areas of my life.

At issue with the Lord was not my sin, but my “**self**”. The Bible says our sins are ever before us (Ps51:3); these I could see. But I had no perspective on my own soul. The Lord allowed this criticism to continue until it unearthed something deeper and more fundamentally wrong than any of my doctrinal interpretations or sins. It unearthed me.



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The Holy Spirit began to show me how easily I was manipulated by people's criticisms and especially how much my sense of peace was governed by the acceptance or rejection of man. As much as I prayed, God would not deliver me from my enemy. He saved me by killing that part of me that was vulnerable to the devil, and He did it with the accusations themselves.



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I will never forget the day it dawned on me that both God and the devil wanted me to die, but for different reasons. Satan wanted to destroy me through slander and then drain me with the unceasing activity of explaining “**my side**” to people. At the same time, God wanted to crucify that part of my soul that was so easily exploited by the devil in the first place!

It was a pivotal day when I realized that this battle was not going to be over until I died to what people said about me. It was probably at this point that I finally and truly became a servant of God.

I. **DIE to SELF** always

II. DEAL with PERSONAL BAGGAGE completely

III. DEVELOP a WHOLESOME PERSONALITY

IV. DEDICATE ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES TO GOD

V. DECIDE to FOLLOW THE LORD wholeheartedly

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross daily**, and **follow Me**."

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➤ **FOLLOW** Jesus

A Journey of **DEVOTION** to Christ

This means:

We bring all our **plans, thoughts, decisions, ideas, responses** ...

- 1.** under the authority of the **Word**;
- 2.** under the leading of the **Holy Spirit**.

# Maturing in the LORD

- I. **DECIDE** to **DIE** to **SELF** always
- II. **DEAL** with **PERSONAL BAGGAGE** completely
- III. **DEVELOP** a **WHOLESOME PERSONALITY**
- IV. **DEDICATE** ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES TO **GOD**
- V. **DECIDE** to **FOLLOW THE LORD** wholeheartedly

II. **DEAL** with **PERSONAL BAGGAGE** completely

Hebrews 12:1 ... let us throw off  
**everything that hinders** and **the sin**  
**that so easily entangles**, and let us run  
with perseverance the race marked out for us.

▶ **PERSONAL  
BAGGAGE**

**SELF-LIFE** ◀

**Maturing in the LORD**



## II. **DEAL** with **PERSONAL BAGGAGE** completely

- Unhealed Hurts – Wounds
- Unmet Needs
- Unresolved Issues
- Certain Relationships
- Certain Activities
- Worries
- Wrongs

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ChuckLawless.com:

*Thoughts on Leaders & Bitterness*

- Quick temper
- Personal isolation
- Family stress
- General distrust
- Ministry merry-go-round
- Weak prayer-life
- Forced justifications
- Mean preaching – words
- Fading joy



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DIE to SELF always

THROW AWAY THE PERSONAL BAGGAGE completely

### III. **DEVELOP** a **WHOLESOME PERSONALITY**

DEDICATE ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES TO GOD

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#### **1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)**

May God Himself, the God of Peace  
sanctify you through and through.

May your **whole spirit, soul** and **body**  
be **kept blameless** at the coming  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

J-Vic-can't work wPp  
JuKxCh-3M-couples

### III. **DEVELOP** a **WHOLESOME PERSONALITY**



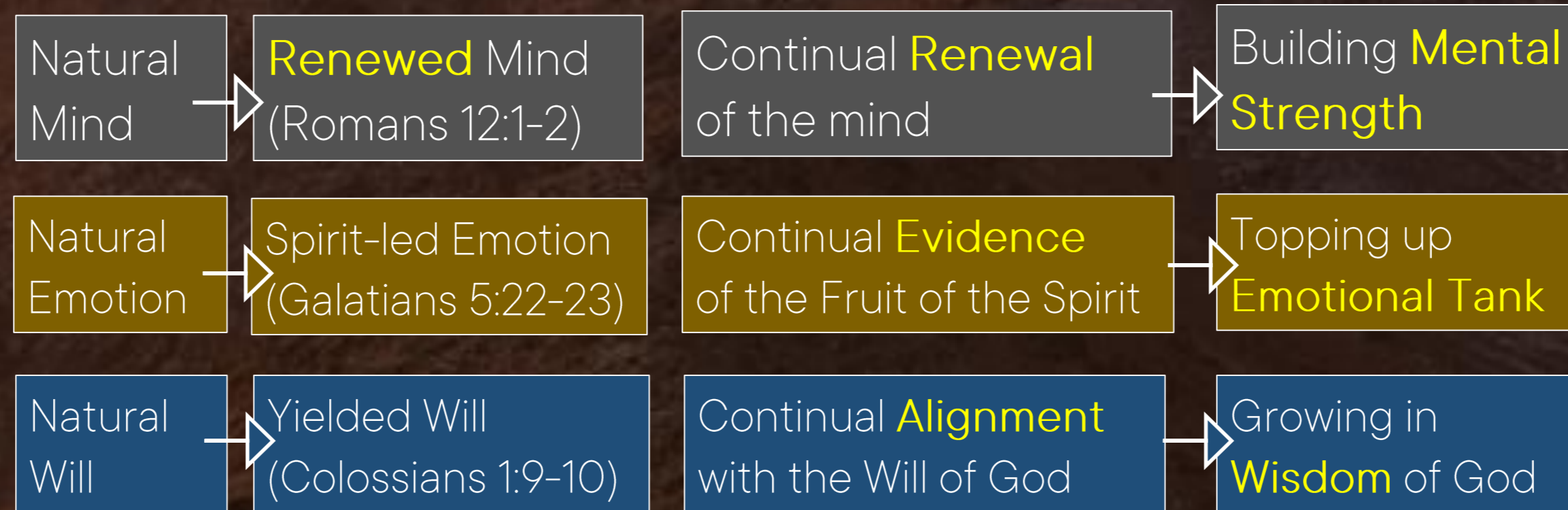
III. **DEVELOP** a **WHOLESOME PERSONALITY**



### III. DEVELOP a WHOLESOME PERSONALITY

ORPHAN SPIRIT	VS	SPIRIT OF SONSHIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See God as the <b>taskmaster</b></li><li>• Motivated by <b>performance/pleasing</b></li><li>• When frustrated, reacts with <b>anger</b></li></ul>	<b>How we view God</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sees God as a <b>loving Father</b></li><li>• Motivated by <b>gratitude to delight Him</b></li><li>• <b>Rested</b> knowing that He is in charge</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Insecure</b>, striving for approval</li><li>• Lacks <b>self-esteem</b></li></ul>	<b>How we view ourselves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Rested secure</b> in the Grace of God</li><li>• Walks in <b>love &amp; acceptance</b> of Father</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jealous</b> of the success of others</li><li>• Always in <b>competition with others</b></li><li>• <b>Uses people</b> as a means to fulfil goals</li></ul>	<b>How we view others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Honours &amp; rejoices</b> with others</li><li>• Always <b>blessing others</b></li><li>• <b>Serves people</b> to bless the kingdom</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Driven by need for success</li></ul>	<b>How we view work/ministry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Spirit leads the mature son into his <b>calling and mission</b></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Orphan spirit draws primary identity through <b>material possessions, physical appearance, activities</b></li></ul>	<b>How we view things</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Spirit of sonship is grounded in <b>sonship</b> and the Father's <b>affirmation</b></li></ul>

### III. DEVELOP a WHOLESOME PERSONALITY



Maturity is measured by our **WHOLE** person,  
not just our spiritual life



We must be conscious about **LIVING** for God's glory in our:

- Thinking
- Conversations
- Homes
- CGs
- Work
- Friendships
- Conduct
- Rising Up & Lying Down
- Relationships
- Church
- Families
- Marriages
- Ministries
- Coming In & Going Out
- Etc.

III. **DEVELOP** a **WHOLESOME PERSONALITY**

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## **7 AREAS of Personal Consecration**

Romans 6:13, 16, 19

13 ... **present .. your members** as **instruments of righteousness** to God.

16 ... **of obedience leading to righteousness?**

19 ... **so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.**



# 7 AREAS of Personal Consecration

1. Our **MINDS** (Rom12:2; 2Cor10:5)
2. Our **EYES** (Job31:1; Matt6:22; Ps101:3a)
3. Our **EARS** (Lk8:18; Prov4:20)
4. Our **MOUTHS** (Ps141:3; Ps17:3d; Prov18:21; 2Cor4:13)
5. Our **HEARTS** (Matt12:34; Prov4:23; Ps51:17)
6. Our **HANDS** (Ps90:17)
7. Our **FEET** (Jer6:16)



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**HOW?**

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**HOW?**

## 1. Pursue **Godliness-Holiness-Righteousness**

**Hebrews 12:14 Pursue .. holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord.

**1 Timothy 4:8 .. godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

**1 Timothy 6:11** But you, man of God, flee from all this, and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance** and **gentleness**.



# 1. Pursue **Godliness-Holiness-Righteousness**

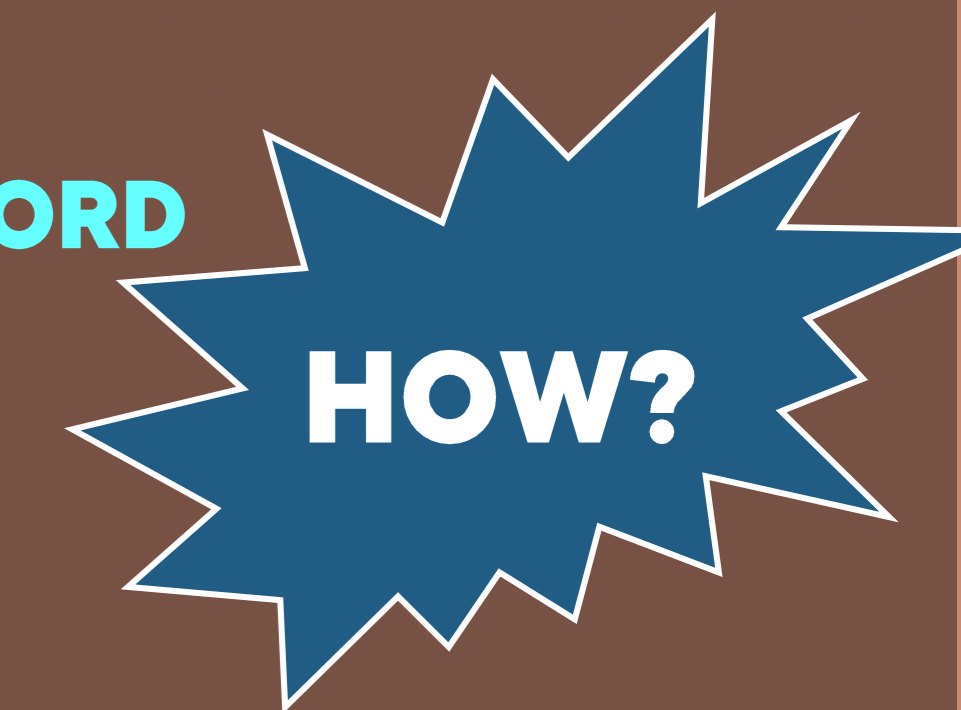


## **WE PAY THE PRICE TO DO SO**

Relationships → Activities → Hobbies → Attitudes, etc.  
How you spend money, time, energy, resources, etc

- Separation **FROM** everything that hinders the fulfilling of God's purpose
- Separation **TOWARDS** everything that value-add to the fulfilling of God's call. The things that will value-add to our godliness.

**V. DECIDE to FOLLOW THE LORD  
wholeheartedly**





## 1. Pursue **Godliness-Holiness-Righteousness**

### **WE PAY THE PRICE TO DO SO**

- Develop a fear of God (Ex20:20 – Flee sins)
- Have a clear conscience before God and man (Act24:16)
- What is permissible for **OTHERS** may not be permissible for you.
- What **WAS** permissible may not be permissible now as you grow spiritually.



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2. Build our lives on the **WORD** to anchor us through **DIFFICULT TIMES!**

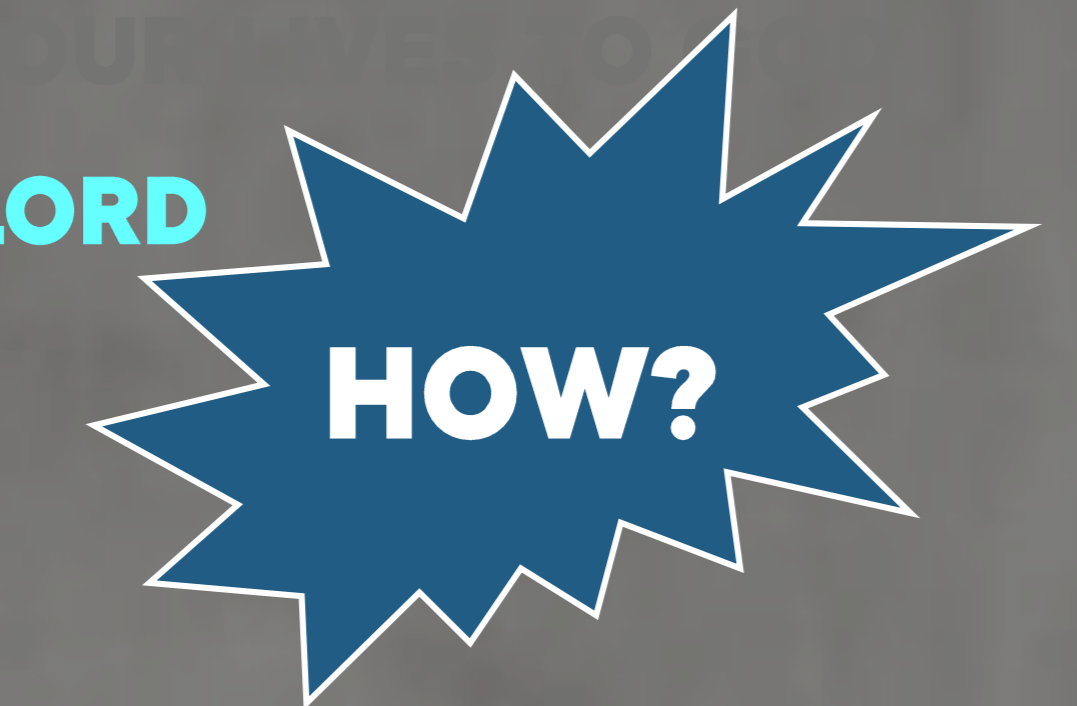
Matthew 7:24-25

**24** Therefore whoever **hears** these sayings of Mine, and **does** them, I will liken him to a **wise man** who built his house on the rock; and **25** the **rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house**; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

2Pet1:10; Jude23-24  
BMC Lady Cancer-Why-Allow  
See present pain-suffering in light of Calvary

- I. DIE to SELF always
- II. DEAL with PERSONAL DEFEATS
- III. DEVELOP a THIRST for KNOWLEDGE
- IV. DEDICATE your REASONS FOR THE LORD

V. **DECIDE** to **FOLLOW THE LORD**  
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### 3. Walk with **PEOPLE WHO WALK WITH GOD**

Hebrews 10:24-25

**24** And let us **consider** one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, **25** not forsaking the **assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

ECP + Guard deception/conspiracies-2Ps  
Must have Mentors-Coaches-BOB-BOS



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