

Fine-Tuning

The Powerhouse in My Shoes

...me



The Internet's Pinnacle Purpose

By James Curtis

Introduction

LIKE A TSUNAMI WAVE, this age of data, distractions, and dead ends is consuming the minds of today's teens and young adults. Neither human minds nor hard drives can warehouse, let alone use, all of it.

Our journey can be on a vast salt-water ocean or amid rocky rapids of information. It is crucial to our survival of spirit and soul that we have the right tools and know how to use them.

The following chapters, in progression, cover seven topics that include tools for Fine Tuning the Powerhouse in My Shoes.

1. Timing
2. Treachery
3. Training
4. Tracking
5. Teaming
6. Testing
7. Trophies

Fine Tuning the Powerhouse in My Shoes contains no difficult concepts or computer terms. Most of the chapters link to a story in the appendix to share with a friend.

In the beginning of this book, as with the most famous of books (Bible), we will start with the subject of Timing.

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Chapter 1

Fast Forward

ROARING ALMOST TO THE POINT OF EXPLODING, the two dragsters are staging at the starting line. The sticky surface of the massive tires grips the pavement for the blast off. Even before the tree of starting lights begin their countdown for the racers; the adrenalin of the spectators is kicking in. Their emotions are screaming, “Do it! Let’s Go! Don’t wait! How is this going to turn out?”

The pit crew of each racer is yelling at their respective driver, “Go baby! Go baby!” getting louder with each repetition. Each can visualize his team’s name on the large gleaming trophy and their names in the Guinness Book of Records for the entire world to see.

Most of us want to win; be the victor; wear the gold medal. We would also like to do it without injury or wasted efforts. In these pages we will think of ourselves as a powerhouse – a powerhouse in my shoes, that needs some fine tuning.

Now in stark contrast to all the noise and emotion of our drag strip is a maintenance crew chief with all the quiet and focus of someone defusing a bomb. Without distraction, he opens his laptop computer for the umpteenth time and line-by-line checks all the parameters of this race day. He checks again the correct entry he’s made of the tire sizes, shock absorber settings, complex engine settings, and a truckload of other variables.

The well-seasoned crew chief has two timing concepts with which to deal. The first is the **timing** of all the individual parts of the dragster. Are the parts all synchronized with each other, as the engine roars up to launch potential? Will the engine give the driver optimum performance? If the **timing** of the parts relative to each other is not correct, then the **time** to the goal will not be acceptable. Hence, no trophy.

The chief’s laptop is another example of timing; synchronization (sync). His laptop is an orchestra of parts that must all be in sync - in time with each other. If not, the computer will get no closer to its goal than the dragster. We can see many examples around us of trophies won by elapsed time. But closer inspection shows the trophy was really won by the teamwork; the part-to-part timing; the person-to-person timing; synchronizing; of the task at hand.

The contrast in purpose of TIME and TIMING should be clear and remembered. It will crop up later in these pages as we learn how to fine-tune the powerhouse in my shoes.

Time Roots

This is a good place to take a closer look at the roots of time and control.

God created time in Genesis 1:14 when He put the sun and moon in the heavens. The sun tells us what time of day it is. The moon gives us clues to what day of the month it is. The stars, plants, and animals help us with the time of the year. Neat huh? We have been given free clocks that are perfect for our day, month, and year measurement of time.

We teach children at a very early age about the things of nature and that God created them. But as they get older, we forget to teach them two other basic truths about God's creation.

1. All His created things are interlocked into each other's existence. (Synchronized, you might say.) The sidebar story for this chapter gives a good example.
2. The second is that God STILL controls what He has created. We can see a couple examples of that.

A long time ago God's army was about to lose a battle because they were running out of time – it was getting dark too soon. Well, Joshua 10:13 says God stopped the sun a whole day and the battle was won.

One more example: Answering the prayer of just one man, God backed the sun up 12 degrees (40 minutes) in time, recorded in Isaiah 38:8. My mind can not fathom how He could have done these things but He did. This tells us several critical things:

1. God is so interested in you and I gaining the victory, He will override His laws of nature.
2. To answer the prayer of even just one person like you or me, God will do whatever it takes.
3. God is ALWAYS in control of every bit of His creation.

“Hold it!” comes in different time sizes.

Besides killing a bear, a lion, and a giant, David was also a musician who played well enough to soothe King Saul. In the Bible, the Book of Psalms is a book of songs. In his songs, quite often David included small “hold-its” or

pauses. You see them each time you read the word “Selah”. Bible scholars all agree that Selah also means to pause or wait just a bit. It is used as something like a musical pause.

Time and timing seem to be woven into the whole fabric of our existence.

Many believe Selah also means to “pause and reflect” or “pause and retaste”; what came before. This would be like smacking your lips after having eaten a tasty morsel. I believe it is fitting and consistent with scripture to assume God wants us to “taste again” His printed words of truth. We should ask ourselves, “What have I just read? What is the deeper meaning of the words I’ve just heard preached?”

This fundamental truth, to be learned early on, is that waiting long or short periods has very profound purposes. Waiting on God is far from just sitting on one’s hands and shifting the brain out of gear. David gives us the simple process in Psalms 37:7:

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

To rest, wait patiently, and fret not requires that we acknowledge that someone has the power and authority to control our circumstances. Further, that we acknowledge that someone knows and cares about our needs. Well, there is, and He does. Have you remembered the previous topic teaching us that God cares and controls?

Read that ‘Rest in the Lord...’ verse again and “Selah” on the words “Rest”, “*wait patiently*”, and “*fret not.*” That verse is a perfect one for placing over the kitchen sink, on the refrigerator, above your desk, inside your toolbox, or near your speedometer.

Little by Little.

Here we are still working on timing i.e. God’s timing.

There is a sweet wonderful truth about waiting on God that surrounds three little words. The words are “little and little”. These are the equivalent of our “little by little.”

By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. Exodus 23:30

And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee. Deuteronomy 7:22

These verses are used to describe the slow, orderly timetable God uses. This was just the right timing for the Israelites to capture their idolatrous enemies and to seize the land that God had promised them. God could have snapped his fingers and all of the enemy nations would have instantly been dead. Some of the reasons why He did not are ones we need to internalize, and maybe even apply to our own lives.

1. One reason why He did not is in the word Selah, which we have just learned about. After each and every battle God wanted the people to stop and reflect (Selah) on how God had delivered the enemy into their hands. He also wanted Israel to reflect on what happens to people who worship idols.
2. The verses refer to the wild beasts that would flourish uncontrollably upon the countless corpses that Israel could not have buried fast enough.
3. Because God purposely did not destroy all the enemy nations all at once, fields would still be planted and tilled. The cattle would also be maintained also. Can you see the result is that God is blessing us mightily by having others begin the work we are to continue?

He shows us step-by-step, little and little, that He hears and wants to answer our every prayer to be victorious in His name. And He wants us to savor and share every morsel of His blessings with others.

Wait Some Time or Die!

“Push. Push. Push! I gotta get it done! No time to waste. Someone else will get there before I do.” We hear these statements, sometimes from our own lips, don’t we?

On the other hand God tells us, “Cool it.” He even puts a definite “Hold it!” on our workweek. God created all of His creation in six days and then made definite plans for the seventh day – the Sabbath day – He designated it a holy day. Like God’s example, the animals and we are to rest on the seventh day according to Exodus 20:8-11.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made

heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

God told His nation to keep one certain day of every week special; to keep it holy. Holy means ‘set apart for God.’ Now don’t draw the wrong conclusion when you read – ‘not do any work.’ It is not a goof-off day. It is a day for special schooling within the family. Lesson #1 in the passage is the first word “Remember.” Teach your loved ones that this day is to be set apart for God.

The following lessons of the passage begin with Creation showing God’s power. We sometimes call it God’s omnipotence (power). Then succeeding lessons taught on this special day of the week emphasize His Authority. We see this in the passage with the words, ‘He blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.’

Guess what? When we often remember God’s power and authority... we can easily (patiently) rest, wait, and fret not, in our challenges through the week.

If you think the passage was just a suggestion from God and not a command, read Numbers 15:32-36:

And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Our military Commander is adamant about loving and protecting us. All He expects in return is our allegiance and obedience. A spin-off of this is that our minds, hearts, and lives become the fine-tuned powerhouse we desire them to be.

So far we have seen in this chapter that:

1. We have God to thank for the gift of time.
2. He further demonstrates that what He creates, He continues to control – stop or back up.
3. His written word explains His reasons for moving ahead slowly – little by little.

Does God Have a Fast Forward?

You and I make ample use of the fast forward buttons on most of our

technology toys. Well, how about God? But does God ever use fast-forward?

The answer is a resounding “YES”. You will be excited to know He uses it to show us our future in no uncertain terms. On the one hand, He fast-forwards to show us our future if we have led selfish lives with no desire to please and follow Him.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 2nd Tim 3:1-7.

How ugly a future it is. Especially when it all can be avoided.

But on the other hand, He shows us our positive future if we have honored Him with our lives and our talents. The attributes are listed as a result of the Spirit of God being allowed to work in us:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Gal. 5:22,3.

Moving fast forward, in the company of others, with no clear goal in mind is called a stampede. A stampede is an animal action and not for humans. Our manner of living should be to slow down enough to recognize we have a conductor; a shepherd – our Lord and Master. And that He has given us a precious gift of communicating with Him.

Communicating daily with Him by reading His word gets us in sync with His magnificent plans for us. The greatest future we can have is the one that we step by step, little and little, watch for and rejoice in God’s plan and provision in each of our lives. But it is even MORE fun when we share God’s goodness with others around us.

Before we begin the next chapter about subtle monsters, we can learn from the TIME CHECK AT BLINKO POINT story located in the appendix for this chapter.

Chapter 2

A Monster What?!

I saw an exceedingly strong beast, with great iron teeth. It was more than dreadful. It was terribly dreadful. The littlest of its eleven horns had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things. It devoured what it broke in pieces and stamped the remainder under its feet.

What do you think a monster looks like? Would the beast described above, fit the bill? With just a bit of sentence adjustment, this “monster” description is found in the Bible’s Daniel 7, vs. 7 and 8.

But we need to be very careful to remember that monsters; things that threaten us, are not all

- large,
- grotesque,
- looming over us, or even
- easy to recognize.

Some monsters that seriously threaten us,

- Begin extremely small,
- Are stealthy and subtle
- Easily appeal to our desires.
- They cleverly alter our judgment
- Most often they are addictive.
- Quickly affect monstrous numbers of victims.

Today’s world of computers provides several powerful examples of this latter type of monster. Computer worms, for one, fit several of the above attributes of monsters. They are the very small programs that hide inside computer programs and messages that we share with others.

It is easy to see examples in nature how SLOW changes are used to jeopardize security. The hunter subtly moves closer to his prey. If the prey is not continually vigilant, it becomes a meal for the hunter. Here we see two important operatives – slow stalking and continually vigilant. 1st Peter 5:8 fits right into these concepts:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

So many of our daily tasks at school, work, or home involve computers and quite often the Internet. Here would be a good place to take a look at a few ‘monsters’ that slowly sneak up on us. They will even cause us to change our thinking, our values, and draw us ever deeper.

A – Sluggards and Time Stealers

One of the largest of monsters in the land of computing may also be the most subtle. It is wastefulness. Employers are faced with workers that increasingly spend time:

- With personal email,
- playing computer games,
- Internet surfing of sexual content,
- and intentional poor scheduling of goals and deadlines.

There are many scriptural references about time-wasters, idleness, and being a sluggard. Proverbs 6:6 is an enjoyable one to admonish ourselves and make a solid step toward fine-tuning the powerhouse in my shoes:

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

Youth at home spend many hours each day playing addictive games that neither challenge, teach life skills, nor honor God. Instead, we need computer activities that get us to think and create. These activities also need to help us to continually examine ourselves, our spirituality, and our people skills based on scriptural directives.

“My friend taught me about communicating in chat rooms on the computer,” a lady work associate in her mid twenties, once told me. She continued, “I then connected with my friend who I had not talked with, in a long time. Since our house had two telephone lines it did not pose a problem. I’m telling you the truth. That first day we talked more than SEVEN continuous hours!”

Christian computing magazines tell us it is customary for student girls to spend around 3 hours EACH SCHOOL DAY in chat rooms. There are valuable directives to young ladies in 1st Timothy 5. But look especially at verse 13:

And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

Not only are chat rooms a terrible waste of time but they also provide easy access to unsupervised anonymous communication with anyone anywhere in the world. Of the many valuable guidelines concerning our speech Matthew 12:36, 37 says,

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

B –Garbage Graphics Monsters

Here is a misconception that **MUST** be focused on.

We are all familiar with the widespread Internet pornography viewed by some men and boys. But when was the last time you heard about the teenagers who build the websites that market such garbage? It couldn't be—not teenagers! **Yes, teenagers!**

Encourage your pastor to warn your congregation from behind the pulpit that there are no computer filters, nor schemes that completely make any personal computer Internet-safe. An issue of Consumers Reports gave a blistering presentation about the ineffectiveness of computer Internet filters.

The unbiased testing of Consumers Reports placed the top ten smut filters as being from 85% to 10% effective. The biggest difficulty encountered in the study was defining exactly what is 'obscene'. How can a mechanical or software filter be created that would be smart enough to block out pictures of an aborted fetus?

Microprocessors and hard drives have no ability to make wholesome judgments for us. But with the aid of the Internet and repetition, our values – our judgments of what is positive for us, becomes more clouded and diminished at the good pleasure of the prince of this world – Satan.

Though Internet garbage graphics are not aimed just at men and boys – they should, however, be leaders among their peers with God-honoring actions.

C – Cesspool Chat Monsters

A bit earlier we touched on the momentous amounts of TIME spent in chat rooms. Now we will look at chat room CONTENT.

There is a feature of the Internet world that few parents and youth leaders even know exists. It has extremely high potential for the permanent

corruption of teens and young adults, especially girls. That evil is the Internet chat rooms. As this is discussed, notice the escalation of evil as depicted by quicksand or a whirlpool.

Let's first build an example so that chat room hazards can be understood.

Imagine a typical school building on open house night. We see bright lights and colorful displays inviting us into any or all of the rooms. We can enter any room we wish, and stay as long as we wish. All the rooms have other visitors with whom we can talk. Some may be from other countries. But in this scenario, everyone is disguised and uses a "handle" (a nickname.)

There are absolutely no restrictions: anyone may enter any room, and very few of the rooms have a moderator. The topics discussed in each room may be changed at will, even though each room has identified itself with specific concerns. The last oddity about these rooms is that all communication is written. In order to share your ideas or questions, you must write your thoughts on a chalkboard, just as everyone else is doing.

It seems rather chaotic, doesn't it? Remember the most important guidelines -

- There are *NO* rules of discussion;
- There are *NO* moderators;
- And most critically important of all, there are *NO* true identities.

With the natural bent of mankind toward evil, it is not difficult to guess the direction of the discussions. The vast amount of time two girls can spend on the telephone talking with one another now becomes something like a conference call involving many females.

Because these electronic chat rooms are part of the Internet, girls anywhere in the world can talk anonymously without incurring any long distance phone charges. What might be thought of as fantasizing to one visitor may be considered as a challenge to another.

This lesson has deliberately used strong and ugly language to describe chat rooms. The intent is to:

- Encourage would-be chat room users to carefully evaluate any chat room in which you are thinking of participating.
- Only **MONITORED** chat rooms should be considered, where those who abuse content and language are banished.
- As another precaution, some of the good chat rooms require a password to enter.
- Parents miss the boat by placing the family computer in the living room,

then employing “over the shoulder” supervision. That will not do it. Such “supervision” is not supported in scripture.

Internet computing is one of many opportunities God gives us every day to show our trust in His leading and glorifying Him with our talents. This is based on the scriptural facts in regard to His being ALL- POWERFUL and ALL- KNOWING. But do you know what? God’s creation has **never** been out of His control, neither in time nor certainly not in technology. We must seek God’s solution.

Before we continue with the next chapter, we should be clear about a few things:

- Being thrilled or having thrilling experiences is not bad in themselves. After all, God gave us the body and senses to feel thrilled. The problem we have touched on here is what we allow to thrill us and what the associated costs and dangers are.
- As for adults, we want to be careful to size up the danger/costs of what is in front of us, on the computer screen.
- We also want to choose events that are pleasing to God, our families, and friends.

The question might surface that asks, “Well, where can I get some dependable direction on dangers to me and how I can prepare for them?” Now that is a good question. Another book by this author has addressed computer fears and fruits in a whole range of ages and environments. The non-technical book is COMPUTING MINISTRIES¹. Its chapter two answers the question and even includes some powerful examples.

Only Good Enough To Get By

Many Old Testament verses commanded the Jews to sacrifice an animal “without spot or blemish.” This began to root a truth in me over and over, no matter if it is following the tabernacle into Canaan land or serving the Lord where I am right now.

God is not pleased with just obedience, but He wants our best. He wants our best efforts that are “without spot or blemish.” However with the flood of information delivered to us through computers and the Internet, this seems impossible.

A big force against Satan’s evil on the Internet is that we strive to do our best and not just good enough to get by.

We all have probably rubbed elbows with a student that continually tried

¹ ISBN: 1589391861, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.

to judge the minimum work or grade that was required to pass. When we strive to do just enough to get by, we divide our efforts. Part of us is half-heartedly on the task while the other part of us is continually asking the question “is this how much it takes to get by, in this task?”

No one that goes to the hospital wants a surgeon that operates with any expectation of doing less than his best.

This lesson is being taught to the Jews by the quality of sacrifices they were to bring. Man has proven over and over that he is not very qualified in judging. With one exception – he is a great judge of his own attitudes and actions; as to if they are our best or not, whether in computing or in serving God.

Three reasons give more than adequate cause for us doing our best for Christ:

- We understand the added reward for striving to be our best.
- He’s worth it.
- He gave His best for our redemption.

Chapter one explained our need for TIMING.

This chapter was about TREACHERY.

Our next chapter is about our TRAINING we’ll need to fine tune the powerhouse in my shoes (me).

The appendix has the sidebar story THE WONDROUS WEB that should put us on our guard.

Chapter 3

Hidden Treasure

THE CAVE IS DAMP AND SPOOKY. The makeshift torches you and your friend carry would gladly be traded for a couple 5-cell flashlights. You both enter a part of the cave that seems to be something of a room.

Your imagination starts building scenarios of raiding pirates that spent part of their winters hiding in this cave. Suddenly your partner lets out a frantic, “Come here quick!” Running toward the shout, visions of venomous snakes, or skulls and skeletons of the previous dwellers, race through your mind.

What your friend has discovered is a chest. The chest looks like a stage prop from a swash-buckling pirate movie. The old fashioned padlock certainly will make examination of the contents a challenge in itself. Several rocks are collected to break open the padlock and one of the torches is doused to serve as a long-term backup.

With a great deal of work from you both, the lock is removed. Your heart races with the anticipation of a drag strip countdown. Adrenalin floods your veins as the chest is pried open. Inside are riches in jewels and gold that take away your breath.

Who Owns The Treasure?

Now we should freeze this treasure story a moment, to ask two important questions. The questions may seem so simple to border on silly, but they are crucial ones never the less.

1. Would you rather read in the newspaper about the discovery or have been there to make the discovery yourself? The obvious answer by everyone is that, “I’d rather have made the discovery myself. *Then the treasure would be mine!*”

Next, suppose the chest did not contain any jewels or money, but a map showing the exact location of the remains of, say, Noah’s Ark? Or maybe the contents would be the recipe for a true cancer cure?

2. Ask yourself if these would be even more valuable, even though they do

not glitter or jingle? Sure they would.

We see then how words can be as valuable as gold and jewels; maybe even more.

There are valuables far better than any we have noted so far, in the treasure chest of God's Word. So many discoveries are there to be made daily by you and I as OUR OWN EYES follow those words; those words that have stood the test of all of Satan's destructive power.

There is one more analogy to be made before we move on. Just suppose the treasure chest contained millions and millions of dollars? We would like that. But a closer examination showed they were Confederate bills? They became worthless because of the passage of time. So therefore we want our treasure to be unaffected by time or corrosion.

How fantastic that God's plans, promises, power, and provisions are timeless and value-dependent only upon His matchless unchanging love for each of us.

This gift of His Inspired Word applies to every task we would ever undertake. A little bit later we'll see it even tells us that. The book you are now reading, **Fine Tuning the Powerhouse in My Shoes**, will help us apply Bible principles to the vast flood of information we find ourselves surfing through today.

Your Treasure Within Reach

In reality though, it is more likely our "cave" would be a dark hard-to-get-to corner of our attic. The treasure chest in our life might be a beat up cardboard box. The jewels and valuables would easily be a large collection of long-ago photographs.

A few moments later, the photographs are spread out on the kitchen table for others to enjoy.

But to appreciate them even more, we instinctively begin sorting them. The faded ones go in this stack. The birthday pictures make a pile and then are sorted by year. Each of us has learned the old time lesson well, that piles of stuff, almost anything, become purposeful when they are organized.

In Touch with Your Treasure

God has given us innumerable lessons in nature about selecting and sorting; no matter if it is "birds of a feather flock together," or the orderly way He created the universe. God always knows best, even in demonstrating to us by the way He loaded the animals on the Ark for Noah or the way He designed our

incredible bodies.

As I select and sort tasks and tools to use, my heart so often leads me back to the supreme How-To manual and a pair of verses treasured across the years.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

We can learn God's rules for SELECTING and SORTING textually, from 2nd Timothy 3:16, 17 we just read. This is what is included in the last three words, "*all good works.*"

But the location of these rules for selecting and sorting might surprise you. Do you notice the first two words in the verse pair above? It distinctly says, "*All scripture.*" That clearly says to me that even the seemingly out-of-date Old Testament scriptures about sacrifices for the Jewish nation, are of great value to me here and now.

In the book of Leviticus beginning in chapter 11 are the beginnings of some PRINCIPLES of selecting and sorting that will serve our lives greatly, even on the Internet. There is a mind-blowing concept! We can become more proficient using the Internet by applying Old Testament scripture.

SELECTING What Is On The Menu?

First is the lesson about SELECTING.

In her favorite fast food restaurant, Mimi walked to her seat with her tray of food. Her receipt simply stated, "3 pc dinner, + breadstick, – hush puppies, + baked potato, – French fries." Can you easily figure out what was on Mimi's tray and what was not ~assuming the clerk and computer were paying attention to each other? Everywhere a + appears on Mimi's menu, substitute the word "AND". Also, replace the – with "NOT".

Long before desktop computers, God explained that the Jewish people could only eat certain groups of cattle (beasts). The features of these edible cattle were explained in Leviticus 11:2-12. The features were:

"Parteth the hoof", **AND** "is clovenfooted" **AND** "cheweth the cud" = OK to eat.

Supper had to meet ALL THREE of these requirements because of the "AND" words. God gave the people an example of an animal that did not meet all three characteristics as He talked about swine in verse 7:

And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.

Divided hoof **AND** is clovenfooted **NOT** cheweth the cud = DO NOT eat.

In the verse, if Mimi wanted to be fancy she could replace the “AND”s and “NOT”s with plusses and minuses.

+Divided hoof +clovenfooted –cheweth cud = do not eat.

An even more popular example appears on Mimi’s computer screen. When logging onto the Internet and searching for things, the same kind of **SELECTING** and **SORTING** is being used, as in Leviticus 11. She is selecting by characteristics. Mimi wants web pages (called ‘hits’) that have this **AND** this **AND** this but **NOT** that.

When writing statements like the previous statement, the rules of logic notation developed by George Boole, a British mathematician in 1815, are being followed. Is it possible George was a Bible reader and actually learned his notation from our Creator by reading Leviticus 11?

The Internet search engines like Yahoo, Alta Vista, and Google use advanced query statements in the search window using Boolean Logic Notation.

That was **SELECTING** by characteristics – computing principles found in the “old” part of God’s Word. In referring to Leviticus 11, God could say, “You heard it here first.”

SORTING It All Out.

None of us could live a day without **SORTING** things. Stated again, we do it instinctively. We will touch on several types of sorting presented in Leviticus. The most popular one is Groups within Groups.

- Groups within Groups type of sorting is illustrated in Lev. 11:13-23. Of the flying things, insects (v 20+) is defined as a subgroup. Examples of this subgroup are listed in verse 22. We see this technique used in
 - Creating an outline,
 - A company organizational chart,
 - The Dewey Decimal System at libraries,
 - Grouping files in folders and subfolders, on our hard drive.

Here are some other sorting methods taught in scripture and used by our computers:

- Grouped by Association type of sorting is shown in verses 24-40. If a Jew came in contact (associated) with something that was dead, he/she was pronounced, “unclean”. Your computer makes great use of associations in how it works with regard to filename endings. Click on ‘help’ and type in ‘associations’ to find out.
- Grouped without Subgroups type of sorting is illustrated in verses 41-44 regarding creeping things. NOTHING that creeps is to be eaten.
- Grouping that Never Changes type of sorting is called “static” grouping. It is demonstrated in the gender grouping of newborns and the mother’s purification in Lev 12:1-8.
- Grouping that Continually Changes type of sorting is “dynamic”. In Lev. 13 – 15, the subject of Leprosy diagnosis and treatment is covered. The condition of the group of lepers changed almost daily and would certainly be “dynamic.”

Do you see the path this book is traveling?

In our quest to fine-tune the powerhouse in my shoes, for safety and success:

1. We established the need for TIMING in chapter one.
2. Then in chapter two we learned that many TREACHEROUS monsters are small and stealthy.
3. Here in chapter three we learn how to organize our lives and resources, using the Bible as the perfect How-To handbook for all of our life. This is our TRAINING chapter.
4. In the next chapter we explore TRACKING as we see where we reach for our life’s goals.

Now for a breather with the short story MARS MISSION MISTAKE, about staying on the right course. It is found in the appendix for this chapter.

Chapter 4

Black Holes That Hurt

THE LIGHTS WENT OUT ONE BREATH after Mike took his seat in Astronomy class. He put his book bag on the floor beside his chair. Professor James switched on the digital projector and the whole class saw a color image of the Hubble Space Telescope in working mode.

Several more images were shown with lively discussion about space exploration and especially Black Holes. When the lights were turned back on one of Mike's fellow students asked why they should study Black Holes and their missing light. Especially since so many scientists still doubted their existence?

The professor's answer was just a bit vague, but it had to do with learning more about gravity and its affect on light. Supposedly, the gravity in a Black Hole is so intense; it will not let any light waves escape for our eyes to see. The result is an area of space with no light in it. The Black Hole phenomenon is unique and spawns a whole lot of questions on its own.

As a Christian, Mike cracked a smile remembering the science lessons in chapter 26 of the book of Job. (Pronounced "Jōb"). Regarding gravity, Job was satisfied with knowing that God "hangeth the earth upon nothing."

Certainly, Mike believed the Bible to be THE sin, soul, and salvation book. But more than that, it is unsurpassed as a science book also.

A short time later the class bell rang and he started for his next class, still wondering what good it was to learn about "nothings".

An earlier chapter gave us powerful **SELECTING** and **SORTING** tools defined in Leviticus. Without them Mike could not even create something simple like a outline for his Biology report, let alone make wise decisions.

In this chapter of **Fine-Tuning the Powerhouse in My Shoes**, Mike will learn how dangerous **MISSING DATA** can be. He will go through the process of creating an 'attitude' outline into which he can almost climb. Mike is going to:

- Get a big picture of where he is, from an employer's point of view.
- Get that picture down on paper in an orderly format.
- Identify missing information ~ the Black Hole thing. (Refer to "Appendix – ISO 9000")
- Then Mike is going to see galactic power in the 'with an attitude' feature of this sorting.

The class bell just rang so we will follow Mike off to ‘Biz Science 201 – Black Hole Boon.’

Over the last few weeks Mike had back-shelved any more thought about “nothings” (Black Holes). But when his Business Science instructor began teaching about resumes (pronounced “re-zoo-mayz”) he made the connection. It was something like seeing that what you DO NOT say in a conversation (or on paper), is sometimes as important as what you DO say.

The Work of ‘Resumes with an Attitude’

The purposes of resumes are valuable for a great deal more than job searches. Even pre-teens will learn great lessons from creating resumes.

1. They teach us to organize in simple ways, using our new sorting tools.
2. They help build our self-esteem as we see before us, all the blessings God has given us.
3. They push us to focus our talents. “What or where is my professional goal?” etc.
4. Resumes help us identify short falls (black holes) in our training and employment.

The frosting on the cake, though, is using resumes to help our person-to-person skills:

5. They help us to understand the needs and actions of others.

The Basics

What should the resume contain? Libraries and the Internet have a great deal of detailed resume instructions. Basically, they include contact, objective, qualities, experience, and training information. We will look at them in greater detail shortly.

Job seekers create resumes about themselves. But in contrast, ‘Resumes with an Attitude’ are powerfully used as we create resumes of those we **want to understand** or impress. Though they will not be entirely accurate, we will be able to better interact with someone when we have considered their goals, experience, training etc. Create a simple resume of your boss, your teacher, your parent, or even your pastor. What do you suppose the resume of Jesus Christ would say?

The Anatomy of a ‘Resume with an Attitude’.

Contact

Contact Information should be very clear and contain several ways to efficiently contact you. An email address is a must-have.

Objective

The **Objective** should be short and not too general. This needs to be prayed about. Ask God what your objective should be. He has a wonderful one planned for you. It is your task to learn of it from Him and then ask for His strength to work toward it. This is one of the sections that should be “tailored” to peak the interest of the specific reader you will send this to.

Ask for suggestions from your parents, teacher, and pastor. David would have changed his objective several times, from a shepherd boy, musician, author of scripture, and then to King of Israel.

What would the **Objective** read like on the resume of Jesus Christ? Maybe something like:

“I have come to do the will of My Father” or
“I come to seek and save that which was lost” or
“I am come to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.”

Could you write His objective with your name in it?

Qualities

Second, list all your Qualities. See yourself as having value that an employer would want. Be generous. God has blessed you in some ways for which you need to research. Add to the list over the weeks to come. Be sure to add those talents related to communication and people skills.

If you have healthy people skills:

- You understand people,
- Express yourself clearly and effectively,
- Influence others,
- Listen effectively,
- Manage and resolve conflicts,
- Mentor others, and also

- Collaborate and work well on teams.

Experience

Next should come a list of your experience. Put it in chronological order. Look for gaps or missing information. Gappy resumes might suggest to the reader that you are not good at keeping busy, between jobs and between tasks. It could also indicate you are sloppy at records keeping. **Experience** actually comes in four flavors. Those four flavors are listed as the achievements of Jesus Christ as a teenager, in Luke 2:52

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Think of your achievements in light of mental, physical, spiritual, and social. Ask your leaders and strong Christians around you to look harder into these four categories.

Wisdom and stature might be thought of as **independent** or **self-**achievements whereas spiritual and social achievements can be thought of as **team** ones.

You will want to revisit this list often to keep updating it as God blesses us with wonderful new talents. Keep in mind that He most enjoys giving you new talents as we are actively using the ones He has already given us. It is exciting to see the important skills we learn, doing seemingly insignificant tasks.

Include training you've GIVEN others.

Training

List all your training. Add to the list any awards, certifications, and newspaper articles that credit you. This is not bragging, so long as you give God the credit and praise, as you talk to others.

Periodically compare your lists of talents and experience with your objective. You will want to look for gaps or black holes in training you are missing out on, to get to your objective.

God has gifted us with a computer between our ears that can not even be compared with anything that uses hard drives and microprocessors.

Learning about Learning

We need to always be aware that WE decide what we want to learn. (Refer to “Appendix – Learning how to Learn”.) WE should always be questioning our motives for learning and experiencing those things we are involved in, based upon the will of God for us. Our primary source for training and action is God’s Word.

King David believed this when he simply said,

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Psalms 119:105.

Because he did not include any restrictions, he seems to be saying that everywhere he goes and everything he does, God’s Word is needed for success. “lamp unto my feet” refers to where I am and the condition of me. “Light unto my path” refers to the direction I need to go and recognizing dangers along the way.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul told his young disciple, Timothy about God’s Word in II Tim 3:16, 17:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

“Unto all good works” covers it all, doesn’t it? It is so important that others see order and purpose in our actions.

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Titus 2:7, 8

Hint: prospective leaders want to know what learning was mandatory and what was voluntary.

Keeping It Current

You will need to change your resume often. Computers like that. List changes on paper first. Before you touch the keyboard, ask God to help. He’s very good with computer projects.

Computers are dumber than hoe handles. You have to be patient with them. Concentrate on what you do know about them and not on what you don’t know about computers. Ask a friend to help. Libraries have computers,

printers, training videos, and helpful people that will guide you along.

The Age Old Question...

– It is a catch-22, if there ever was one. “Which comes first, getting a job or getting experience to get a job?” Many job seekers ask this question. The answer is clear and simple. Remember that it is important that you NOT have a gappy resume. You must show the reader you are “always” busy either working or training. Volunteer at church, civic organizations, schools, parks, libraries, clubs, and businesses.

Tell them your purpose is to gain experience and show on your resume that you can make good use of ALL your time. If your volunteer help really was beneficial to them, they will happily respond with a small note of your actions for your records.

Wow! This was a busy chapter about tracking our progress. As we look at our strengths and weaknesses, we can select and sort out the neglected areas and dump the negatives in relation to our objectives.

Our path through this book led us through

1. Timing
2. Treachery
3. Training and
4. Tracking

The chapters to follow will give us the powerful tools of

5. Teaming
6. Testing and
7. Trophies

Finish up this chapter with the sidebar story SEWING MACHINE LIFESAVER in the appendix for this chapter. It should remind us to take a hard look at the importance of our tasks and their real value in life.

Chapter 5

Selecting My Heart Partner(s)

Global Positioning System

BUCKY AND BOB FORMED A BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP and purchased a new semi truck and trailer. It was filled with many state-of-the-art sensors located in crucial locations. If you looked at the dashboard you would think you were in the cockpit of a jet fighter. Any one of the four on-board computers monitored tire pressures, wheel bearing temperatures, drive shaft torque, and many other important items.

But the most popular electronic goodie on the heavy hauler was the two way Global Positioning System (GPS). The two partners could use the GPS to triangulate their actual location with the aid of four space satellites. And if they needed, they could switch the GPS system to the “help needed” mode. It then became an SOS beacon to every emergency response unit within 60 miles.

“That’s an absurd question.” Would be the look you would get, if you asked either of the young men, which they would rather do without, GPS or their partner. Neither the potential of GPS nor any other techno tool can hold a candle to a human partner.

During long hours on the road Bucky would share his hopes, his dreams, fears, and even occasional confusing thoughts. And, he would always be watching for any animals jumping in front of them. Only a human partner can make sure drowsiness does not become deadly. Bob did the same. Try that with a Global Positioning System and its four space satellite triangulation.

It Starts With Two

Oftentimes, Bucky would lean his head against the side window and watch the zillions of telephone poles go by. He remarked to Bob once that the horizontal part of the telephone pole with all the telephone wires hanging on them was a bit like their partnership. The phone pole cross piece communicated all sorts of stuff and it sure was important for the partnership, that they did.

“OK hotshot,” Bob countered, “How many phone poles have you ever seen with the horizontal piece but not the vertical, you know, the up and down piece?” “Bob, are you sleepy? Where do you get these goofy questions? Any little

kid knows the horizontal part of every telephone pole must have a vertical part too, or it's no good for anything." Bob turned on the nighttime running lights and gave Bucky a thumbs-up sign in agreement.

Bob summarized, "Look Buck. Our GPS has not just one, but two modes of operation. We agree they both are crucial to our needs. And every telephone pole (shaped like a cross) has two elements, horizontal and vertical. My relationships and yours must also include both horizontal and vertical elements to work."

"I have a question that might not be as silly as it first seems. When they put up a telephone pole, the ones shaped like a cross, which part do they put up first?" asked Bob.

Bucky responded, "Well, they have to put in the vertical up/down element first because it's the one planted solid in the ground to give stability to the whole thing. Actually all the communication relies mostly on that up/down element."

Bucky almost cracked his head on the top of the truck cab as he snapped his fingers and said loudly, "That's it! I've got it! The vertical up/down element would be like our relationship with God. Our vertical relationship with Him comes first because it gives stability to all our horizontal relationships. The horizontal ones are between people. Partner with God and His word first, then with people.

Why are heart partners so important?

The very first partnership we want to consider is declared in the second chapter of the Bible. God created man and communicated some tasks for him to do. He was to dress the garden in Eden and to keep it. Further, God communicated some restrictions regarding their menu.

That is the first relationship and the one represented by the vertical part of the telephone post. Remember? That is the one creating the stability. This is very simple but terribly crucial. Partner with God first and foremost. God's Word states this simply and finishes with a wonderful promise:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33.

The Lines of Communication

The lifeblood of relationships and partnerships is communication. But communication is done on so many levels with so many parts of us, it boggles our minds. A small child learns that communicating is done with mouth and

ears. As we get older we learn about “body English” and how our eyes and whole body communicates things.

Note: Understanding the communication limitations of email helps us to appreciate the vast amount of human communication tools God has designed into each of us.

Horizontal Relationships.

The first horizontal relationship, people to people relationship, is also in the 2nd chapter of the Bible. God states,

And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

God Created Eve early on.

We nurture our communication, our manner of living, with the help of our partner. We learn to be respectful of differences, show mercy and grace in difficult circumstances, and exercise patience in the process. But do you see? In developing these skills with our horizontal partner, we are actually learning to apply these new skills in communicating with our vertical partner, God.

Be careful to remember that we will be dwelling with Him for an eternity in Glory. And you can not dwell or work with anyone anywhere without knowing important things about him or her.

We will see shortly that “dwelling” with God for eternity will involve some very powerful stuff. But for now, it teaches us that we need to live outside ourselves and someday be multi-partnered in a business or organization like family, band, sports team, church, and school.

Who should I choose for a heart partner?

So much of the Old Testament is the process of God reminding Israel, the nation He loves, to remember Him and all He has done for them. He tells them to show Him their gratefulness by obeying His instructions to them. It is an education process that will prepare all of us to rule the world with Him.

He says we should FIRST make Him the Love of our Life. That’s the vertical. He certainly knows best who would make our best “Heart-Partner” That is the horizontal. For emphasis we should review God’s promise again, in Matthew 6:33:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Many seek a heart partner for security reasons. But we've stated several times this job is for our vertical partner, God.

When and where do I get a heart-partner?

Answer: Only after we have established a daily commitment in our heart that God knows best and we will wait on His choice of who and when.

Computers are too virtual a tool to develop honest relationships. Virtual means, "gives the illusion of fact or existence." On line relationships are most often misrepresented and certainly offer no stability.

The best of heart-partner relationships develop in church, face to face. Your partner should have already vertical partnered with Jesus Christ. Be wise. God does not intend for us to use Internet chat rooms and dating services to find relationships that honor Him. Instead, relationships that last through life's challenges are found while serving God in church, or wherever He has placed you and your talents.

Ask your pastor or parents for advice. But most important, ask God as you serve Him. All of this partnering we have been dealing with will fine tune us to our optimum as we serve Him with our talents.

Diversity by Design.

So many times in reading Genesis 2:18 we skip over an important concept brought forth in the two words, "*help meet*". This leads us toward seeing that man was given a special kind of partner; one with differences by design. Helpmeet carries a powerful aspect of being MUTUALLY helpful to each partner.

We must first see God's magnificent design of the human body. David said it in Psalms 139:14:

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

The words '*wonderfully made*' here means to make distinctly different in a marvelous way. David says this was done by God in such a way that it causes him to praise the Almighty.

Building from that praiseworthy design, God made quite obvious gender differences in animals, plants, and of course, mankind. Even with all of man's technology he is only now scratching the surface in learning the wonder of God's partnerships that are a bit diverse.

In looking at the differences in the partnerships of mankind, we must also assume there will also be special challenges in working in harmony with that partner that is different.

Partner Diversity Brings Strength, But Sometimes Strife

The MOST powerful partnerships can be found where each partner is slightly different than the other for intentional reasons. For example, our left and right brain hemispheres are different in some very specific and powerful reasons. The left hemisphere processes the information it receives in logical, “one plus one equals two” processes. In contrast, the right half of our brain processes its inputs from an emotional feeling point of view. It controls our creativity, imagination, and artistic appreciation.

More often than not, a woman will be more “right brain dominant”. That is, she views the world and responds with slightly less logical, but more creative artistic solutions. On the other hand a man will logically work through challenges in front of him. The important thing to notice is that BOTH halves are just as important in giving us a true picture of our world and how to deal with it’s circumstances

Both hemispheres of our brain works together to give us an intellect far above all creation. The apostle Paul used a whole chapter in 1st Corinthians 12 to show the equal importance of all the church members and their talents. He does this eloquently by using the parts of our body as a metaphor.

God’s desired result is listed in Paul’s words in verse 25:

That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. (Schism means dissention or strife.)

The bottom line of heart-partners comes through as: Though we are diverse in talents, we are united in the self-same care of one to another. This is the pinnacle of horizontal relationships we are calling Heart-Partners.

We will serve up a small story in the appendix for this chapter before moving on. From MOONBEAM WALKER we’ll stretch our awareness of others around us.

Chapter 6

The Internet's Pinnacle Purpose

“GO SEE THE NURSE. Get your breathing and blood pressure checked before you put on your racing clothes.” The coach added other directions as he made eye contact with each runner in his cross-country running team sitting on the benches before him.

In her office the nurse was easily recognized from some distance away by the “listening” instrument she and many of her profession, carry around their necks. This listening device is called a stethoscope. It is so well known that it has become something of a badge of those in health care positions.

This chapter is about our character, testing it, and fine tuning it. You may also see mentions of timing here that build on some of the lessons from the first chapter of this book.

Heart Testing Tools

The Stethoscope was invented by the French doctor “Rene Laennec” in 1816, at the time the dreaded lung disease Tuberculosis was claiming many lives. He began by rolling up 24 sheets of paper into a tube and putting one end against the chest and the other end up to his ear. He was delighted to discover that the sounds were not only conveyed through the paper, but they were also louder and clearer.

It was many years later before doctors began to use another new device we will call a blood pressure cuff. It is wrapped around the arm just above the elbow. This cuff was/is used together with a stethoscope near the inner elbow. In effect, they changed the single thump... thump... thump that you and I hear as our heart beat, into more accurate twin thumps like thump-thump... thump-thump... thump-thump.

The first thump heard is the heart as it pumps. This is the **systolic** pressure—the maximum pressure in the artery, produced as the heart pushes the blood on its journey. The second thump is the lowest pressure that remains within the artery when the heart is at rest and is called the **diastolic** pressure.

But even better than just hearing the two thumps, they can be seen on the pressure gauge on the cuff and then be recorded as numbers for patient history. If you like numbers, try these:

- Your body contains about 6 quarts of blood.
- In one day, your blood will travel nearly 12,000 miles.
- Your heart will beat around 35 million times each year.
- That little pump you carry within you will pump a million barrels of blood during the average lifetime – enough to fill three oil supertankers.

You and I can shout with King David, as he did in Psalms 139:14:

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Almost as important as the listening tool itself, Doctor Laennec created its How-To manual. It explained how to use his stethoscope in diagnosing many different ailments of other organs and systems in patients. The instrument was also used to diagnose early signs of what could become a catastrophic illness or possibly prevent it altogether. It would be impossible to figure how many lives have been saved so far, by the stethoscope and its how-to manual.

Heart Testing Alternatives

It would be quite helpful if we now take a look at an intermediate example before we move to the biggie.

Hypothetically we will say that Nancy owns her own car that is not a late model one or fancy either. But any of her friends will tell you she is consistent in the way she treats the car. The car is always vacuumed and everything in the glove box and door pockets are in proper order. The windows are kept as spotless as a dinner glass and the dash is presentable too.

She has a small notebook where she dutifully notes all of the maintenance actions plus periodic gas mileage checks. Well, so far Nancy appears to be consistent, organized, clean, and concerned about keeping her car running in the long term.

The simple principle here is that we can learn some about a person's character by how they treat and use tools (in this case the car.) There are several objects in our lives that can indicate our heart condition – our character.

You will not find very many Nancies like this, to be sure. Now even though Nancy's car was purchased for transportation, it also becomes a tool to learn several important facets about Nancy's character.

When Nancy drives her car she is courteous and patient to a fault. Probably even more could be learned about Nancy's character if there were no laws or rules of the road that restricted her actions.

Well, the Internet is just such a car – a real power tool. Because it has absolutely no restrictions you can go anywhere you choose and do it as recklessly as you wish. There is no one to police you or give you a ticket for stopping where you do not belong. The Internet is available all day, everyday – rain or shine.

So these reasons just mentioned qualify the Internet as the ultimate stethoscope or tool for diagnosing the condition of the heart, our spiritual one that is.

It goes one step higher than that. In comparison to her car, the Internet is far more revealing because we can also create web sites.

So the bottom line is this —

How we interact with the Internet reveals a great deal about our heart condition – our spiritual heart condition – our character.

- What sites are we going to?
 - Are they wasteful or God – honoring?
 - Should we be looking for sites we can recommend to others, at church, school, or home?
- Are we being frugal with the time we surf?
 - Some girls boast they spend 5 hours or more A DAY in chat rooms.
- Does our online communication build respect for our self, school, church, and faith?

And then...

- Are we creating web pages that honor God and “edify the brethren”?

Do you remember Laennec’s How-to manual? Well, without question, the Bible is the pinnacle of how-to manuals. God gives us many metaphors (word-pictures) in the Bible to help us understand what He wants to teach us. These pictures also help us to remember the lesson and even share it with others. This is one of many that lead us to use the heart-organ to also refer to the character of a man.

Look at the verse in Psalms 119:80:

Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

King David was a mighty warrior that we remember as the one who killed Goliath the giant. But he knew that physical strength also required good character. Otherwise, disaster would follow.

This chapter presented the most important purpose of the Internet as being a stethoscope. The stethoscope and Internet are tools that help demonstrate the condition of our heart.

Defenses Against Monsters

God's solution to the threats of the monsters of the Internet is simple and sure. This solution is the same time-proven one for all the other temptations we see before us. Jesus Christ must be recognized as the divine Son of God, and His position seen as the only way of salvation. Our flawed perspective is corrected when His sacrifice of shedding His own Blood on the Cross to pay for our sins, is accepted. When invited into a heart to stay, Jesus then becomes Savior and Lord of that life.

Having done this, that one can wholly trust the promises and truths of His inspired Word, the Bible. One of the clear scriptural directives regarding all the pitfalls of the Internet and its enticements is found in Psalm 119:9, 11:

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

The protection for not being dragged down by the wiles of the Internet is to fill oneself with God's Word and God's truths BEFORE using online technology.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Ephesians 6:11-18.

There is the further need to create and cultivate a personal team of Christian friends that will help us watch one another as we go about from day to

day. The best place to find and assemble such a team is through the local Bible-believing church and its ministries.

The Internet is a **lifeless tool** that is no different from a typewriter or Gutenberg's printing press. It is HOW man uses that God-given tool that determines its value. Gutenberg printed Bibles with his printing press. He made it possible for nearly every home to have its own copy of God's precious Word. What are you doing with the tools God has entrusted to you? I repeat: What are YOU doing with the tools God has entrusted to you?

We've seen in this chapter, the Internet becomes a measuring tool; a testing tool, of our character.

The next and final chapter will look at our TROPHIES.

Chapter 7

Better Than Gold

“TESTING THE HARD DRIVE THAT GROWS HAIR,” could be the title of this chapter. Continue to find out.

“Yuk! I have to read 1st Chronicles! Boring Isn’t the Half of It,” Duke exclaimed to the inspired open book before him. As he began his daily Bible reading in 1st Chronicles chapter 1, his progress quickly slowed to a crawl. He scanned the subsequent chapters and saw all the begets and names that made him almost choke trying to pronounce.

“Why am I supposed to read all this yucky stuff? Does God have some kind of mental distress He wants me to experience, reading this useless text?” Half heartedly, he figured 1st Chronicles had to be scripture that only preachers liked to read.

Other than Noah’s three boys, about the only other name that stood out was “Methuselah.” “He lived 969 years; the longest of any human, then or now. I wonder if there was a reason.” Duke spoke aloud scratching his head.

We will come back to 1st Chronicles shortly.

Boring Building Blocks, but...

There is a list, an incredibly important list that would take over 9 years without stopping for any reason, to read through. Whew! Talk about boring... The researchers call the list the Human Genome – our human DNA. This incredible recipe for each human being, is made up of 3 billion combinations of 4 building blocks.

Even though the entire genome SEQUENCE (list) has not been entirely mapped yet, we see mind-boggling achievements already being used with it. For instance

- Lots of criminals have been put behind bars because their DNA matched that found on a fallen hair or breath moisture on a telephone receiver.
- Medical researchers are MATCHING corresponding portions of DNA from a well person and a person with a serious illness.
- The comparison will aid healthcare professionals in all fields.
- The same kinds of potential seem to be possible in the plant and animal worlds.

We now want to take the “sequencing” and “matching” processes back to

1st Chronicles. As we begin again reading the jumble of names there does not seem to be any truth or principles we can hang our hat on. We want to shut one eye and trudge ahead.

Bible students the world over can tell you the best commentary for scripture is scripture itself. Well, put a marker where you are in 1st Chronicles and turn to Genesis chapter 10 (and also 11). You must be careful what you are reading, but it is soon clear that Gen 10 and 11 confirm 1st Chronicles 1.

The lesson to see here is that the genealogy SEQUENCES MATCH. “So WHAT?” you say. Two different people penned the genealogy sequences many years apart. If they did their work in their own strength, is there a chance they could have missed someone? Do you suppose Moses or Ezra ever had a “bad hair day” like you and I? I am so glad His inspiration sees that they do not, when it comes to giving us His infallible Word.

Genealogy Thermometer

The genealogy lists can be used like flash cards to see how many names we recognize as we read throughout the Bible. The genealogies become something of a thermometer of our feeding on the other books and historical events in God’s Inspired Word.

For The Real Data Detectives

The genealogies sharpen the ability to sequence according to purpose. That is, some listings are exhaustive by family (to a point). By contrast other listings are a trail from one event or person to another. 1st Chronicles 1 demonstrates both types of notation within the chapter. It is a very good demonstration of the DNA sequencing and matching, but from God’s lovely Word. Test your jigsaw puzzle skills and sort out which verses use which technique and then guess why.

Over and over we see portions of genealogies echoed in other chapters. Since last names were not used like you and I do, things can get gooey fast. Bible people were further identified by stating who their father was. Within all these begats I see something interesting in 1st Chronicles 6. In verses 7 and 8 is the sequence “Amariah . Ahitub > Zadok.” But then in verses 11 and 12, the same sequence appears. But they clearly are different fathers and sons.

Whew! If there was ever a need for social security numbers or imbedded microchip, finger print, or DNA identification it would be here. But what an amazing God we have. God named the stars in Psalm 147:4. 4

He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.

It will certainly be important to keep in the back of your mind that God is not the author of confusion. 1st Corinthians 14:33 tells us that.

There is another giant list the Bible talks about. It is the Lamb's Book of Life, which contains the names of everyone that has trusted Christ as their Savior. Among the names of all the famous important Bible characters listed there, will be my name. I am just small potatoes among them. But God knows each of us by name and even the hairs (including DNA) on our head.

So easily we count John 3:16, Psalms 23, and others to be precious in God's written communication to each of our hearts. Can you begin to feel the same inspiration that moved those genealogies to be penned? If God included a sequence of powerful Christians in your city, would your name be in God's Word?

Defense #1 – Computer Grace

Someone once said, "The most important part of computing is what is done before you touch the keyboard." He was referring to preparation. A crucial part of that preparation is called, Computer Grace.

We should begin with a simple analogy.

Your mouth is watering big-time as you sit down to the dinner table. The smells of all your favorite foods give promise of really good things about to be enjoyed. Your mind can hardly squeeze in reminders of proper table manners and rules of the road. Way off in the distance your racing thoughts try to warn you what happens when you eat too much of this or not enough of that. Your eyes tell the hands to pick up the spoon over here and the fork over there and dive in.

But then... reality grabs control of you. You admonish yourself with, "Hey! Wait a minute. I need to thank God for all this tasty food, the work that went into preparing it, and a wonderfully designed body to enjoy it. Then I also must ask God to lead me in using its energy to glorify Him."

Table grace has become an important prelude to our meals. It is a systematic reminder to us and the rest of our family of our gratitude for God's provision. We practice table grace because Jesus Christ did. He taught His followers this crucial beginning to every meal. Take a moment and review the reasons why you practice table grace.

Now. For the very same reasons, and more, we **MUST** practice Computer Grace. Scripture makes it very clear that technology comes from God and we are to use it to honor Him as we carry out the Great Commission. 1st Tim 3:16, 17 tell us that our operating manual on how to do this is scripture itself.

Our computer grace prayer to God would include:

- Praise to Him for His Goodness and Who He is.
- Thanks to Him for His gifts of technology and talents to use it.
- His leadership in us not wasting our keyboard time and His provisions.
- To tithe part of our keyboard time to evangelism and our local church.
- Focus and determination to see the project through.
- His blessing on the results of our work.

Along with Computer Grace preparation, your computer will never work better than when you keep a Keyboard Bible open next to the keyboard. What follows is a description of the second half of this great Dream Team.

Crucial Equipment for Invading Computer Land

Even though your computer may have installed an electronic Bible including many powerful search features, a keyboard Bible is still required for security and research. This keyboard Bible is just like your favorite Bible with all its paper pages of God's great promises. It is always open and always within inches of your computer keyboard.

1. The nearby Bible is a reminder that God's Word is chock full of principles for efficient computing. It stimulates creative thinking and planning in ways only its Author can.
2. It is a sentinel or supervisor to guard against computing sessions that are wasteful, lustful, or dishonoring to God in several other ways. Note: Remember the builders of the walls in Nehemiah 4? They worked with their sword by their side. You should too. Yours is the sword of God's Word.
3. It is a reminder at the end of your project to ask the Creator of computing to use and bless your efforts. And certainly to reminds you to give Him the glory in your computing.

Tune-Up Tools We Have Covered So Far

Before we jump into the 'frosting on the cake' we should review some of the items we have covered.

1. We first saw the importance of time and timing with the commitment to make our schedule match that of our Creator Jesus Christ.
2. In the process of fine tuning ourselves, we learned that our enemies come

in all sizes and disguises.

3. There is no “How to Manual” that equals or surpasses God’s Inspired Word.
4. We saw resumes ‘with an attitude’ that help us take inventory of ourselves today and tomorrow. “Are we getting better? Is there training or experience missing?”
5. The Garden of Eden was the setting for man needing a partner. Further consideration showed us that we must become stable with our vertical partner – God. Only then can we hope to establish a lasting heart partner.
6. Not only does it take a good How-To Manual (God’s Word) but also measurement tools (stethoscope and the Internet Activity) to measure the optimizing process.

So now we can savor the frosting on the cake, as we learn...

How to More Than Win

Everyone wants to succeed. We all want to win. We stay away from people that have strong desires not to succeed. Losing costs money, time, lives, work, and self-esteem.

Because of peer pressure, young people especially want to be on top in their competition-saturated world. We see eyes light up and spirits quicken as we sing spirited hymns like Victory in Jesus.

But do not sell God short. He rarely gives us “only victory”. It has to do with the way He displaces our enemies. Reread the first portion of chapter six and be reminded of God’s provision in battle on our behalf. Your perception of God’s protection begins to upgrade from “victory in Jesus” to something more. A unique provision of God I have loved to share with others for more than forty years is dogmatically stated in Romans 8 starting in verse 35:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

No other place in the entire world, whether written or thought, is this level of accomplishment mentioned. The passage clearly states “*more than conquerors*”. How do you MORE than win? How do you MORE than defeat an opponent? Is this not like climbing to the very top of the mountain **and then going higher**? Olympic athletes train all their lives to be the winner. They daily

set their sights on that top step where he or she will wear the Gold Medal. But “*more than winners*” tells us there must be a step above that! But how is this possible? Where do we learn how?

As God inspired Paul to include this concept in his letter to the church in Rome, he hastened to add the all-important next words... “*through him that loved us.*”

We must teach youth trying to “find themselves”, distraught parents, discouraged church leaders and the person we work next to, the direction they must go is *through Him that loved us*. We must open God’s precious word with others and see that voices from every page tell us, “we’ve been there; done that.” The voices from the Bible past tell us in so many ways, “Ask God what He wants and just do it!”

To really understand how to be more than a conqueror you must feast on the history of God’s provision in battle. If you think fighting a battle with water pitchers was fantastic, read in Joshua 6 how the Israelites destroyed the walled city of Jericho. They didn’t use any weapons at all!

The lesson learned that day was that victory is assured when you are quiet and follow when you are supposed to and then stand and shout according to the directions of God. They learned how to more than win because they used NO weapons at all. Children the world over, sing of this incredible (more than) victory.

To more than win means:

- You KNOW you will win before the battle.
- Others benefit or are built up because of your stand and victory.
- Even if you do not get the gold medals of man, you have been obedient and will receive God’s rewards while giving Him the glory.
- Our victories “in His name” move us to polish our defenses, our testimony, and our knowledge of the enemy’s tactics.
- The enemy is mightier than the Christian soldier. Like David and Goliath.

Appendix

(Arranged by Chapter)

Time Check at Blinko Point

TIMING IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT YOU THINK IT IS OR SHOULD BE. Ben had built the guidance platforms for many Condor Air-to-Ground Attack missiles and calibrated lots of gyroscopes that guided the large Titan Intercontinental Ballistic Missile to its target. With his technical background, Ben figured he had a good idea of what time was.

There at Blinko Point one sunny December day, he parked his car and switched the engine off. Ben looked at his disposable digital crystal watch, and then noticed that the dancing diamonds of the sun's reflection on the blue water of the lake was almost straight ahead.

The rhythm of the small waves told him to kick his uncomfortable shoes off and warm his feet in the sun's rays. It all felt so relaxing that Ben thought someone should write a poem titled, SHOES OFF AT BLINKO POINT. He tried to contrast this calming scene with one in September.

September is when the International Class hydroplane boats have their time trials that sometimes exceed 130 mph across the water. He was sure the judges and helicopter reporters were all time-synchronized with expensive Cesium Atomic Clocks, lasers, satellite positioning, and a boat load of other technology.

Someone said you can synchronize your clock to 1 second in a thousand years using some Navy government website. But Blinko Point will do even better than that. The modest peninsula for fishing uses a more accurate measuring system. The "shoes off" quiet at the Point first shakes your senses out of the fast living; 'forget yesterday' time travel we're all anchored to.

The 4-foot-tall marker buoy, a short distance out from shore, sways with the waves like a scolding finger at Ben asking, "Do you move a lot and not really go anywhere – like me? Why not pause a bit at Blinko and get synchronized with God's future plans for you?"

In a contrast of movement, the motionless trees without leaves all stand straight and tall on the hilly shore. They seem to say to Ben, "You humans think you're so smart in counting our growth rings and determining our age. Well, think about this. Every year our Creator uses three or four consecutive deep-cold days to synchronize us with the rest of creation. From that period we know how long to wait to display our blossoms for the bees and birds to pollinate us."

Ben glances again at the dancing diamonds and see their position has changed exactly to God's timetable of the heavens. Ben remembers the historical events detailed in Joshua 10:13 where the sun and moon stayed still until God's army won its victory.

And what do you suppose the fishermen thought when one day the sun BACKED UP forty minutes in God's answer to the prayer of just ONE person? The whole account is recorded in 2nd Kings 20.

So the three questions for Ben are:

1. Who is the REAL timekeeper?
2. Does measuring your life against a stopwatch, sound like an exhausting shallow existence?
3. Does seeing the sway of a metronome spark an expectance of song or blend of talents to bless the soul?

(End of story)

Continue on to chapter 2

The Wondrous Web

NITA FELT REALLY LEFT OUT. All the rest of her night school classmates were going to write their reports about the Internet and all the neat stuff you can find on it. Others were going to write their reports on the history of the World Wide Web. But somehow Nita just didn't feel like she fit into all of this techy stuff.

When she got laid off from her job cooking hamburgers it was a bit of a blow. Part of her small paycheck was for a night school college class in design. For now she'd have to settle for this free course in creative writing. At least this would look good on her resume by showing that she was not a time waster.

In her bedroom, she would often lie across her bed, face down, and daydream at the floor. This was one of those times. You'd think she was expecting the rug to roll back and show her what she should write her report about. The thought came to her, "Nita, you dummy. Rugs can't write reports any more than they can fry hamburgers." She considered more than once that she ought to quit. "I just don't fit into this night class."

The nineteen year old was about to yank a blanket over her head and wish the world would go away. But then a very little spider peeked out from under the rug she had been staring at. Nita thought this spider was too small to be scary. As she watched the careful movements of the spider, her report started coming together.

A couple days later, Nita stood before her night school class with excitement written all over her face. She began, "My report is about the web. But listen carefully for it's not a web you're probably thinking of. I want to tell you about the webs, which are the construction projects of spiders. The World Wide Web got its name from the design of spider webs."

"Most spiders create their own distinctive webs. Scientists have found powerful uses for many of them. The Black Widow spider has an intimidating almost deadly sounding name. The bombers of World War II had a spider web on board that was so deadly it was carried on and off the plane by the airplane's navigator in utmost secrecy. The Black Widow's web was so deadly accurate; it was used in the Norton Bomb Sight that put bombs right on target."

Nita looked up from her report and with a bit of a smile said, "I suppose the Black Widow spider would tell us, 'if you want to be on target with your life, be careful which web you use and how you use it.'"

"Now, the Parachute spider spins a web that is really just one very long thread. The thread acts much like a parachute in allowing the spider to sail with the winds and travel places far beyond its seemingly small world. Air currents

that blow upward will even take them into the clouds. A ‘spider in the clouds’ is not a fantasy, but one more fantastic lesson to of heavenly power and peace we can draw from.” With a couple more details, she again looked up and said, “When you travel, be sure to choose the right web.”

“One more web I’ll tell you about. This spider lives in an extremely hostile place. He lives down in the water. The web he creates is like an upside down basket connected to underwater plants. He makes trip after trip; each time taking a small bubble of air connected to the hairs of his body down and deposits the air bubble in the basket web he created. This allows him to live and breath in what would be a very hostile, even deadly, environment.”

“The point is,” Nita summarized, “we have dangers all around us. Today many of them are electronic and a bit of a mystery to us. As we choose our learning sites and then the jobs to provide our needs, we ought to learn well the true nature of things. If we honestly work at this we will trust the leading of God Who created the first web and wants us to communicate continually with Him.

(end of story)

Continue on to chapter 3.

Chapter 3 Appendix

The first of these seven grouping principles is in the chapter. The remaining six are listed here.

Groups within Groups

While helping your mom clear the breakfast dishes, she gives you some ideas where to look for your favorite ball cap. She says, “Up in the attic, I think I saw it in a cardboard box that was white.” Since moms are so often right, you head for the attic. Looking at all the attic stuff, you think, ‘Now I have to look at just the cardboard boxes. Once I’ve located all the boxes, then I look in just the white boxes.’

You and I use groups within groups almost automatically.

Back to the Jewish Menu Again.

Leviticus 11:20 says the Israelites are not to eat animals that have wings and walk:

All fowls that creep, going upon all four, shall be an abomination unto you.

The next verse says that a group within the above group, sort of a subgroup made of the ones that jump, are ok to eat. The keyword is the word “Yet”. Then God’s directive gives some examples to help make it plain:

Yet these may ye eat of every flying creeping thing that goeth upon all four, which have legs above their feet, to leap withal upon the earth; Even these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind.

In the Bible this same method of groups, subgroups, and searches was used to ferret out an Israelite named Achan. He had disobeyed God’s commands about stealing from the enemy. The groups within groups search is described in Joshua 7:14 resulting in the execution of Achan, his family members, and all his possessions. (Sin affects far more than just the one disobeying.)

We comfortably use this same class of searching when on the Internet. In the image below the user first clicks on HEALTH. The user then chooses CHILDREN’S HEALTH. The user is now about to click on the subgroup TEEN HEALTH.

This is also the method of cataloging that libraries use. It is called the Dewey Decimal System, named after Melville Dewey (1851).

Grouping Things That Are Associated

Heading toward our next class, we pass a person with a white jacket wearing a stethoscope around her neck. She is unmistakably a health care professional rather than a plumber or accountant. We associate recognizable tools of the trade with the one carrying them.

Individuals of the wandering Israel nation were divided or catalogued as unclean merely by association or contact with dead animals or the dishes they were using. The lengthy descriptions of these associations are detailed in verses 24 through 40.

In 1st Corinthians 5:11 the Apostle Paul provides a recipe for disaster by us associating (eating) with the people who dishonor God by their manner of living.

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Computer Associations

We can speed up our computing by thinking a minute about computer associations. Most computer programs will automatically save your file with an extension that is ASSOCIATED with that program. The file extension is that part of the filename that follows the period.

If I locate a file I want to work on that ends in “.pps” and double click on it, my Windows computer will automatically first load the Microsoft PowerPoint system files and then load my “.pps” file. The reason is that when I turned my computer on, it loaded some geeky system files that said, “.pps is associated with PowerPoint, .xls is associated with Excel, .vbc is associated with my business card software, etc.

Groups That Are Not to be Subdivided

Your Sunday school teacher takes a dry erase marker and writes the word “lies” on the white board. He explains, “OK. Now we’re going to create divisions of lies as to which ones are permissible, those that are OK if you don’t get caught, white lies, half truths etc.”

Step one was to list the most common ones that pertained to parents,

dating, and taking tests, just for starters. The teacher then changed to a different color marker. His next directive, “Now we’ll look at each one and circle the ones that God tolerates; the ones in which He sort-of looks the other way.” Next step is to put the circled ones in their own division.

Well, with that task finished, all the classmates could see none were circled. The list of lies could not be subdivided.

In verses 41 through 45 the group of creeping things is defined. None of these are to be eaten and in doing so, shows us that some groups are treated as their whole.

This might be like cataloging God’s Promises. In one group you would list all those promises He will honor. In the second group you list the ones He will not. There are none and so the group God’s Promises is not further divided.

Mixed all through everyone’s hard drive folders are “library” files. They all end with a “.dll” file extension. It is critical that these files NEVER be moved, grouped or subdivided in any way.

So whether it’s creeping things or library files, the rule is simple – HANDS OFF!

Though there are many more, we will touch on just two more methods that might be thought of as being contrasting in themselves.

Groups that are Static (non changing)

Our lives need a blend of things that DO NOT change and things that DO CHANGE. We can change our position or condition for the better by FIRST knowing our status relative to something that does not change. Because the stars do not change their position from year to year, we can figure out where we are on the ever changing ocean waves.

Mankind so often tries to reverse his choices in what is stable and what is changing. The critical point here is to make sure that our reference, our point of measurement is a truly static, stable one. The same process holds true for considering groups of things.

The most famous group of things that never change is the 66 books of God’s Word. The Bible is the premier example of getting it right the first time. The warning sign against modifications listed among the last four verses gives terrifying consequences to anyone who tries to change this group that God has said not to try to change.

Luke 16:17 says, “*And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.*” (Note: A tittle is the smallest mark of punctuation in the Hebrew alphabet.)

In Leviticus 12 we see this type of groups that never change. Scripture gives requirements to the mother of her newborn. Because a boy will always be a boy and a girl always a girl, the cataloging of newborn do not need to be redone later. This gives us a rather simple reminder of groups of things that are not to be changed.

It should further remind us of the precious powerful description of our Savior and Lord in Hebrews 13:8: "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*"

Groups that are Dynamic (changing)

We just looked at Leviticus 12 as representing groups of things that do not change. Thanks be to God that we can trust the whole 66 books to give us stability in dealing with things that do change. God tells us over and over that He wants you and I to change into loving Him more, and working on being more like Him.

In looking at Leviticus 13 we see lengthy diagnosis and the treatment of Leprosy. Its directives in scripture will never change but the day to day condition of the sores and symptoms could change often. That result being that the division or the quarantining of the patient must be reevaluated according to the chapter.

One example of a dynamic changing group is the group of computer virus definition files that we must update at least weekly to protect our computer against malicious computer programs that will harm our system and propagate into others.

Another changing group of computer files that can easily be described as a flood of information for us to sift through are Internet web page files. The challenge is to harness this glut of information by grouping them into systematic groups. The problem is that pages are added thousands by the minute. What a fearful place to wander without God's guarding and guiding hand upon us while we are at the keyboard.

Later we will see uses for these methods just mentioned.

So far in this chapter we have seen many lessons on grouping or cataloging important things around us. More importantly, we have found these lessons in God's Inspired Word. To remind ourselves, His word promises to provide guidelines for our entire daily living as follows:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2nd Timothy 3:16, 17.

Groups That Become Databases

Word processing and managed databases make up the majority of professional computer use. It is therefore most appropriate that powerful partnering exists with scripture.

The Old Testament gives direction for the construction and operation of the Tabernacle. It was the portable church that God's people carried with them through the wilderness. Numbers chapter 7 describes the offerings that each of the 12 leaders are supposed to offer. They consist of four different types of offerings; the Meat, Burnt, Sin, and Peace offerings.

Without leaving chapter 7 you will see the offerings for each of the 12 tribes. Each one of the listings is in exactly the same sequence as the one listed here for the tribe of Judah. These verses first appear pretty boring and certainly seem of little use to us. But wait and see.

And he that offered his offering the first day was Nahshon the son of Amminadab, of the tribe of Judah: And his offering was one silver charger, the weight thereof was an hundred and thirty shekels, one silver bowl of seventy shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary; both of them were full of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering: One spoon of ten shekels of gold, full of incense: One young bullock, one ram, one lamb of the first year, for a burnt offering: One kid of the goats for a sin offering: And for a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year: this was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

Reading very much of this would probably help some insomniacs to doze off. But what you are about to see has never been shown in any book you'll get from any publisher. Pay particular notice that the Peace Offerings all were oxen, rams, goats, and lambs. Use your word processor to strip out the text as shown below.

Vs 17, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 23, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 29, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 35, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 41, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 47, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 53, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 59, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 65, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 71, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 77, "two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs"

Vs 83, “two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs”

What you see listed above is actually a section of twelve verses in Numbers 7 that tell the animal count of the peace offerings of each of the 12 tribes. You can do this with your computer to show these verses form a syntax or sequence that qualifies it as being a database. The very same thing can be done with the meat, burnt, and sin offerings also.

God’s Word shows us marvelous examples of how databases are constructed in His Word. This is a very good place to learn how databases are constructed and create one using scripture, in your computer.

But most fascinating is that TOTALS are furnished in verse 88:

And all the oxen for the sacrifice of the peace offerings were twenty and four bullocks, the rams sixty, the he goats sixty, the lambs of the first year sixty. This was the dedication of the altar, after that it was anointed.

Therefore,

A Bad Hair Day is not Allowed

What is exciting about all this is that they match. The count for each tribe adds up to the over all-total. You might think this is no big deal. But it really is. Moses was a flesh and blood person with many of the distractions you and I have in our lives. He has penned the words in the scriptures we have been looking at.

Now suppose he got distracted while writing these two pages of scripture of “meaningless” offerings? Suppose the printers of our Bibles got distracted or careless as they set up these pages to print? For example, suppose two little insignificant words tucked down in verse 77 “five rams” were left out, before we got our Bible? Actually, any other ones would work just as well. The totals would not match.

Bible Databases ... So What!?

This list lesson teaches FIVE important database principles from scripture.

1. We can learn the structure of databases and how to use them from scripture
2. Databases even show us how accurate God’s Word is.
3. We can teach others how to use computers from God’s Word
4. We get strong evidence that every part of scripture is important to read and important to share accurately.

5. Scripture teaches us how to do powerful searches in resources all around us. But our searches for the meaning of life, hope, and peace are in the Bible itself.

(End of process list details for chapter 3)

Mars Mission Mistake (story for chapter 3)

Hold it! It's going to fall off!

Tom and Helen were about to burst with pride as they watched the videotape of their entry in Easton School's Planet Mars Robot Explorer Contest.

The little robot car flawlessly followed all of Helen's programmed commands. Tom had put all of his considerable mechanical know-how into the car's operation. Without a sound, the entire science class watched as the vehicle moved along the edge of the cliff, so close to going off that stones were thrown over the precipice by the movement of the car's wheels. Even before the eight-minute demonstration was over, everyone agreed that Tom and Helen had first prize in the bag!

But still, the judges were going to have a tough time picking the winning design team. After all, no one expected a contest entry like the one Josie and Ben had come up with. What ingenuity! What originality... a vehicle that had NO wheels. It moved like a snake and sort of slithered along. The adult judges were very impressed with the overall efforts of the contestants.

None of the judges could put a finger on it at first, but something was missing. And whatever "it" was, was missing from both of the two leading entries. Well, everyone would just have to wait until the Friday school assembly to learn which team had won the coveted first prize... tickets to the NASA Space Camp.

On Friday, the auditorium was packed out. Even Mr. Willis, the Superintendent of Schools, was there to see the contest results.

Would you believe that neither of the front-running entries won first place? The roar of disbelief from the assembled students was so loud that hardly anyone heard who did receive the first prize.

But a second surprise surfaced when a real live NASA astronaut came out on the stage, wearing his orbiter suit and helmet! When the ooh's and aah's and applause had stopped, he presented the first prize tickets, along with an explanation for the decision of the judges.

He told the assembled students that both of the favorite entries, while outstanding in design and mechanical knowledge, were missing something that was of critical importance to those who risk their lives exploring outer space. The one and only reason Tom and Helen's, and Josie and Ben's entries could not be considered was because that critical item, the mission flight plan was missing out of their entries.

He went on to explain the incredible amount of research that has to be done for each space mission. The goal...the target...the place to land; all have to be selected and clearly defined well BEFORE blast-off time.

He held up for all to see, a new gyroscope that has no moving parts. Mounted in the shuttle and using atomic particles, it would keep the rocket ship right on course. But this marvelous new equipment would be worthless unless that goal or target has been chosen.

The astronaut finished his presentation with a blockbuster statement that really grabbed everyone: “Each of our lives is a lot like a mission to Mars. Any mistake or sloppy choice costs dearly, and could take someone’s life. Ask good thinking people, like your parents, pastor or teacher, to help YOU decide on a goal for your life.

And best of all, ask the Creator Himself. He knows what’s out there.”

(End of story)

Continue on to chapter 4.

Chapter 5 Appendix

ISO 9000

The simple process of writing down a recipe of ingredients, or steps of a process is a critical way of doing things in larger companies. Some of their customers even require them to be “ISO 9000 Certified” or they will go to another manufacturer. Here is why.

Customers want to know that the parts or services they receive have been made and tested by someone who knows the correct way. That is becoming more difficult all the time because workers change jobs or are required to do a task they hadn't done for a year or two. For you and me, it might be like making a pineapple upside down cake or replacing a starter in a car. We've done the job before but it was so long ago that we might leave out an ingredient or a bolt, unless we've written it down.

Writing down the ingredients or steps in the process also makes it more accurate for us to teach others how to do it. But a very important advantage is that we can learn what ingredients or tasks are missing.

The Human Resources people who hire you and me for jobs are impressed to see “ISO 9000” mentioned on our resume. It shows them we are organized and efficient just like they want to be.

Total Quality Management

The business world puts strong interest in the process called, “Total Quality Management” (TQM). It embodies the three steps above. Prospective employers cherish applicants who understand the process and how important it is in a company's best performance. But the real secret is that applying some of the basic principles to one's self is just as powerful. It sure looks good on a resume also.

Noah's Possible Resume for chapter 5

Noah

Son of Lamech.
Father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Objective:

Whatever God wants me to do.

Abilities:

- I can follow construction directions well.
- I don't get distracted or discouraged by others.
- Long-term projects are not a problem to me.
- Carpentry tasks go with my tool inventory.
- Animal Care and feeding.
- I like to honor God with all my efforts.

Work History:

- I built a boat that took 120 years.
- I fed and sheltered a whole range of animals.
- I have first hand knowledge of the diversity of animals.
- Compartment and room construction for housing creatures of every description.

Learning about Learning for chapter 5

[From Computer Ministries by James Curtis. Used with permission.]

More times than I can count, I have had someone ask me to “teach him or her computers”. But you see, whether it's purchasing a car or learning computers, you do not get anywhere until you decide what you want the car or computer to do, or where you want to go with them. We will see in this chapter some simple tips that will help us to **learn how to learn**. Adults take exception to this process thinking their years in school demonstrate they know how to learn. Most often that is not the true case.

Young people and adults learn in completely different ways. Let me explain.

Young people learn something new by being shown what each lever and button does. Then just get back out of their way, and by trial and error they

learn on their own how to use the controls and features in seemingly haphazard discovery mode.

In contrast, adults want to be taught only the controls and steps to complete a definite project. An appropriate request from an adult is, "Please give me a list of steps to send an email message to a missionary in Haiti."

Let us thwart Satan's simple techniques to discourage we adults from using our computer for God's mission efforts by considering some tips that follow.

Learning Resources

Library ~ Get a head start on the class by checking out a video from the local library and learn some of the terms and screens. The library I frequent most often has 11 computers available to the public at no cost, and for about a 30 min limit (if others are waiting). All of them have a popular word processor and laser printer installed, paper is free. Seven of the computers are Internet accessible. Courteous library staffers are a wave-of-the-hand away, to help when the computer does something stupid.

God's Word - First and foremost. **Computer Ministries** shows you where.

Home ~ In the same library's visual aids dept are videos on specific computer programs and computer operation in general. Take a video home and learn computing with the blinds pulled. Replay that one part that just doesn't make sense.

Computer Store ~ The local computer store usually knows of computer user groups in the area that assemble regularly to discuss and resolve relevant issues.

Grocery Stores ~ All grocery stores contain computer magazines with short moderately easy articles that all work together to help us along. Read the articles with the idea you won't understand everything, but terms and techniques start fitting together. You'll begin to understand hardware parts and pieces by comparing ads, descriptions, and prices.

- Remember your computer grace.... much prayer while training your computer.
- Seek God's peace and direction as the keyboard is being used. My computer always works best if my open Bible is next to the keyboard. It gives me direction for where to go, and where not to go. It inspires me, and gives me

peace as I work. When you hit a hurdle in your computing, get up and stretch your body, then read rich promises from your “computer manual” like:

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...” (John 14:27)

Even for computers, Psalm 119:105 is still true:

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” We’re reminded from 1st Corinthians 14.

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.” Reading in Psalm 32.

Class-Learning Meltdown

Now that you have reviewed some of the library training videos, and have some idea of the terms and general idea of the screens, you may want to sign up for a computer class.

- Before committing to the class, make sure what type of students the class is designed for.
- Take a recorder, if allowed, rather than trying to catch up on all the notes.
- I get saturated with just three hours of classroom training. Consider that most of the classes are six hours long. Imagine the frustration when an adult signs up for two classes in the same week.
- Do not sign up for class two until you can teach someone at least 25% of what you learned in class one. (Curtis' two-bit rule.)
Class “two” NEVER makes class “one” content more understandable.
- It's exciting to see how your computer learning will pick up speed as you sandwich it with generous amounts of learning episodes in the scriptures and how teaching was done by the Master Teacher.
- Realize there are at least four ways to do most anything in computerin'. Pick one way and forget about the others. This technique often requires you choose only one resource as you mentor. A mentor is a trusted one-on-one teacher.

The four flavors of Computer Evangelism

A program I use quite heavily has a companion book of operations. The book has 1293 pages and doesn't begin to cover all the bells and whistles. The book itself is mind-boggling. It has a table of contents that is eight pages long.

You do not even know where to start. Those giant sized books are for reference only. Today's programs do a portion of everything. Keep Satan off your doorstep by concentrating on a specific **process** and not learning the whole ball of wax.

Don't let the screen and keyboard intimidate you. They have a wealth of self protection built into them. You won't crash them, although spilling pop into the keyboard does present some sticky problems. Never forget the Lord is equally good at computing as He is at turning water into wine. He's anxious for you to employ His talents and promises.

Any modest computer you purchase today is incredibly more powerful than the mainframe room sized computers of years ago. That doesn't translate into just raw horsepower. But into helps, tutorials, wizards etc. Wizards are programs that do little tasks for you, by asking you questions about the task at hand.

In computing, there are only four basic flavors. Some programs do a little of each, but remember, we're focusing on how a program (or part of it) will help us with a **process**, not the other way around.

Text, data, graphics, and communication. You need to pick **one** flavor and concentrate on that direction.

TEXT flavor is usually the first one newbie's choose. Word processors are designed for text that makes pages like the one you're reading, reports, forms, overhead transparencies, and labels. Most of them have their own built in dictionaries, a 'pick-another-word' thesaurus, and even grammar checkers. You need not bother about margins or when to capitalize or changing the numbering on a list you've made.

Page numbers, headers, footers, footnotes, columns, and pictures are all very easy to handle. Some word processors include wizards to design and print your own business cards.

Any respectable computer or office supply store has perforated paper card stock to finish the process. Present that staffer with his/her own business cards as a perk for good performance. If your printer doesn't have color capability, purchase some preprinted sheets that make very good-looking certificates after you've added personal information.

Probably one of the greatest helps that computer give us, is forcing us to work hard at locating and organizing data, even before we start entering it in the computer. Once it's in, we quickly see what data is missing.

Database Processors are a real workhorse of the office. They shape your data into lists like phone books.... Columns and rows. Columns always have the same kind of data in them. Each row is called a record. The records can be sorted and calculated. They can be filtered too. If the reports are formatted or shaped well, they become critical path tools to making organizational decisions. A clear explanation with examples is in chapter seven - "A List Lesson".

Spreadsheet data processing is slightly different than database lists, even though they both use columns and rows. In a spreadsheet each 'compartment' is referred to as a cell and can have text, numbers, formulas, or pictures in them. They are incredibly powerful in doing math analysis like budgets, data group summaries, and real geekie stuff that result in charts, reports, and headaches.

The **Graphics** flavor of computing is expanding at a faster rate than the other two combined, thanks to the Internet and more powerful computers. It used to encompass only pictures, charts, and primitive animation. This flavor now, is more properly referred to as **multi-media**, since it includes images, animation, sound, speech recognition, video and any combinations.

Teachers and leaders make great strides by using colorful and interactive graphics. Our reports give better understanding with color-integrated data. Then the chalk and blackboards of the past have become digitized marker boards of today. The instructor can use dry erase markers for the presentation. At a click of the button the freehand sketches on the board are saved into the computer. Another button click will print the sketches on paper to be taken home or emailed across the globe.

The **Communication** flavor is for more than sharing. It is the 'real time' sharing of resources and needs. The exchange of information is no longer delayed by the speed of the mailman or the enthusiasm of the librarian. Elsewhere in this book I have expanded on email and the Internet. But with computers we have established practical communication with quadriplegics that are paralyzed from the neck down.

All of this results in more and more individuals being able to be encouraged and be an encourager with the praises and promises of our God.

Next I want us to see there many technology giants of destruction produced by Satan come in extremely small packages that spread faster and farther than an explosion.

(End Of Learning How To Learn for chapter 5)

Sewing Machine Lifesaver (a story for chapter 4)

I'M TRAPPED! I'M IN A CAGE AND CAN'T GET OUT! Lois sat in front of her machine in sewing class. For two weeks now, she and her class were learning to sew pockets on pants, dresses, and shirts. They learned to use all types of thread and material and which was best for what kinds of uses. But she thought she would go mad.

Lois ached within herself to do something important. Though her hands would position the material, and carefully guide it through the sewing machine, she felt so useless, so insignificant. Her mind would continually place her in important jobs like writing speeches for famous people, helping a scientist invent a new medicine, or create a gown to be worn by a queen.

But the last couple nights were worse yet. After bedtime prayer she had wept hoping to get some relief from the feelings of "I'm a nobody that can sew pockets." On Saturday, at her mom's request, Lois took her younger brother Timmy to the science museum to see some new exhibits he needed to look at for a school report.

The most popular exhibit was a person wearing one of the actual space suits worn on one of Apollo moon landings. His helper explained the purpose of all the many hoses, fixtures, and valves to the children as Lois stood back and watched all the attention. The children got down on their knees to better see something the helper was describing about the suit that was below the backpack. Lois moved in closer to listen.

The helper said, "See that little pocket? It isn't used for anything anymore but it is still attached to every new suit that is crafted. And children, know what? If that pocket isn't sewn on with the greatest of care, the suit will lose pressure during a space walk and kill the astronaut. That astronaut's life depends on the best efforts of someone with a sewing machine he or she has never seen, or the work that was done." Lois pulled out a handkerchief and headed for a dark corner before anyone saw her tears. In sewing class, could she ever have imagined that a pocket could save a life?

The whole matter of insignificance was reinforced two weeks later when Lois' youth pastor shared a message from Matthew 25. The message included the parable of the talents. The weight in Lois' heart was lifted when she heard the pastor read, "*thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make the ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*" Two verses later the same statement was made to another faithful steward. Even at that moment she thanked God for the comfort that comes from knowing she is saved and from scripture showing us how we can have joy.

Just after bedtime prayer that night, she pictured herself sewing a pocket

on the robe of her Savior, Jesus Christ. How important that would be. Serving God with her talents. But she knew the job was not finished. In this picture, Lois took her heart and placed it in the pocket of the Lord's robe. Will your sewing machine make pockets?

(End of story)

Continue on to chapter 5.

Moon Beam Walker (A story for chapter 5)

THE LABORATORY LOOKED LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SPACE FICTION MOVIE. The walls reflected all sorts of colors in random arrays. From other workbenches you could hear battle sounds and occasional noises like car crashes.

Jock tried to concentrate on his computer game he was trying hard to finish programming before summer semester finals. The other lab students in his college prep workshop were competing against Jock's Moonbeam Walker adventure game for the three small but needed scholarship moneys.

He was sure he could be more productive if only Judy wasn't such a distraction with her nervous pencil tapping. It was easy for Jock to see Judy was having fits with her project. It seemed each lab day she was becoming more frustrated and given to more frequent eye blotting and nose wiping. More than once, Jock had wished that somehow one of them could start using a different terminal and not distract his programming.

Jock's Moon Beam Walker was something of an on-screen scavenger hunt that used pairs of clues to get to the next location or object. The computer's camera would mix a color or object in the room (like the laboratory) with a color or object in the scavenger game trail. The result then is to be observant in what the game progress is showing on the screen and the environment around the game player.

The purpose of Moon Beam Walker wasn't so much a game, as it was an exerciser in stretching our awareness. The game might like to tell you to slow down or you might miss some important road signs.

Tuesday Jock noticed Judy had worked on her project less than an hour. He saved his file and shut down his terminal. He went to the cafeteria and saw Judy by herself with her head on folded arms. Jock bought two Orange Diller Sodas and walked over to Judy's table. A couple light taps on the table announced his presence. With a soft smile one of the sodas was slid in front of Judy.

Jock warmly told her in a questioning tone, "I'm a good listener for someone that needs a friend." She struggled with a thank you smile and took a long breath. "I'm working on a project that creates ice breaker statements based on the questionnaire the user would fill out beforehand. But the computer doesn't do what I want it to, and I'm about to pull my hair out," she said.

He responded with, "Judy that's a fascinating project that I'm sure will get plenty of use." For the next couple hours the two young programmers discussed ideas and program fixes. Now back in the lab, Jock's computer was shut off. But just suppose the computer camera was still able to see the couple in the cafeteria. Would the camera be able to see the happy countenance return to Judy?

It took more than one of Jock's invitations but Judy went with him to his church's Mystery Event Rally. Along with his funny stories about old time computers, the speaker shared the Bible verse Proverbs 18:24 that says,

“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”

You may not believe this, but the event was a Scavenger Hunt and something about a super muddy field.

(End of story)

Continue on to chapter 6.

Chapter 6 Appendix

Cherry Hill Chariot Works

As you walk in, you see a large conference table with chairs all around it. On the walls are charts and graphs with mysterious lines going up and down and all over. On the wall at the head of the table is a picture of a strong, sleek and durable chariot. Welcome to the Cherry Hill Chariot Works!

The board members are about to meet and you get to sit in. Shortly, the different vice presidents of the various departments walk in, papers in hand. Each takes a seat. Then a very distinguished gentleman walks in and sits at the head of the table. The meeting begins with various discussions and pieces of leftover business.

Then the chairman of this conference asks each man who is seated at the table to relate the status of the company in relation to their department. The sales manager paints a very dismal view of the status of the company. Sales are way down. It seems pretty hopeless. The marketing manager is also in a difficult fix because he doesn't have any cash flow that he can use to present the products to the public like he wants to. It's in bad shape.

The accounting manager confirms what the other two have said. There's no money coming in so they can't afford to step out into new marketing areas like they want. Each of the men presents a very "doomed" view of the company. The company is almost dead. What really makes it rough is there seems to be no new ideas. They have no answers to the problem of saving the company.

The chairman of the board explains that he understands what each man has said. He concurs with them. Then, for a little bit of distraction to relax them, he suggests a way that they might be able to deal with this terrible situation in each of their own hearts individually.

The chairman pulls out what looks like a scrapbook. He opens it and turns the pages. He explains to the men, as he goes through the pages, that so many times in the past, when he has been in a hopeless situation and really doesn't see any way out, he gets out this old scrapbook and thumbs through its pages. He looks at the sketches and relives the circumstances and events that are tied up in these pages. For a diversion, he suggests that maybe now would be a good time for him to take them through this scrapbook.

Since everyone is discouraged and has nothing better to do, they all agree. Why not? He opens up the scrapbook and holds it out where each man can clearly see each page. Very quickly each man on the board realizes that the scrapbook is primarily centered on one person - one famous person. In fact,

when they got to looking at it, the scrapbook was about the man we have been learning about - Elijah.

He points to the first sketch. They see large, black birds. The chairman relates the events that happened as Elijah shared them with him. He tells how buzzards fed Elijah.

Then, in the next couple of sketches, the chairman points to a figure of a lady and says, "That's my mom." Down here are little morsels of meal that we had left. He explains how Elijah the prophet had come to their home. Even though they were about to eat their last meal and die, the prophet has said to feed him first.

The next picture is of two containers - one a barrel and the other a cruse. He explained about the miraculous provisions God had performed right in their own home. As he talked on, the men seemed a little bit troubled by all of this. They really weren't getting the picture.

Then the chairman said, "Right down here in this picture, is a person lying down. That's me. That's when I died! He then goes on to another picture. One of the vice presidents at the table said,

"Wait a minute! What did you say about that other picture? You died?"

The chairman said, "Yes, I died." Immediately, the man gets up, quickly moves to the head of the table and stands right in front of the chairman. He gets his face real close to his and says,

"You tell me that one more time - you died? You don't look like you died! You look alive and well! You're right here."

The chairman of the board explains to him that because his mom was faithful to God with what she had, there were a couple of miracles performed in their home. But, the greater miracle was that I had died and God, through Elijah, brought me back to life.

The chairman then went on to quickly show and remind the men of the provisions that God had made in the life of this famous prophet, Elijah. First, God provided food for him through animals - the ravens. Next, God provided him food through his mother. Then, God provided food through the miracle of the barrel of meal and cruse of oil that never went empty. Finally, God provided through his servant Elijah.

As we are quietly leaving the conference room, we hear the chairman of the board, who happens to be the widow's son, telling about all the other miraculous things that God did in Elijah's life. Closing the door behind us, we seek a quiet place away from the hustle and bustle of the other workers.

Reviewing the scrapbook, we think about that young man, the widow's son, grown up and became the chairman of the board of an important company that is struggling to stay alive. As we think about that scrapbook, we see the testimony that young man had with his fellow workers. Wouldn't it be neat if we

had a scrapbook like that?

Actually we do. Read the actual account in the Bible starting in 1st Kings 17. God's Word is a wonderful history book of diverse people with the whole range of skill sets. This history book is more so a HIS-STORY book of people who triumphed over adversity and those who succumbed to it.

Count yourself greatly blessed in having your own Bible and not imprisoned for reading and sharing it.

(End of story)

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