

## *An explosion beneath you,*

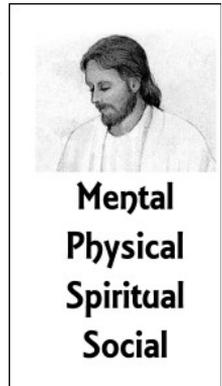
is what you get if the insides of your quadrunner engine isn't in good balance. And if your position in the quad saddle isn't balanced with your four-wheeled flying machine half way through a super jump, you'll land in a hospital bed.



By comparison, if your life, that is, the different parts of it aren't in balance – and kept that way, your future (your eternal one, also) may be too ugly and painful to describe.

Furthermore, any of these balance issues can easily have a serious effect on others around you also. Though you may not always be in the spotlight, there'll always be others learning by watching you – good or bad, happy and sad.

To keep these parts of us in balance, we need to learn what they are and where they fit – just like the corner pieces and edge pieces of a puzzle. And... just like puzzle pieces, the parts of us hold onto each other to finally display a beautiful complete picture of one of God's greatest creations – you.



Our process here is to take a brief look at the life of Jesus Christ as a youth, growing into His teenage years – with his balanced life we should try to copy from. To keep these sixteen topics organized in our minds, we'll speak of the Power Quad List (of Jesus' life) as being divided into the four **attributes** – Mental, Physical, Spiritual, and Social. Each of these attributes are further divided into four **quadlets**.

by  
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1. Ya Gotta See The Doctor
2. Here He Comes! Get Ready!
3. Growin' Glorifying God
4. The Teen Teaches Teachers
5. Deadly Consequences
6. The 50 Gallon Milk Shake

**Our Balanced God-Honoring Life:**

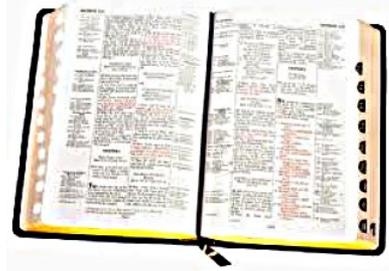
Wisdom - (Mental)		Stature - (Physical)	
Thoughts	Attitudes / Motives	Cleanliness / Appearance	Control of Sex
Meditation	Studies	Health	Discipline
Faith	Love	Associations / Witness	Activities
Obedience	Prayer	Abilities	Actions
Favor w/God - (Spiritual)		Favor w/Man - (Social)	

( My Notes )

## ***#1 - Ya Gotta See The Doctor***

Some think Jesus doesn't care about teenagers because very little is taught about them in the Bible. In fact, many will tell you the Bible says almost nothing about Jesus as a teenager. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In the minds of most folks, they think of Jesus in the manger and he somehow shortly began his public ministry. It had to be manger to maturity and miracles... no in between, they think. If this is what you see of Jesus, YA GOTTA SEE THE DOCTOR! You really do!

To learn all we can about Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, we must look at scripture; first and foremost. You do need to know those scriptures are much like a diamond mine. In seeking gems you must look closely and often dig a little. Our Bible is just like that diamond mine.



The Bible is divided in two parts; the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament begins with the birth and genealogies of Jesus Christ. The first four divisions in the NT are called the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These gospels each have their own personality, but all are solidly connected by the critical truth of salvation only in Jesus Christ. Matthew wrote about Jesus to the Jews, Mark wrote to the Romans, Luke to the Gentiles, and John to everyone. When God inspired the writers about Jesus, no ethnic group was left out, yet the unity of God's sovereignty and provision is preserved. It reminds us that teenagers all have different personalities and character, but every one must

obtain salvation only at the foot of the Cross.

Luke was the only gospel writer that was not Jewish. He was a Gentile doctor of medicine; a physician. As a physician, he was most interested in teaching us about the person and purpose of Jesus in his humanity. While many places in scripture teach us about Jesus' maturing years, we'll zero in on just one chapter that the doctor (Luke) has provided for us.

I can almost picture a teenage Jesus walking to the market to buy bread and cheese. As he walks in those quiet moments, I'll guess he can still recall the stories his mother told him many times about his strange birth, and those wonderful birthday gifts some wise men traveled so far to bring to him. What questions he had asked, many times of the rushed life-saving trip to Egypt, his family made. Because Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, I'd say it's likely he had some peers that may have bullied or befriended him.

My grandfather heart tells me that some truths and principles for teens are so special; so tender, they can't really be put on paper – in spoken/written words. God has saved those to be given directly into every teenager's heart searching for love, truth, purpose, and provision. But for now, let's do some diamond mining as we see the doctor; doctor Luke, that is.

Love	Truth	Purpose	Provision
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## ***#2 - Here He Comes! Get Ready!***

As the theater lights dim and just before the spotlight is pointed onto Jesus' teenage life, we'll take just a minute more to emphasize the importance of those growing years, that, for

you and I, have presented so many stormy challenges in learning who we are and why we're here. These elementary and teen years are so very important to us recognizing who we are, and God's provisions to us along the way, that we live through them again, in the lives of our own children.

If nothing else moves you to put great emphasis on those growing years, take note of two simple facts Jesus teaches all his adult disciples and those others around Him. (1) He states the heart of every one that is welcomed into eternal Glory must have a humble heart like a little child. (2) The other is that Heaven has, always on duty, a guardian angel keeping an eye on youth and how others treat them.

These few words are meant to lead you to prayer, much as you begin meals with knife and fork. Ask God to strengthen your knowledge, compassion, and efforts as you find those promised diamonds. Set your heart in anticipation for another view of the Creator that hung on a cruel Cross, in fulfillment of prophecy. That was the one event, slamming the coffin lid on Satan's evil march into the hearts of youth starving for meaning and victory in their future.

As you learn from scripture all the struggles Mary and her husband Joseph went through to deliver Jesus to his teen years, you must gain an appreciation, even now, that Jesus' young years entering his teens, must have contained powerful lessons that you and I need to learn and apply.

### ***#3 - Growin' Glorifyin' God***

The POWER LIST of Jesus' maturing begins in Luke 2:40 and then continues to the end of the chapter. The impatient

attitudes that you and I so often have to wrestle with, prompts us to skip to the last verse and somehow expect to see the rainbow of answers we seek; those answers so badly needed to minister to the youth in our neighborhood, or maybe even under our own roof.

***I WILL WARN YOU!*** This is not the right time to skip anything. God has inspired Luke, the physician and writer of the gospel book that bears his name, to write these words that have been protected by God, down through the ages. Don't skip, just search and savor and store and share.

Search	Savor	Store	Share
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Verse 40 begins with “And the child grew...” Now that doesn't sound like much. But do you see that it is at the beginning of the list (to the chapter end). “Law of First Mention,” suggests we should pay particular attention to “grew.” This little four-letter word has the powerful job of drawing our attention to the fact that Jesus went through a maturing cycle that most every young person does. He wasn't the divine son of God that was plopped right into the Jewish community.

Now I don't know if Jesus ever had a tooth ache, a skinned knee, or some bullies that taunted him. Actually I don't want to know. My response is to simply know that Jesus was exposed to all the evil that most every teen has... yet he did not sin. Notice why these 'skinned knee' details are omitted. God doesn't want us to be sidetracked with little details, and not relish the next attribute.

**Are you ready for this?**

The next attribute of Jesus is described with four words, not

just a four-letter word. “waxed strong in spirit.” When I see the word 'waxed' I think of strengthening, of preserving, of sealing something that is valuable to me. I really drink in the importance of dealing with the 'spirit', listed here. I am to preserve my strong spiritual character, as I mature and become more Christ-like.

“Filled with wisdom” is the next in our Power List. Notice it doesn't say 'knowledge' or 'data' or 'facts'. It specifically says 'wisdom'. That's the ability to properly and lovingly use that knowledge. Was Jesus satisfied with just the average amount of wisdom? You know, just enough to get by? Wow! Look at that word, “FILLED”. Discuss with those youth you minister to, to describe what that “FILLED” really means. How did Jesus get FILLED? How do we get FILLED? How are we different when we're FILLED?

The fourth factor in Jesus' maturing is maybe the best. “and the grace of God was upon him.” This is another one of those attributes that doesn't give any details. It's like the “grew” that we started with. God's grace doesn't have a part number, or a manufacturing blueprint. It's a gift we don't earn (and don't deserve either.) God's grace is tailored to just exactly what our all-knowing God is sure we need. His grace for us today may be different than it was for us last Thursday, or when we were trying to find the words to tell that teen about His bountiful love.

**Jesus' Power List (so far)**

... the child GREW
... WAXED strong in SPIRIT
... FILLED with WISDOM
... GRACE of God was upon him

The important thing to desire each and every day, is God's grace and that it be upon us, in a way that magnifies Him, strengthens church folks, and empowers us to reach out to discouraged hearts around us. God's grace helps us look past the unusual appearances and unexpected actions of others, we at first, don't feel comfortable around. Reach out with compassion, but first reach up with expectation, direction, and trust.

Next we'll take a good look at some of Jesus' schooling. You'll hardly believe what happened!

#### ***#4 - The Teen Teaches Teachers***

This incredible POWER LIST of maturing attributes of teenage Jesus is a place we could spend days and pages of descriptions of this Creator of all that is, and our one and only Savior. Previously, we mentioned the diversity(differences) in personality of the gospels of Jesus Christ. Remember? Matthew wrote to the Jews, Mark to the Romans, Luke to the Gentiles, and John wrote to everyone.

Matthew Jews	Mark Romans	Luke Gentiles	John Everyone
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The picture to see, is that God leaves no one out, as He presents His plan and provisions for you and I, no matter where we live or how we live. God has His compassionate eye on each of us, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As John finishes his book of the “Gospel of John”, he feels swamped. He feels he hasn't even scratched the surface, of all

that Jesus has done, around us, for us, and inside us. His closing words tell us,

*“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”* John 21:25

In Luke 2:42, we see some key facts, that each hold more diamonds than we can describe here. First is that scripture tells us that Jesus is now 12 years old. After his next birthday, the Jewish society would then consider him an adult, with all the responsibilities that come with it. The Bar Mitzpah ceremony proclaims this transition to the world. (Girls 'become adults' one year earlier.)

We see in just these few verses that Jesus stresses his parents out, in their 3 day search and rescue for him. When Mary and Joseph ask him why he's done this, his response had not a drop of apology in it. They didn't even understand his response. He told them, he was doing His father's business. His response began a transition from being just Mary's little boy, to a servant of the Most High God in heaven.

Taking responsibility for our actions and seeing God's claim on our life and mission, is a monumental transition. It may come in a blink of an eye or take days to take our life in our hands and hold it up to Heaven, and humbly say, “For whatever it's worth, Dear God, here I am; here's my life. Let it be a tool; a testimony to your unfathomable undying love and Lordship, upon me, and those around me.”

Those youth we minister to, have to come to this same place of recognizing their place and purpose in God's plan. Only

then can they view each sunny or stormy day in their lives as God's shaping their character and talents to magnify Him. This also gives us all a deeper understanding of God's character as we seek intimate fellowship with Him in Glory, for our eternity.

In Luke 2:46 and 47, I see a teenage Jesus in church (the temple). Wow! What a perfect place for every teenager to learn about life and God's love. Being in the right place at the right time is more than half of any battle, isn't it? This is a powerful truth that teens of every age need to understand and act upon.

My heart pushes to paint a picture of young Jesus right in the middle of all the lawyers and priests. In his quest to learn all he could about church and God, Jesus wasn't a back seat student in any fashion. I see him sitting and listening to all that was being taught, during those three days his parents were searching all of Jerusalem for their young son. Sitting and listening is not a real easy thing to deeply do. Most of us listen just close enough to form our replies. And our replies are often meant just to impress our listeners how smart we are (or think we are).

Jesus certainly heard the lawyers teach some things that were not true. This happens to us every day. We must be good at discerning truth from tale, fact from fiction. The youth we minister to, have incredibly poor ability in doing this. They become sidetracked; they become distracted the same way Eve was sidetracked by Satan in the Garden of Eden.

'Sitting and listening' also has a powerful influence on others, that we cherish. If we first listen to them, they'll more likely listen to us. It's a good partner to asking good questions that move us closer an understanding and actions that please God

and produce our FULL JOY promised in scripture.

In asking good questions, Jesus got strong attention from his 'teachers'. This resulted in Jesus TEACHING HIS TEACHERS. More than that, he amazed them with how much he knew and how rich his answers were, to their questions.

As you minister to those troubled young hearts around you, do you compassionately listen to them? Can your heart be humble enough to expect they can teach you some things. We silver-haired mentors have a great deal of misconceptions about teenagers today. Our mentoring will never get to first base unless we want our 'students' to become our teacher, for a time. Can you deeply thank God for allowing you to minister to that teenager? Do your prayers show this? Can you pray with that young heart in a way that draws you both into the very center of God's grace and mercy?

## ***#5 - Deadly Consequences***

It was a blow to my life, that I'll never forget as long as I live. It happened on the very first day of my new job as Director of a chapter of Youth For Christ, in a southern Ohio town. I was quietly seated in the rear of a juvenile court watching something happen, I still find hard to believe.

Standing before the judge was a mother and father, almost in tears. Between them stood their teenage son, with no idea what is about to happen to him.

**A Blow  
To My  
Life**

I clearly heard the parents both tell the judge to take this; their

son and do with him whatever the judge wanted to. Their sorrowful testimony told everyone present, their teen would not mind them in any way. Right in my hearing, these two parents were giving away their own son. It wasn't until years later that I learned just how truly fortunate this teenager, standing between his parents, was.

Of the Ten Commandments presented in stone to Moses on Mt. Sinai, one stands out from the rest in a very special way. The fifth commandment says to ***honor thy father and thy mother*** and adds a promise. That promise is,

*“that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”*

The truth of that promise is detailed in a commandment for us in Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Bible. Chapter 21, verses 18 through 21 command a stubborn and rebellious son to be stoned to death. That teenager in juvenile court that day has no idea what his future does or could have in store for him.

An easy to overlook phrase in describing the teenager Jesus, is back in Luke chapter 2, tucked in the middle of verse 51. It tells us, “...and was subject unto them;” Most every adult has tasted the daily struggle of balancing the beginning responsibilities of adulthood with the respect and honor due their parents. It's a skill that demands compassion and love, and remembering our roots. I fully believe this same struggle into adulthood was a part of Jesus' growing years. It figures into his being “tempted in all points, like as we... yet being without sin.”

Drawing life-long lessons in wisdom from our teenage years

is not minimized or made trivial by scripture or all of Heaven. God made those searching stretching years a very necessary part of our lives, as He did his own only-begotten son that someday would open the only door needed for us to obtain salvation and all the eternal glory and gifts that come with it.

In prayer, prepare long and hard to show teenagers that to submit to authority. Show them it doesn't make them a second class citizen, but beautifully prepares them to better lead others away from the viscous jaws of sin and its consequences.

**Jesus' Power List (so far)**

... the child GREW
... WAXED strong in SPIRIT
... FILLED with WISDOM
... GRACE of God was upon him

... taking responsibility for our actions
... seeing God's claim on our life and missions
... sitting and really listening
... and was subject unto them

***BALANCE COMES NEXT***

In a few moments, we'll add attributes to Jesus' Power List that gives BALANCE to all this growing, waxing, and filling – by God's grace, we've been learning about.

## **#6 -*The 50 Gallon Milk Shake***

Now don't jump to the wrong conclusion! Jesus didn't make or enjoy a 50 gallon milkshake mixed with a real outboard motor. But I always think of this event when chewing on our next items on the POWER LIST of attributes in the growing life of teenage Jesus. I'll describe the milkshake and sticky gymnasium another time. Right now we have far more powerful things to look at.

The Gentile medical doctor, Luke, tailored his gospel about our Lord Jesus, to the Gentiles, in a fashion you'd expect from a doctor like him. It was so much centered around his humanity; what made Jesus much like you and I, and our every day challenges of growing. Though Luke didn't make any of the chapter divisions, it is, though like the frosting on the cake, that the best of the teenager Jesus descriptions were saved until now. Let's take a good look at them. They form a quartet; a wonderful group of four that becomes a four-part 'quad' lesson for us to share with those troubled teens God has put in our field of ministry.

With much preparation in prayer, continue connecting the balance attributes with the beginning list of Jesus' maturing. It all fits together like a puzzle coming together that will strengthen others.

# Luke 2:52

Wisdom - (Mental)		Stature - (Physical)	
Thoughts	Attitudes / Motives	Cleanliness / Appearance	Control of Sex
Meditation	Studies	Health	Discipline
Faith	Love	Associations / Witness	Activities
Obedience	Prayer	Abilities	Actions
Favor w/God - (Spiritual)		Favor w/Man - (Social)	

(portions of the following are from Youth For Christ -  
Campus Life – “The Balanced Life”, used with permission)

# MENTAL Attribute

We're looking at the journey of Jesus growing in the same journey that teens are now traveling. Along this journey, the medical doctor Luke, is giving us a POWER QUAD LIST of attributes that Jesus makes a part of his humanity; his growing.



Thoughts	Attitudes / Motives
Meditation	Studies

Our first one is WISDOM or mental.

Wisdom is far different than knowledge and data. Our knowledge can tell us, “Oh yes, this is a quadrunner. It needs to be kept gassed up. I need to always remember to take care of it, almost like it belonged to someone else.” Now my quad manual gives me **data** and **knowledge**. But its pages are poor at teaching me any quadrunner **wisdom**. Wisdom is knowing the way and when to use that quad. Wisdom is the partnering of knowledge with love, compassion, preparation, and most importantly – a deep sense of what God's will is for me.

The WISDOM (mental) attribute in our Power Quad List can be divided into its own power quadlets as MY THOUGHTS, MY ATTITUDES/MOTIVES, MY MEDITATION, and MY STUDIES.

[1] **MY THOUGHTS Quadlet** is the basic 'start here' foundation the rest of this mental attribute progressively builds on. Our thoughts are the bricks with which we form our ideas. This is often the first place that Satan begins to creep into our mind and heart. Think of your thoughts area as a quad gas tank that only has so much room. If you always keep that tank full of good fresh gas, other impurities won't have room to creep in. So if we continually work at keeping

our 24 hour 'thought tank' full of thoughts and praise for God, Satan won't have a place to creep in. Anchor this to scripture with Philippians 4:8. *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

[2] **MY ATTITUDES/MOTIVES Quadlet.** Our attitudes are our value of something, "How much is it worth to me?" Our motives are our answer to why we do this or do that. Often we do things we know we are supposed to do, but we do it for the wrong reason; we don't have the right 'why'. Pretend you've just hired a quad mechanic for your race team, and he's got all the latest tune-up tools and how to use them. You tell your mechanic, tune your quad to fly; to win first place. However, the night before the race you learn he doesn't understand the concept of doing your best always. He never does more than what he thinks to get by. You clearly want your mechanic and your doctor too, to do their best, always. Know what? God has done His best for us on Calvary, and He wants you and I to do our best, always. Furthermore, others are always watching you and I.

Link this with God's Word, Proverbs 23:7 and Philippians 1:10. *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;*

On the left column list some areas I'm pretty good about my attitudes and motives. Right column on areas I need to work on:


[3] **MY MEDITATION Quadlet** is the process of digging deep with my thoughts. My meditation works hard at sorting out things and putting them in an order that pleases God. The book of Psalms opens with our reference that beautifully nails down what our meditation should be like. Psalm 1:2. *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.* A super power principle for us in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:40 is simply stated as: *Let all things be done decently and in order.* Imagine what problems there'd be if your quad engine was reassembled with a decent amount of grease but in the wrong order.

1. Study to be quiet (on the inside)
2. Do your own business (don't be nosey elsewhere)
3. Work with your own hands (get involved)

[4] **MY STUDIES Quadlet.** No one needs to explain to us that eating the right foods, at the right times and portions are critical to strong healthy bodies. The same thing is true with our minds; our thoughts, and the rest of the mental quad. Someone once said, “GIGO. It stands for garbage in, garbage out.” It's very simple and powerfully true. What we study, what we read, see and hear all must share the goal of our FULL JOY that is only possible through following and serving the Lord. Like enjoying a tasty food, I always enjoy meditating on the phrase in 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12 “Study to be quiet.” *And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that*

*are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.* Discuss the three requirements above, that begin with “and”. In your own words, list the results that begin with the word “that”. Do the results give you some hints as to what is meant by *that ye study to be quiet?*

Ask God to put into your heart the power of its truth.

## PHYSICAL Attribute

Our second attribute on the Power Quad List of teenager Jesus, that we also must adhere to, is the Physical portion of our daily living and maturing. Remember? There was Mental, Physical, Spiritual, and Social.

OK. Back to our Physical attribute.



Cleanliness / Appearance	Control of Sex
Health	Discipline

The physical portion of us, can better be understood and given attention to, by dividing it into its own quadlets of Our Cleanliness & Appearance, Control of Sex, Our Health, and Discipline.

God has made us in His image, with a body so complex, it defies adequate description in any language. Our heart alone, is a blood pump so durable, it pumps 100,000 times EACH DAY of our lives. It never stops, and never takes a vacation. Actually, our heart is a quad-chamber organ that acts like two pumps. Two chambers pump blood through the lungs, and the other two chambers pump our 5 quarts of blood throughout our body. It even has its own speed regulator. Our blood and quad pump feeds every cell in our body and even takes out the garbage.

So you say, “Well... OK. So what?”

The bottom line in all this attention to the design of our body,

is that God has LOANED to us the most complex body that breaths on planet Earth. He's giving you and I an opportunity to see how we care for that body that carries our name, His design and His ultimate ownership.

## **[1] OUR CLEANLINESS AND APPEARANCE Quadlet**

This quadlet on Jesus' Power Quad List made a huge impression to others that knew him and watched him grow up. His mission on this earth was to become our flesh and blood sacrifice on the Cross to pay for our sins – because there was no other way. But He firstly taught all who would listen, about Heaven, Hell, and our God-honoring actions and appearance here on Earth.

A well-known truth speaks loudly to everyone that wants to connect with others: “First impressions often speak the loudest and are the most enduring.” Those of us that are not always great at explaining our thoughts, can take comfort in the powerful impressions a comb, bar of soap, and toothbrush can make. A great verse to anchor this attribute to scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. As we begin looking at the four areas of our physical attribute of our life consider: *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

## **[2] OUR CONTROL OF SEX Quadlet**

Besides our cleanliness and appearance, we also teach others how much we value ourselves and those we are around, by our control of sex. This may be one of the most powerful motivators in our lives. But it is also an incredibly dangerous way to make bad choices and do irreparable damage to our

futures and those of others. Though oversimplified, the first steps down a wrong road to ruin, is to make trivial use of the word “love” and its rich meaning. God has given us the ability and passion in following His guidance in creating a family that will echo our actions, appearance, and attitudes – good or bad. This drive within us is more than a loaded gun. It is a part of us that ABSOLUTELY cannot be positive without a continual fellowship with God and His word. So often God puts mature Christians near to us that we may seek strength and victory with their mentoring. Check out 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:27. *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

**[3] OUR HEALTH Quadlet.** We've already seen how incredibly important our blood circulation is to our whole body. Every cell has to 'eat right' and 'get rest' otherwise ugly unfixable things can happen. If our blood flow stops feeding oxygen to the brain, in only 4 minutes the brain is 'dead'. Our daily agenda of eating nourishing meals at proper times and getting effective regular rest shows how much we care about our bodies and how we'll function in the future. Eating junk food continually, playing loud music, and staying up all night texting will destroy a rich future, and so often make for very unhappy families. Check out 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:8 and Philippians 4:5. *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

**[4] DISCIPLINE Quadlet.** Every athlete or person wishing to do their best with their God-given gift(s) must train. He/she must design and carry out a schedule of exercise related to that gift. But discipline goes even farther. It includes

recognizing our weak points and 'deciding to get them under control' and God-honoring. This is a big respect builder as others see you working on training yourself like you'd do with a powerful valuable horse. This portion of our character – discipline, binds the other three physical attributes. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:26-27 also works well here. *I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

## SPIRITUAL Attribute

The spiked tires of the Eskimo’s quadrunner bite the ice, pulling a heavy loaded sled behind it. The reward of the hunting trip will fill his family's dinner plate for some time. With a measure of faith in his ATV and his hunting skills, he acts on his love for his family and his responsibility to them.



Faith	Love
Obedience	Prayer

Favor w/God - (Spiritual)

But the quadlets of the SPIRITUAL attribute emphasize the ultimate responsibility of the Eskimo, and ours, is to God, Who created us in His likeness with spiritual sensitivities. The SPIRITUAL quadlets Faith, Love, Obedience, and Prayer are far greater than any description with paragraph and pen, but do require us to touch on them. To plant our roots of understanding deep into God's principles, He includes case histories of people like you and I, and how they followed or neglected those principles. Each of us have the responsibility to nurture our Bible based understanding of each of these quadlets.

[1] **FAITH Quadlet.** God doesn't want us to obey Him as

heartless robots. He's given us faith as the foundation of the SPIRIT attribute in Jesus' POWER QUAD LIST that must touch every part of our lives and who we are. Faith is the fuel that connects us to those things we haven't yet seen or experienced. This faith is sparked by our past steps of faith that have proved to be great blessings. Those past steps of faith have also reminded us that we first and foremost must put our faith in God and His written promises of scripture. A famous chapter in the book of Hebrews is called the HALL OF FAITH. Its precious list of Bible heroes made faith their fuel to advance in God's purposes and lead others in His way. Chapter 11 begins with, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.* Enjoy the following verses of this chapter 11. Act as though you could also add your name to this list of HEROS OF THE FAITH.

**[2] LOVE Quadlet.** This aspect of the SPIRITUAL attribute has been so diluted; so misused by the world, its deep value has been all but erased. Jesus grew with a deep love, first for God and His gifts to man. But as Jesus saw all the lies and deceitful teaching about the one true God; His heavenly Father, his compassion overflowed onto others that took up His mission in reaching out to others. Love finds its only true definition and appearance, in scripture and those who spread the teachings of God.

Love is shown in three general levels. **Brotherly Love** (phileo) is based on common interests, goals, and personalities that seem to get along well. **Self-Gratifying 'love'** (eros) is focused on one's self and what it can get, often in terms of pleasure. It cares nothing for others because it is too busy using others and taking advantage of them. It may

impersonate affection to get what it wants. It often may even fool the person displaying eros into thinking that the eros is actually true love. This type of "love" gives many people a very warped view of sex. **Supernatural Love** (agape) is the highest form of love and finds its greatest picture on the Cross of Calvary; the full and final blood sacrifice for the sins of a world that still didn't understand verses like: John 15:13, *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7, 9 *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

**[3] OBEDIENCE Quadlet.** Robots obey their programmed commands without feeling. Animals obey because they'll be rewarded with food. Soldiers obey otherwise they'll be put in the stockade or jeopardize the safety of their team. To me, our obedience to God, isn't so much the kind that makes us obey God's directions out of fear. He wants us to obey Him out of love and trust. We obey, when we ask ourselves, "What would my life be like if God just walked away from me and left me totally on my own?" We obey knowing that someone obeyed God in telling me about Salvation and my horrible eternal destiny without that Salvation.

The Lordship of Christ in the life of a Christian says there is an obedience required of us in loving service to Christ. The key word here is 'loving'. We can, and should lovingly obey (with joy) in service to our **Lord** Jesus Christ. So often in the scriptures, Jesus states He acted in obedience to His heavenly Father. This also becomes a good example to the leadership and following in a healthy God-fearing home.

Some great verses Jesus would share with you, if He stood before us, in the flesh: 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:3 *For this is the love of*

*God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

**[4] PRAYER Quadlet.** Prayer is not letting God know what we need or what is making us hurt, inside. He already knows all that, and even more, about us. Prayer is far more for our benefit. When we pray we show ourselves that we can't do things on our own, that we desperately need His leading, love, and provisions. We demonstrate that time spent personally privately praising Him is more important to us than any other activity in our day. Prayer is also a rich passionate time to invite others to join our devotion to Him and seeking His Will for us each day. Slowly read Jesus' prayer to His Heavenly Father, in John 17. Other great verses to use, are: 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:14-15. *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

## **SOCIAL Attribute**

In the deep shadows of the on-line social networks is a silent hungry lion, always on the prowl for anyone not on their guard, while on-line, at a desktop keyboard or a mobile device.

At first glance, those click-spots appear quite innocent-looking. But they're an accumulative thing, their presence starts building a road to a dead end.



Everywhere you look, the social networks tell you the opinions and additional choices of others, regarding what now

appears on your screen. Along with that, you're bombarded with snap-surveys of your own opinions that are recorded on lots of hidden computers and then posted for others to read, rather than forming their own opinion. This certainly peaks our thoughts that others pay attention to what we think and do. We call that our testimony, which the Bible also calls our 'conversation'; our manner of living.

The problem is that all of the Bible reminds us we are to seek HIS DESIRES and principles. We should often, each day, ask Him to survey our attitudes and actions, that our lives will be examples of loving obedience to His "FOLLOW ME". Our POWER QUAD LIST comes from Luke 2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

This last POWER QUAD LIST attribute that Jesus followed is called SOCIAL. It's the "and man." of Luke 2:52. As we did with the other three attributes, we'll divide SOCIAL into the quadlets My Associations and Witness, My Activities, My Abilities, and My Actions.

### **[1] MY ASSOCIATIONS AND WITNESS Quadlet.**

Almost without exception, who we group with, becomes a statement to others, about our principles and character. Who we associate with, is more-so our first impression in the eyes of others. But far more critical is that we humans adapt; we absorb, we change to fit in; often just to be accepted, to feel secure, like 'safety in numbers'.

But what happens, over time is that we either become more like those we socialize with, or we make an influence on those around us. Not many youth have the strength of

character to influence others rather than being influenced. As a teenager, Jesus was a wonderful role model for us to be that God-honoring influence in the lives of others. Luke chapter 2 even gives a great example of this, in the temple. Check out 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4, *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* and 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15, *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:.*

**[2] MY ACTIVITIES Quadlet.** Teenagers today saturate themselves with activities whether on-line or not. It seems they are trying to muffle the reoccurring questions, “Where is this all leading?”, “Is there no real joy and peace for me?”, “How can I know if anyone really loves me, just as I am?” One of the ugly outcomes of living your days and nights like this, is you will never be able to achieve anything to be proud of. No one will be deeply sincerely grateful for your 'help'. Your activities should be planned and played out with prayer by asking God what He wants you to do today. Then trust Him to lead and give you the strength and courage to follow through. Philippians 3:14, 17: *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*

**[3] MY ABILITIES Quadlet.** Someone once said, “God don't make no junk!” With God's gifts of love and leading, He also gives us tools; abilities and talents to serve Him and share His love and compassion with others. The Bible gives examples of most every kind of talent, and how these talents were used. A beginning list would easily fill this page, and more. The big question is HOW can I use my abilities that

will magnify Him and help the church. Sometimes even asking our pastor or leader to pray with us about using our skills, is a powerful way to build teamwork in our teenage lives and that of the church. Ephesians 4:11, 12 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:* Check out Luke 16:1-10.

**[4] MY ACTIONS Quadlet.** “Your actions speak far louder than your words!” This is a statement we've all heard, and place a lot of value in. Another is, “Talk's cheap!” Our actions often give real evidence to our inner desires and character. Luke chapter 2 gives us powerful evidence by the actions of Jesus in the temple, responding to Mary and Joseph's sorrowful questions, and also in his obedience to follow and be subject to them, during the return trip to Mary's home in Nazareth. Because our actions are observed by others, with their own eyes, they are remembered far longer.

Our on-line digital activities and whereabouts are PERMANENTLY and TOTALLY recorded, and shared to the 'ends of the Earth'. These can be used for God's purposes or Satan's ammunition against Christians, “Christian” means Christ-like. My actions in word AND deed must agree with each other, and with scripture. Read 1Samuel 2:3 scripture slowly. *Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.*

## ***Let The Secret Out!***

Throughout the lessons, have the youth begin building posters, PowerPoint presentations, or make-believe web pages that echo the lessons. Post them on walls and everywhere youth congregate.

Whereas boys are more competitive, girls are more communicative. Teach them how to do their texting using Bible Tweets. There's tons of them. Most of them are collected in the God-inspired book of Proverbs.

### ***Fear, Pain, and Puncture***

Note 1        Everyone who mentors (coaches) youth should keep in mind that continual inside (mental emotional) will eventually erupt like a volcano as anger. Some youth that erupt don't actually know why. They are your mission field.

Note 2        Some youth 'self-mutilate' themselves, thinking the cuttings and puncturing 'can be self-controlled' and by contrast the emotional anguishing inner pain cannot. God's word has love and hope for both.

===== end of resource =====

( My Notes )