

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

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# UP Tuning Teens®

Presents



**Fine Tuning the  
Powerhouse  
In My Shoes**

**Leader's Guide**

by  
James Curtis

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#### Disclaimer

This resource is provided 'as is' and meant to show some alternative low-budget methods to be a part of the Bible's Great Commission to all Christians.

Its author, websites, and publishers shall be held blameless for any harm – physical or intellectual, real or imaginary by the reading or construction mentioned on these pages.

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*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 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. 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.

## 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.

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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# Table of Contents

( == Book 1 #221 == )

**Chap 1 – God’s Fast Forward  
Timing**

**Chap 2 – A Monster What!?  
Treachery**

**Chap 3 – Hidden Treasure  
Training**

**Chap 4 – Black Holes That Hurt  
Tracking**

( == Book 2 #222 == )

**Chap 5 – Selecting My Heart Partner(s)  
Teaming**

**Chap 6 – The Internet’s Pinnacle Purpose  
Testing**

**Chap 7 – Better Than Gold  
Trophies**

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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

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

## #1 - Fast Forward

**R**OARING 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.

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?

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## 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.

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.

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.

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.
- 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.’



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.

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#### #4 - Black Holes That Hurt

**T**HE 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.

#### 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.’

- 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.

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.

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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 3:1-7.*

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

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 =

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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

We can learn God’s rules for SELECTING and SORTING textually, from 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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.

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## **#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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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

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

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!**

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).

[~]

## **#3 - Hidden Treasure**

**T**HE 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



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 MINISTRIES*<sup>1</sup>. 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 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

<sup>1</sup> ISBN: 1589391861, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.

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