

14-DAY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Practicing The *Living Will* Principle

This 14-day spiritual journey is an adventure in trust and faith in which you choose to act upon God's promises as you respond to His commands to bless others with the various assets He has given you. This is not necessarily a comfortable or easy journey to take. If you have to tight hold on that which you have, material or otherwise, or if you have trouble acknowledging how much God has given to you for His purposes, you will find this journey difficult, if not impossible, to continue. On the other hand, if you persevere by faith, I believe you will see God work in ways you may never have dreamed possible.

Remember Jesus' words that your life does not consist in "the abundance of your possessions", and that he who would "find his life, must lose it". Proverbs describes the generous man, not only as one who prospers, but who is himself refreshed as he refreshes others. The life lived well is a generous and fulfilling life. My prayer is that you will discover the joy of this truth through this spiritual journey. May you not only discover the joy and freedom of living well according to God's purposes, but may the generations who come behind you, your children and grandchildren, be blessed and desire to experience the same refreshing.

Below you will find some daily guides from God's Word to keep you focused on the good way where God promises rest for your soul and refreshing for others—especially your family. These Scriptures are not only for meditation, but serve as a call to action by a transformed life that lives well by faith. Let the Spirit of God teach you and work in you for the Father's purposes. In this spirit, then, may "God strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith" (Eph. 3:16-17), and may He use you and all that

He has given you to bless those He desires to bless through you.

Let the adventure begin!

14-DAY SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE PLAN

DAY 1:

Scripture: Matthew 19:16-22

Action Point: If you are a person of means and great wealth, this passage is especially difficult. Generosity is always a matter of the heart. Ask God to search your heart and expose anything that may be hindering you from opening your hand to God's purposes for what He has given you.

DAY 2:

Scripture: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Action Point: Once more ask the Lord to reveal any points of pride or unwillingness to surrender all He given for His purposes. Take time today to focus on God's goodness and all that He has done for you so that we will not boast in anything but Him and His grace.

DAY 3:

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-15

Action Point: Sit down and make an inventory of all the material assets God has given to you. It may be a lot; it may be a little. The point is to acknowledge what God has provided. When you finish your inventory, thank God for what He has provided and acknowledge His ownership.

DAY 4:

Scripture: Acts 3:6

Action Point: Material assets are not all the assets God has given us to spend and dispose of for the blessing of others. Take time today and tomorrow to make an inventory of non-material assets God has blessed you with.

DAY 5:

Scripture: Matthew 25: 16-30

Action Point: Look over the inventory of assets God has blessed you with. Now ask Him to give you wisdom to understand how He would have you spend, invest or dispose of these assets to bless others. Ask how these assets could be used to bless others. If you hoarded or “hid” these assets for yourself, confess that now, with a repentant heart ask for forgiveness, and then offer them with open hand and heart for His purposes.

DAY 6:

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10

Action Point: God has already prepared you and those who will receive the blessings from your hand. Prayerfully make a list of people (family and others) you know God would want use you to bless with these assets He has given you. Pray over each name on the list and ask God to show you how He wants you to invest in each person.

DAY 7:

Scripture: Colossians 3:17

Action Point: Now that you have identified a list of people the Lord wants you to bless as you spend, invest or otherwise dispose of the assets He has given you, ask Him for clear understanding about how best to do that? There may a situation in which you don't know the answer to who, when or where, only what. Simply wait upon the Lord and ask Him to lead you to the individual or individuals He wants to bless through you and give glory to Him.

DAY 8:

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 8:12; Mark 12:41-44

Action Point: Continue to ask God for wisdom, courage and alertness to His leading. Guard against doubt or the notion that you have nothing to give. Even if you have little materially, the Lord has given you exactly what is needed to bless others, including your family. The poor widow reminds us that it is not the size of the gift or what kind of gift is offered but the willing, worshiping heart of the giver that will bless the recipient and glorify God.

DAY 9:

Scripture: I Timothy 6:18-19

Action Point: Continuing praying for the people whom God will be sending to you and identifying to you for blessing and meeting a need. Guard your heart so that you are always cheerfully and happily serving those He sends to you, regardless of how they might respond.

DAY 10:

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11

Action Point: What has God revealed to you thus far about your own heart and the needs of those around you? Are there lessons and blessings you have received you want to thank God for and share with others?

DAY 11:

Scripture: Luke 12:15-21

Action Point: You may have begun to discover some of the rare treasures God has entrusted to you to use for His glory. In contrast to the rich farmer in this parable, what have you learned about what it means to live a life that is rich towards God? How can you truly worship Him and live life with a capital “L”—a life that demonstrates what it means to be rich towards God?

DAY 12:

Scriptures: Matthew 6:19-21; Romans 12:1-8

Action Point: Each day from here on out ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to bless another through the assets He has provided. Thank Him for the special blessings He will reveal to you and through you each day.

DAY 13:

Scripture: Philippians 4:-11-12

Action Point: What have I learned about contentment in these last few weeks? How will my life be different as a result?

DAY 14:

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:10

Action Point: In light of God's warning about being judged according to the way your life was lived, how does this impact the way you see your life? What have you learned throughout this 14-Day Adventure with God that may change how you use your assets? How could you share what you have learned with others?

LIVING WILL WORKSHEETS

As you sit down with pen and paper using the guide sheets provided below, you will likely discover assets that you never knew you had. I encourage you to simply start writing and see what begins to flow out. The act of writing will stimulate your brain and recall things you might never have considered before. In fact, if your spouse is available, you may find it valuable to work on together. You will see things in each other you may not readily recognize in yourself.

Two things you need to keep in mind as you work on this asset list. First, this list is not a way to boost your ego by calling attention to the wonderful person you are and focusing the spotlight on yourself. We all like to receive strokes from others. That's natural, but letting them fill us with pride is sin. It is good to receive affirmation of the gifts and "assets" God has given to us, but we also need to guard our hearts in the process and remember that the only boasting we should be doing is in knowing our Lord as the Giver of all good gifts.

Second, don't think of this as a *bucket list*. In other words, this is not an attempt to put together a list of things *you* always wanted to do before you kick the bucket. This is simply an inventory of what God has given you to invest or spend for someone else according to His purposes for your life and theirs. What you will discover as you do that is how fun and exciting this adventure is and how much it fulfills your deepest desires more than any self-focused bucket list could do. Remember that humility is more than *not* thinking too highly of yourself. It is also not under-estimating who you are and what God has given you. These assets did not originate with you anyway—they were given to you by God. So, celebrate what you have been given!

As you prepare your asset inventory, be thinking about the "beneficiaries" of these assets as well. Who does God want you to bless with this asset? What difference could this mean for that person's life (or persons)? Pray before you make your list asking God to reveal the obvious

and not so obvious assets that He wants you to dispose of. Pray after you make your list and ask Him to confirm how God wants you to best put these to use and for whom. You will likely find that you are already putting several of these to work for the Kingdom. You will also discover some that aren't being used. In either case, ask God to confirm how He wants them used.

Remember, that these assets are related to the unique calling we each have upon our lives as God's called out ones. That glory that is uniquely yours because you are made in God's image will be expressed through your use of these assets or *advantages*. Enjoy the adventure, but be prepared for opposition along the way. That's why it is so important that you work through the 14-Day Spiritual Adventure process first.

ASSET INVENTORY

1. MY TIME

What part of my day, week, month and year do I have available to invest in others lives not already committed to other demands such as work, sleep, personal time, etc.? Are there opportunities within the structure of “spoken for time” that could be used in ways I might not have considered? Am I making the most of the time given to me? (See Ephesians 4:15-16)

DAILY: _____

WEEKLY: *Example: I can dedicate 2 hours of uninterrupted time to my grandson each week when he comes to our house to stay with us.*

MONTHLY: _____

YEARLY: _____

2. MY GIFTS, TALENTS, SKILLS AND INTERESTS

What spiritual gifts, abilities, special talents and personal interests or hobbies do I have? Don't try to compare the abilities of gifts you have with others or evaluate their importance. That's God's business. Just list what you like to do, what you are reasonably good at doing, and what you find satisfaction doing.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: (circle those that you think apply to you)

Teaching

Preaching(Prophecy)

Serving

Encouraging

Giving

Leadership

Mercy

Hospitality

Discernment

Miraculous Powers

Evangelism

Other: _____

4. MY PHYSICAL ASSETS

List your physical traits that impact who you are. Don't be afraid of traits you might consider negative or unattractive. They could very well prove to be extraordinarily valuable in God's plan and purpose for your life. Here are some examples:

- Physical condition (able bodied, handicapped, mobile, confined, etc.)
- Physical strengths: eyesight, hearing, agility, sports skills, exercise, etc.)
- Physical limitations: things I cannot or should not do, and things I can now do as a result of my limitations.

CURRENT PHYSICAL CONDITION:

MY PHYSICAL STRENGTHS/ATTRIBUTES:

MY PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS:

5. MY MATERIAL ASSETS

List your material and financial resources such as:

Your home and other real estate

Liquid assets and investments

Personal property such as recreational vehicles, tools, equipment, books, antiques, etc.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

REAL ESTATE PROPERTY:

MINISTRY/BENEVOLENCE ACTIVITIES (Past and Present):

LESSONS FROM PEOPLE WHO'VE DISCIPLINED/MENTORED ME:

SCRIPTURES ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO ME:

7. MY FAMILY

Your family background, whether positive or negative, contributes much to who you are and what you have become. Identify those assets from your family relationships that can be positive contributions to those around you. For example...

- Positive and negative values that impacted your life
- Lessons learned from family relationships
- Traditions that have been meaningful
- Relationships that encourage and support
- Special memories

MEANINGFUL FAMILY TRADITIONS:

FAMILY VALUES I LEARNED:

LESSONS LEARNED FROM FAMILY EXPERIENCES/RELATIONSHIPS:

SPECIAL MEMORIES:

8. MY KNOWLEDGE BANK

God has given you a mind and the ability to know and understand the world around you and the One who made it. What have you learned that could benefit others? Let me prime the pump...

- Education and special training
- Specialty areas like math, gardening, science, medicine, politics, theology, history, etc.
- Bible memorization

EDUCATION/TRAINING:

OTHER SIGNIFICANT KNOWLEDGE I HAVE GAINED:

WHO AM I? HOW AM I WIRED?

In addition to the various assets you have listed above, it might be helpful to evaluate your personality and character traits. How do these contribute to or hinder your ability to put all your assets to effective use according to God's purposes? How can you build upon your strengths and minimize any negative effects of those areas that aren't as strong? There are not right or wrong answers. This is simply an opportunity for you to evaluate all the things that make you who you are. They may provide clues to help you understand how you can most effectively put your assets to work as they should.

MY PERSONALITY TRAITS

Personality traits have to do with those qualities related to how you deal with and perceive life. What words would describe my personality and how I look at the world (gregarious and outgoing, sanguine and optimistic, quiet and reserved, etc.)? Are you an extrovert or introvert? Do you tend to be an optimist or pessimist? Tools like the Meyers-Briggs Temperamental Analysis or DISC can be helpful if you need some outside objective evaluation. From the list below circle those you think apply to you.

	Sanguine/Optimistic	Melancholy/Pessimistic
	Extroverted/Gregarious	Introverted/Deliberate
	Controlled/Even Keeled	Easily disturbed/upset
	Open/Curious	Introspective
	Agreeable/friendly	Compassionate/sympathetic
	Conscientious	Deliberate
	Detailed/Structured	Unstructured/Laid Back
	Imaginative/Creative	Analytical/Non-Abstract
Thinker	Cooperative	Cautious
	Decisive	Stubborn
	Confident	Responsive
	Tolerant	Respectful
	Persevering	Sense of humor
	Teachable	Opinionated
	Thoughtful	Logical
	Other: _____	

4. MY CHARACTER TRAITS

How would others describe your character; ho you are as a person in your relationships? Who are you when you are under stress or by yourself? Are you a person of integrity, honesty, truthfulness, etc.? Below is a list of several character traits from Scripture used

to describe those who are followers of Christ. Since none of us are perfect, which of these especially stand out as a description others would apply to you?

Humble	Genuine
Faithful/Reliable	Godly
Integrity/Honor	Honest
Truthful	Above Reproach
Loving	Self-controlled
Fearless	Ambitious
Adventurous	Unselfish
Submissive	Responsible
Other: _____	

Instructions For Disposition Worksheet

Use the Worksheet below to identify those assets you want to *dispose* now, the beneficiaries and the disposition plan. There is no magic formula for developing your disposition plan. You will find a section for each of the asset categories you identified from your Asset Inventory. Identify which assets you will focus on from each category, who your beneficiaries will be and then write down a disposition plan explaining how you believe God would want you to use those assets. It is not necessary to select an asset from every category, and it is okay to combine assets from multiple categories.

This process will require some time and commitment. There are no shortcuts. There are, however, great rewards ahead and serious consequences for not taking action. Investing God's assets in you so another generation will know the Lord and the wondrous things He has done, and will be equipped to serve Him wholeheartedly could make the difference between losing an entire generation to the Enemy or leading that generation to Christ.

You will also find some examples on page 17 as a guide to give you some ideas and stimulate your own thinking if you are having trouble with any section.

Remember Jesus' parable of the talents. Now is not the time to bury your assets or keep them for yourself. There is too much at stake. May God give you wisdom as you write your Living Will as a way to make Christ look great as your all-satisfying treasure to the next generations.

WORKSHEET

TIME ASSETS:

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

SPIRITUAL GIFTS, TALENTS, SPECIAL INTEREST ASSETS:

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

PERSONALITY TRAITS

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

CHARACTER TRAITS

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

PHYSICAL TRAITS

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

MATERIAL RESOURCES

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

SPIRITUAL/FAITH RESOURCES

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

KNOWLEDGE

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

OTHER ASSETS

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

Asset: _____

Beneficiaries: _____

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: _____

EXAMPLES

1. TIME ASSETS

Asset: 2 hours per week

Beneficiary: Grandson Jason

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: A tool bag

Every Wednesday morning over the next year, I will commit 2 hours of uninterrupted time to Jason to teach him how to use the woodworking tools in my shop and to build some projects together.

2. GIFTS/TALENTS, etc.

Asset: Watercolor painting talent

Beneficiary: Susie

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Figurine

Give a starter watercolor set that I have from my youth with new watercolor paints, and two weekend retreats in the mountains to paint together and explore Susie's talent.

3. PERSONALITY TRAITS

Asset: Sense of humor

Beneficiary: Thomas

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Fishing hat

I give Thomas my Bill Cosby albums and my journal of funny stories and events in our life together to remind him that even in the toughest times we can find a reason to laugh and see the humor in life. I also give him my fishing hat as a reminder of that very funny incident together on the Gunnison River.

4. CHARACTER TRAITS

Asset: Adventurous

Beneficiary: Jenny and Sam

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Pin

Take Sam and Jenny on a three-day camping, fishing and river rafting adventure in Colorado sharing and experiencing the wonder of God's creation.

5. LIFE EXPERIENCES

Asset: Mistakes of a young pastor

Beneficiary: Joel

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Towel (serving)

The mistakes I made as a young, naïve youth pastor were addressed by several godly men who helped me learn humility and to value others as God's creation. I give Joel the wisdom I gained in that experience to help him succeed in his ministry. I promise to call Joel once a month just to pray with and encourage him.

6. PHYSICAL TRAITS

Asset: Blindness

Beneficiary: Sharon, Jake and Zach

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Heart lights

I give the gift of my physical blindness now to you to bless you and encourage you to learn to see with your heart and ears as well as your eyes. I give this gift to you in the form of serving with me as camp helpers at this summer's camp for the deaf and blind.

7. MATERIAL RESOURCES

Asset: Personal Library

Beneficiary: Jason and Mike

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Homemade bookmark

To my son and grandson who love to read, I give a portion of my personal library (make a list for each) now for you to enjoy, explore and grow in knowledge.

8. SPIRITUAL/FAITH RESOURCES

Asset: Faith

Beneficiary: Mary, John & Jenny

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Armor of God coins

To each of my grandchildren I give this Legacy Journal I have prepared to share with you my own spiritual journey and my commitment to pray for each of you.

9. FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Asset: Family ties

Beneficiary: Adult children

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: T-shirts

The gift of family represented by our family reunions in _____ where we worshipped and share our lives together I give to my adult children to as a reminder of the power of such times and to not let them cease, whatever form they may take, for the benefit of the next generations in our family. I give this gift to you through this album of memories and special connections we shared together.

10. KNOWLEGDE

Asset: Geology

Beneficiary: Jeremy

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Fossil

I want to give my grandson, Jeremy, my knowledge of geology and how to apply that science in the framework of creation. Jeremy has a love for science and I want him to know how to apply it with integrity and wisdom. My gift will be represented by a weekend geological exploration trip together and several books from my collection.

11. OTHER

Asset: Quilting

Beneficiary: Susie

Disposition Plan:

Symbol: Quilt block

Susie has expressed some interest in my quilting skills. I give her my skill with a quilting hoop, monthly lessons in quilting, and a trip together to a quilting convention.