

Chapter 1: What is Your Heart's Desire?

Tough Decisions For Today

What is your heart's desire? What do you desire most in life? And what do your own actions show? Your hobbies, your friends, your music—do they say loudly that you desire to follow after God's own heart...or after your own heart? Jot down two or three changes that you can make in your life?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Are you ready to turn your life into an extreme adventure—the adventure of following Jesus Christ? In light of what you've read in this chapter, list two or three qualities or steps you've learned are necessary to take when you follow Christ.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Name _____ Date _____

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2: 15

Read Luke 15: 11-31. What does this story teach...

...about the father? _____

...about the son? _____

...about the older brother? _____

...about admitting your mistakes? _____

...about forgiveness? _____

What is God's message to your heart? _____

Name _____ Date _____

Read 1 Samuel 16: 1-13. What was Samuel's mission (verses 1-3)?

Describe Samuel's response when he saw David's brother, Eliab (verse 6).

In a few words, what did God say to Samuel (verse 7)?

Read Acts 13:22. Why did God choose David to be king?

What is God's message to your heart?

Chapter 2: What Does It Take To Be All That You Want To Be?

Tough Decisions For Today

Did you choose a time to be with God? What time? If not, begin your extreme adventure right this minute by making this important decision. Do it now. Then pick a place. What items do you need to set out on your journey with God?

Did you know that you can read through your Bible in one year if you will give it just 12 minutes a day? Will you give God 12 minutes today? Tomorrow? I have included an "Extreme Spiritual Workout Schedule" in the back of the book. Find today's date, read the portion of the Bible, and then check the box. How long did it take?

Is there an older guy or youth leader at your church who can work with you one-on-one? Will you give him a call today? Like every Navy Seal, you need a 'buddy' to team up with.

Name _____ Date _____

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2: 15

1. Read Psalm 1: 1-3. List all the actions and decisions by a man who desires to grow spiritually.

Then describe the spiritual health of a man who is following after God.

Are there any changes you need to make today?

2. Read a similar description of spiritual health and growth in Jeremiah 17: 7-8. What is spiritual health based on in verse 7? How is this person's condition described in verse 8?

3. What do these two passages teach you about your own spiritual health? About any changes you need to make?

Chapter 3: What Can You Do To Make Your Goals A Reality?

Tough Decisions For Today

Read again the six steps to pursuing spiritual growth. What actions are you willing to take today in each of the following areas to ensure that you will grow spiritually?

1. *Devote your life fully to Jesus Christ.* What can you do today to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2)?

2. *Deal with sin.* Are there areas of unconfessed sin in your life that you need to acknowledge to God? When will you take care of it—when will you do business with God?

3. *Do away with spiritual laziness.* Write out a brief exercise program that you will begin this week.

4. *Decide the method of growth.* What study materials will you use? Have you started the Bible reading plan in the back of this book? If not, what are your plans for getting started?

Name _____ Date _____

5. *Determine to be discipled.* Who have you asked to disciple you? If you can't think of someone who can serve as your mentor, ask your youth leader to suggest someone.

6. *Dedicate your life to ongoing spiritual growth.* Write out a commitment to God about your desire to grow spiritually. Then date it. You may want to record this in your Bible. Refer back to this commitment often, and remember this day.

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2: 15

1. Read Hebrews 5:12-14. By the time this letter arrived, what did the writer expect of his readers?

What does 'milk' indicate about the maturity level of the readers of this letter (verse 13)?

What does 'solid food' indicate about the desired maturity of the readers (verse 14)?

What is a mature person able to do (verse 4)?

2. After reading Hebrews 5:12-14, how would you describe your level of spiritual maturity? Are you a 'milk drinker' or a 'beef eater'? On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how would you rate your ability to distinguish between good and evil?

Name _____ Date _____

Name three things that are evil.

Name three things that are good.

Name three things you can do to increase in spiritual maturity.

Chapter 4: What Makes You A Man After God's Own Heart? Part 1

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Have you made the most important decision you need to make regarding prayer—that is, to start praying regularly? If not, what's stopping you? Be honest. Then list two or three steps you will take today to get going on the adventure into praying.

2. Make a prayer sheet or card for each member of your family. Then begin praying daily for them. Don't know what to pray? Then ask! Ask each family member what needs you can pray for, what the pressing issues of their lives are.

3. Begin a prayer sheet titled 'Decisions To Make.' List your different decisions, big and small, and bring them to God in prayer each day. Ask God for wisdom and help. Then write down the answers as they come.

4. Pick out the person who gives you the hardest time in your life, and pray daily for that person. Do this faithfully for one month, then write down how your thoughts and attitude about that person changed as a result of praying for him.

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2:15

1. Read Matthew 7:7-8. What are Jesus' instructions regarding prayer? What does he promise as a result.

2. Read Mark 1:35. What do you learn about Jesus' prayer practices? In what way can you apply those same practices in your life?

3. Read Philippians 4:6-7. How can prayer help when you have problems and issues?

4. Read James 5:16-18. What is the effect of the prayer of a righteous man—a man after God's own heart—according to verse 16? What is said about Elijah and his prayer life in verses 17-18? In what way is Elijah's prayer life a good example to us?

Chapter 5: What Makes You A Man After God's Own Heart? Part 2

Tough Decisions For Today

1. How bold are you at offering up praise to God in public? Why or why not?

2. How can you turn up the heat on your commitment to your church? On your attitude toward church, the people there, and your service? What specific area of service can you commit to?

3. In the past, how have you viewed the role of a servant? Has this changed after learning about this mark of a man after God's own heart? Name one act of service that you can perform today to your family. To one of your friends. To an enemy.

Name _____ Date _____

The Cutting Edge
*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*
—2 TIMOTHY 2: 15

1. Read Philippians 2: 3-8. What is the theme of these verses? _____

Whose life is described in these verses? _____

What did he do? List at least three facts.

- a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

What changes will you make in your life—and heart—so that you can cultivate a servant's heart? List at least three.

- a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

How do these verses encourage you to worship and praise Jesus Christ?

What do verses 10 and 11 say about the worship and praise of Jesus Christ?

Name _____ Date _____

2. Read Acts 6:1-6. In a few words, describe the problem. _____

What was the solution? _____

What were the qualifications of the men to be selected—men who were men after God's own heart (verse 3)?

What is your attitude toward routine service? _____

3. How do Philippians 2:3-8 and Acts 6:1-6 help you to better understand your role as a servant?

Chapter 6: Training at “Camp Home” Part 1

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Read again the definition of what it means to honor your parents (see page 87). What one thing can you do today to show honor and respect to your parents? Write it here. Then write out how you are going to follow through and do it.

2. What is one thing you can do right now to care for your room? What have you been putting off, neglecting, or willfully refusing to do? Honor your parents—and God—by doing it now.

3. How would you describe your attitude at home? How would your parents describe your attitude? How would your brothers and sisters describe it? Do you need an attitude adjustment? What specific changes will you make? Ask God for the strength to follow through. In one week, ask yourself these same questions again and check your progress.

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2:15

1. Read Hebrews 12: 1-3. What was Jesus asked to do? What was His attitude as He faced the cross? What should your attitude be as you fulfill God's will for your life, especially obeying your parents?

2. Read Psalm 40:8. What attitude did the writer have toward God and His will? Do you consider yourself to "delight" in the "desire" to do God's will or to "dislike" it? Are there any changes you ought to make?

3. Read Luke 2:41-52. Describe this family scene? Who are the people? What are the places? What happened? In the end, how did Jesus honor His parents?

Name _____ Date _____

4. What do these scriptures teach us about Jesus' obedience to His heavenly Father's will?

Luke 22:42 _____

John 5:30 _____

John 6:38 _____

John 17:4 _____

Hebrews 10:7, 9 _____

What do you learn from Jesus' example?

Chapter 7: Training at "Camp Home" Part 2

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Can you relate to my son-in-law's decision regarding the peas given to him in the mess hall? What request from your parents are you resisting? Or what tough decision are you facing today? What is keeping you from "following orders"?

2. How would you relate your cooperation with:

Your parents?	Poor	Fair	Good
Your brothers and sisters?	Poor	Fair	Good
Your friends?	Poor	Fair	Good
Your school?	Poor	Fair	Good

3. What can you do to improve in the area of cooperation?

4. What is your attitude toward money? What steps are you taking to be a better steward of your money?

Name _____ Date _____

5. What would you do if you found a wallet on the sidewalk as you were walking home from school (and no one was around...and there was money in the wallet!)? Or put another way, how do you rate in the important area of honesty? What improvements can you make?

Name _____ Date _____

The Cutting Edge
*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*
—2 TIMOTHY 2: 15

1. Read Proverbs 6:17-18, and notice the seven things God hates.

What does he say about lying? _____

What does he say about cooperation? _____

2. Read again James 5:16-18. What is required in order for your prayers to be effective?

Who was given as an example of a righteous man? _____

What was the outcome of his prayers in:

verse 16? _____

verse 17? _____

What do these verses from James teach you about your own prayer life?

Chapter 8: Going Somewhere That Counts

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Look at your life this past week. How many hours do you think you spent in these three areas?

hours just playing around (with computer games, watching TV, etc.)

hours with friends

hours on homework

2. What do your answers reveal about your priorities? Are there any changes that need to be made?

3. How would you classify your Christian influence on your school campus? Are you an "undercover" Christian, or an "uncovered" Christian? Please explain your answer.

4. Are there any other Christians at your school? What would it take for you to get together with several of them for accountability and to pray for one another so that your witness would be noticeable and bold?

Name _____ Date _____

5. Honestly evaluate your heart attitude about school and homework. Would you be willing to pray every day this next week that God will help you to have a positive attitude toward this important area of your life?

Name _____ Date _____

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2:15

1. What do these proverbs teach you about the importance of wisdom and knowledge, and what do they teach you about how they are gained?

Proverbs 2:6 _____

Proverbs 4:5 _____

Proverbs 4:7 _____

Proverbs 9:10 _____

2. List three things you can do to grow in wisdom and knowledge.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. Read Daniel 1:1-20. Describe the learning process for Daniel and his three teen friends.

How does their experience motivate you in your own schooling?

Name _____ Date _____

How does their boldness motivate you? _____

4. Read Luke 2:41-52. What do these younger years in Jesus' life teach you about your own developmental process?

How about Jesus' example and educational experiences encourage and motivate you to pay more attention to your preparation for the adventure ahead?

Chapter 9: Making the Right Choices About Friends

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Review the list of the nine guidelines for being a good friend. Which areas are you especially strong in as a friend, and what makes you say so?

2. Review the list again. Did you discover an area (or two) where you need improvement? What is it, and what do you plan to do about it?

3. Are you convinced yet about the importance of picking your friends wisely? Why or why not?

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2:15

1. Read about Jonathan and David in 1 Samuel 14:6-14. Describe the kind of warrior Jonathan was.

2. Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37 and 48-51. Describe the kind of courage David possessed.

3. Now read 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-6; and 20:1-42. How did the friendship between Jonathan and David develop and what was it based on?

4. What lesson in friendship can you learn from David and Jonathan?

Chapter 10: Fighting the Battle Against Temptation

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Just for today, monitor your thoughts and conversations. Try to pinpoint any changes that need to be made. What verses in this chapter were most helpful to you?

2. Are there any areas of your life when you are failing to resist temptation? Ask God for forgiveness, and then choose to invite Him to go to battle with you in this area. Is there a more mature man who can hold you accountable? What steps can you take to ask him for help?

The Cutting Edge

*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*

—2 TIMOTHY 2: 15

1. Using your Bible, look at the following scriptures. Right about what each one teaches about your physical purity and why it is important to God...and to you(caution: some have multiple answers).

1 Corinthians 6:19 _____

1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:19 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 _____

2. If your purity is this important to God, what are you going to do about protecting it?

3. Read Genesis chapter 30 about Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Then read 2 Samuel chapter 11 about David and Bathsheba.

What do you think made the difference in the way these two men responded to sexual temptation?

Chapter 11: Reaching Out to Others

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Fill out this worksheet or outline for developing your personal testimony. Keep each part to about three or four sentences.

Part One—*What my life was like before I met Jesus Christ*

Think back over your life. What were some of the circumstances that led up to your acceptance of Christ as Lord and Savior?

Part Two—*How I met Jesus Christ*

Describe the people who were faithful to be available at the time of your spiritual birth. What happened?

Name _____ Date _____

Part Three—*What my life has been like since meeting Jesus Christ*

What changes or differences have you—and hopefully others—seen in your life since you became a Christian?

The Cutting Edge
*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*
—2 TIMOTHY 2:15

1. Read Mark 5:1-20. Using the same three-part outline that helped you write out your personal testimony, develop the testimony for the man in this passage from your Bible.

Part One—*What his life was like before he met Jesus Christ*

Part Two—*How he met Jesus Christ*

Part Three—*What his life was like after meeting Jesus Christ*

2. Read Mark 7:31-8:9. What seems to have been the impact of this man's testimony?

Name _____ Date _____

Ask God...

—to give you an opportunity to share the reason for your hope—*your personal testimony*—with someone this week.

—to encourage you to “go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you” (Mark 5:19). Share with those closest to you—family, friends, and neighbors—what Jesus has done for you.

Chapter 12: Pressing for the Prize

Tough Decisions For Today

1. Read again the story of the boy who shined shoes. What can you do today to exhibit a higher level of diligence?

2. List your acts of service during the past 24 hours. What do they reveal about your attitude as a servant? What can you do today to exhibit a higher level of service?

3. General Douglas MacArthur was a no-nonsense soldier who asked a lot of himself and of his men. This is what he said about life and learning:

Life is a lively process of becoming. If you haven't added to your interests during the past year, if you are thinking the same thoughts, relating the same personal experiences, having the same predictable reactions—*rigor mortis* of the personality has set in.

Look up *rigor mortis* in your dictionary and write out a definition here. Then fill in the blanks on the epitaph below.

Name _____ Date _____

Here lies (your name) _____

He stopped learning at (your age) _____

He died in ignorance these many years later.

After all you've discovered about diligence, servanthood, and learning, may this epitaph be yours as you seek to glorify God:

_____ (Your name) died learning...for the glory of God

List two or three things you can do—today—to start making this true of you.

The Cutting Edge
*Present yourself to God as one ...
who correctly handles the word of truth.*
—2 TIMOTHY 2: 15

1. Read Genesis 39:1-6. Describe Joseph's situation and how Potiphar rewarded Joseph's diligence, excellence, and service.

2. Read Genesis 39:20-23. Describe Joseph's new situation and how the warden rewarded his diligence, excellence, and service.

3. What verses show you the connection between God's blessing and Joseph's diligence?

4. What do these two episodes from Joseph's life teach you about your own situation and your attitude toward your different duties?

5. What does Ecclesiastes 9:10 say on this subject?

Name _____ Date _____

6. What does Colossians 3:23 say on this subject?

**is a man after God's own heart
who is living out the purpose of God.**

