



For More Information and Materials Contact:

**Bernard Haynes
Lead to Impact, LLC
bhaynes@leadtoimpact.com
www.leadtoimpact.com**

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I. Man Up! Rise to the Challenge

1. The Challenge - (Read I Samuel 17)

“ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, “Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.” I Samuel 17:8

- A. The men of Israel were the obstacle that was standing in the way of their victory.
- B. Every morning and evening for forty days Goliath presented his challenged.
- C. The enemy wants you to think there is nothing more permanent than your temporary situation.
- D. You must have the same unwavering faith as David, that no matter how big the giant or the magnitude of the obstacle you can overcome through the power of God at work in you.

List a challenge that you are dealing with in your life right now that seems insurmountable. How can you gain victory over this challenge?

“If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you never will change the outcome. “ Michael Jordan



2. Man Up!

“And it came to pass when the Philistine arose and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.” I Samuel 17:48

A. **Man Up!** – Be strong, rise to the challenge in courage, to accept your responsibilities as a man despite situations or circumstances that may make you want to quit and throw in the towel.

B. Your giants want you to focus on your past, squander your present and forfeit your future.

C. 8 Keys to Help You Man Up! and Rise to Your Challenge?

1. Perceive your situations differently. (I Samuel 17:26)
2. Participate in your purpose. (I Samuel 17:32)
3. Proceed with authentic confidence. (I Samuel 17:37)
4. Perform in battle with your tools. (I Samuel 17:39-40)
5. Possess a progressive mental attitude. (I Samuel 17:45-47)
6. Put your faith into action. (I Samuel 17:48)
7. Prevail over your challenges. (I Samuel 17:50)
8. Position others for success. (I Samuel 17:52-53)

D. Never count yourself out, as long as you are alive and Christ is the center of your life you can triumph over any situation or circumstance.

In your own words, what does it mean for you to Man Up?

“There is no passion to be found playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living. Nelson Mandela



II. Man of Vision

“And the Lord answered me, and said write the vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it.” Habakkuk 2:2

1. What is Vision?

Vision is a clear mental picture of a preferable future that God has communicated to an individual. The individual becomes so committed to the vision that he or she will pursue after it despite any obstacles or challenges.

Vision is an idea that is so powerful it can live beyond the grave.

Vision is seeing farther than your physical eyes can see.

2. Realize Your Vision

“Where there is no vision the people perish...” Proverbs 29:18

- A. God’s desire is that men have a vision that comes from Him and belongs to them personally and not a vision dictated by contemporary society, traditional religion or someone else’s image
- B. Visions are birthed in the heart and mind of a man that is frustrated and tired of the way things are in contrast to the way he believe things could and should be.
- C. No matter who you are, what country or continent you live on or what side of the tracks you are from, God created you with a unique vision that no one in this world can live, but you.
- D. God has provided every man with the tools he need to succeed in living his vision. He has equipped you with the presence of His Holy Spirit, His Word, prayer, spiritual/natural gifts and a desire to succeed.
- E. When a man realizes his vision from God, it will raise a hunger and passion in him to become the man God designed him to be.

Why is it important for a man to have a clear vision from God for his life and family?

“Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”

Langston Hughes



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3. Seven keys to unlocking the power of your vision – (Read Habakkuk 1-3)

“I will Stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower and will watch to see what he will say unto me and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. And the Lord answered me, and said write the vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Behold, as for the proud one his soul is not right within him, but the righteous will live by his faith.”

Habakkuk 2:1-4

- Vision is revealed to the man in position to listen.
- Vision must be written down.
- Vision must be made plain.
- Vision must be posted.
- Vision overcomes obstacles.
- Vision will manifest itself in God’s time.
- Vision must be lived by faith.

Why is it important for you to be in position to hear God’s direction?

What things, attitudes and/or people do you need to eliminate from your life in order to really focus on living your vision? How can eliminating them help you focus on your vision?

“Vision without execution is delusion.” Thomas Edison



III. Man without Excuses

“When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition. He said to him, “Do you wish to get well?” John 5:6

A. Excuses Men make for not living their vision:

- I don’t believe God can use me.
- I don’t have enough time.
- I don’t have enough money.
- I didn’t have my father in my life.
- I don’t have the right education or experience.
- I am too old or too young.
- I didn’t come from the right background.

B. Excuses are not accepted, get the job done – (Read John 5: 1-15)

- A. Excuses silence men leadership voice.
- B. Excuses sidetrack men from realizing their vision.
- C. Excuses suppress men from living their values.
- D. Excuses sabotage men from living with vigor.
- E. If God is calling you to move in your vision, don’t make excuses tell Him yes and move forward.

What excuses have you made that have held you hostage from walking in your true destiny?

“No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it.” George Washington Carver



IV. Man of Purpose

*“The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.”
Proverbs 20:5*

1. In Pursuit of Purpose

- A. Purpose is your unique life assignment designed by God. It provides the direction for your daily decisions, activities and determines your priorities.
- B. Purpose is realizing why you exist, understanding where you are and knowing who you are.
- B. Your response to God’s purpose for your life is the single most transforming event and all else flows from it.
- D. Knowledge of what it means to be a real man can only come from God the creator.

A. Why do you exist? – (Read Genesis 1-2)

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” Genesis 1:26

You were created to:

- Have Relationships
- Have Fellowship
- Reflect God’s character
- Have authority and dominion on earth.
- Realize YOUR Purpose. Live YOUR Vision

How can you reflect God’s character on a daily basis?



B. Where are You? – (Read Genesis 3)

“And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou?” Genesis 3:8-12

Adam’s Problem: Our Problem

- We act on our own.
- We attempt to hide from God.
- We allow fear and guilt to control us.
- We avoid responsibility.
- We accept failure.

Where are you currently in your life?

C. Who are You? – (Read Jeremiah 1)

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

- A. Many Men do not have a clear definition of who they are and they live life in a maze of confusion never living to their full potential.
- B. You are an original! You are not a carbon copy of anyone. God created you with a specific purpose that only you can live. If you do not live your purpose you and the world will miss out.
- C. You are not defined.
 - By who others say you are.
 - By your job, title, position or possessions.
 - By your past failures or mistakes.
- C. God will not empower you to be who you are not, but he will only empower you to be who he has purposed you to be.

*“You are not a carbon copy of anyone, but you are an original designed by God for His purpose.”
Bernard Haynes*



V. Man in Position for Purpose

“And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are these all the children?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep...” I Samuel 16:11

Seven Positions of Purpose (Read I Samuel 13, 16-17)

An analogy of key positions on a basketball team.

Coach – Communicate
Point Guard – Concentrated
Shooting Guard – Consistent
Small Forward – Confidence
Power Forward – Courage
Center – Character
6th Man - Commitment

1. Character

“But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people...” I Samuel 13:14

Your Character is who you are when no one is looking and what you are willing to stand for when everyone is looking.

- A. Character is displayed in the actions of a man under pressure.
- B. Your character determines who you are and what you do.
- C. Godly character in a man communicates credibility, respect and earns trust.

“Be more concerned about your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.” Dale Carnegie



2. Commitment

*“Then one of the young men said, “Behold I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the Lord is with him.” So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, Send me your son David who is with the flock.”
I Samuel 16: 18-19*

Commitment is a binding agreement between the heart, mind and emotions that moves an individual on a course of action towards his or her purpose.

- A. Commitment starts in the heart.
- B. Commitment is tested by action.
- C. Commitment opens the door for success.

“There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstance permit. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.” Unknown

3. Concentrated

“David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” I Samuel 17:32

Concentrate is to direct one's thoughts, attention and actions towards a desired purpose.

- A. A concentrated purpose frees you to embrace your vision and empowers you with the potential to produce powerful and lasting results.
- B. Do not neglect your focus by trying to do or be everything. There can be a danger in trying to focus on too many pursuits.
 - You can become exhausted and burned out.
 - You experiment with different goals and never achieve real satisfaction.
 - Too many pursuits can lead to procrastination.
 - Distracts you from your ultimate goals.

“Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Thomas Edison



4. Consistency

“David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. So David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.” And David took them off. He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook and put them in the shepherd’s bag which he had even in his pouch and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.”

I Samuel 17: 39-40

Consistency is a reliable, dependable and coherent approach to daily living that aligns oneself with God’s purpose. This daily approach is not a system of habits, but a progressive attitude in doing God’s will even when adjustments and changes have to be made.

- A. Consistently living your purpose will enable you to overcome the distractions and temptations that will try to take your life off course.
- B. Consistent living is not a one-time event, but a daily journey.
- C. The greatest challenges to living a life that is consistent to your purpose are the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” Sir Winston Churchill

5. Confidence

“The David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts the God of the armies of Israel whom you have taunted.” I Samuel 17:45

Confidence is the assurance and reliance in the abilities and gifts that God has entrusted an individual with to accomplish His purpose.

- A. Your confidence is often the only difference between success and failure.
- B. The right attitude focuses on what God can do through you.
- C. In life you will face discouraging situations and circumstances, but God’s Word provides the help you need to maintain or regain a confident attitude.

“Conceit is bragging about yourself. Confidence means you believe you can get the job done”.
Johnny Unitas



6. Courage

“This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, And that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and He will give you into our hands.” I Samuel 17: 46-47

Courage is standing when everyone else wants to run, speaking when everyone is afraid to speak, acting when everyone is paralyzed by fear, taking action in the face of danger, holding one’s character and moral uprightness when everyone else is tempted to compromise theirs.

- A. If you do not stand in courage you will allow the enemy to take over your territory.
- B. In the face of fear and obstacles courage will give you the strength to endure.
- D. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.”
I Timothy 1:7

“Courage is the mastery of fear, not the absence of fear.” Mark Twain

7. Communicate

“Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.” I Samuel 17:48

Communication is the outward expression of an individual’s purpose to the world through verbal and nonverbal actions.

- A. You must find a way to effectively communicate your purpose to the world.
- B. Effective communication has more to do more with listening than with talking.
- C. Your actions have to speak louder than the words you say.

“Think twice before you speak, because your words and influence will plant the seed of either success or failure in the mind of another.” Napoleon Hill



B. Seven Poisons to Purpose

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...” John 10:10

Desperation – You do things contrary to the character God wants you to display.

Defeat – You feel like a failure so that you do not even try.

Diversions – The wrong things seem attractive so that you will want them more than the right things.

Doubt - You question God’s purpose for your life.

Delays – You put off doing what needs to be done.

Discouragement - You focus on your problems rather than possible solutions.

Disclaimers – You talk against the purpose God desires for your life.

What positions of purpose do you need to work on or apply in your life? Write out a detail plan for each. What poisons have you allowed to distract you from living your purpose? How can you overcome these poisonous distractions?

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



VI. Man of Values

“But he refused and said unto his master’s wife. Behold with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house and he has put all that he owns in my charge.” Genesis 39:8

1. What are Values? - (Read Genesis 39)

- A. Values are deeply held beliefs that certain qualities are desirable. They define what is right or fundamentally important to each of us. They provide guidelines for our choices and actions.
- B. In order to be effective in your life’s journey you need to identify and develop clear and concise core values.
- C. Your core values determine what is really important to you. When you make the decision to follow your core values you cannot be easily persuaded to live against them.
- D. Your core values should be:
 - Clearly Stated
 - Championing Your Purpose
 - Committed to Daily
 - Consistently Followed
 - Constantly Evaluated

E. What Does God Value?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5: 22-23

What are 5 to 7 core values you can identify and prioritize that will give your life focus?

“Many people die with their music still in them. Why is this so? Too often it is because they are always getting ready to live. Before they know it, time runs out.” Oliver Wendell Holmes



VII. Man with a Future

“Now the Lord said to Abram Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you.” Genesis 12:1

A. Picture of the Future - **(Read Genesis 12)**

Is a clear picture of where you believe God is directing your life. Your future focuses on where you are going and not where you have been and on the end results and not the process for getting there.

- B. God gave Abraham a picture of the future that could only be seen, believed and achieved through the eyes of vision.
- C. If you view your future through the lens of others opinion, your own finite thinking or your current situation you will miss out on the future God has designed for you.

D. 7 Areas of Life to Focus your Future:

1. Spiritual – (relationship with God, prayer, bible study, faith, worship, church, stewardship)
2. Physical – (medical health, exercise, appearance, weight, nutrition, dental, vision)
3. Relational – (spouse, children, family, friends, forgiveness, love, honor, role models, respect)
4. Mental – (education, reading, listening, creativity, imagination, thoughts, positive attitude)
5. Professional – (vocation, job, training, co-workers, employees, career, resume)
6. Social – (activities, people, events, habits, dates, family outings, vacations)
7. Financial – (earnings, savings, investments, giving, debt, spending, budgets)

What do you see your future looking like in each of the seven areas of life?

*“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood... I have a dream.”
Martin Luther King Jr. “I have a dream”*



VIII. Man with Goals

*“Then I said to them, “You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come; let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.”
Nehemiah 2: 17*

A. What are Goals? - (Read Nehemiah 1-7)

“A goal is an aim, a purpose or a sense of direction toward which you move all your energies, desires and efforts. Goals are the targets toward which you point your life.”

- B. Goal setting will help you determine your priorities, get organized, make sound decisions and move your vision into action.
- C. Goals should be straight forward and emphasize what you need and desire to happen. Specifics help you to focus your efforts and clearly define what you are going to do.
- D. A goal that is worth pursuing is not something that anyone can easily talk you out of attempting.
- E. 12 simple steps to achieving your goals:
 1. Spend time seeking God for your goals.
 2. Define your goals in writing.
 - S – Specific
 - M – Measurable
 - A - Actionable
 - R – Reinforcing
 - T – Trackable
 3. Create measures to success.
 4. Define possible opportunities for success.
 5. Identify barriers to success.
 6. Break down goals into manageable action steps.
 7. Identify resources, skills and/or people needed
 8. Demonstrate a progressive attitude.
 9. Take action.
 10. Monitor your goals regularly.
 11. Reward yourself.
 12. Keep moving forward.

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.” Zig Ziglar



Goals Matter! Planning Sheet

Goal: (specific, measurable, actionable, reinforcing and trackable)

<p>Measures to success.</p> <p>Term of Goal: _____ Short-Term (within 1 year) _____ Med.-Term (within 3 years) _____ Long-Term (Over 3 Years)</p> <p>Life Area (circle one): Spiritual– Relational – Physical– Social - Financial– Mental - Professional</p> <p>Begin Date: _____ Target Completion Date: _____</p> <p>Actual Completion Date: _____</p>

Possible opportunities for success: (What will you get from accomplishing this goal?)

Barriers to success: (Things that can prohibit you from achieving this goal.)



Strategic Action Steps for Achieving this Goal	Begin date	Target Date	Completed date
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

What resources, skills and/or people do I need to accomplish this goal?

Scriptures / Affirmations to support this goal:

Is this goal worth the time, effort or money required? (Circle) Yes No

Does this goal support my values? (Circle) Yes No



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IX. Man Working His Plan

*“But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves?”
James 1:22*

The process for working your plan:

A. Personal Responsibility

- Realize Your Vision – Are you in position to realize your vision?
- Write Your Vision – Do you have a written vision plan for your life and/or family?
- Post Your Vision – Have you posted your vision so those that are connected to it can see it?
- Work Your Vision – Are you prepared to work on your vision?
- Wait for Your Vision – Are you willing to wait patiently for your vision to happen?

B. Vision Realization

- Purposeful – Does your vision have a definite purpose?
- Passion – Do you have passion to see your vision fulfilled?
- Progressive – Are you ready to progress forward in living your vision?
- Protect – Are you willing to protect your vision at all cost?
- Patience – Can you wait on your vision without getting in the way?
- Profitable – Is your vision profitable to those that are connected to you.
- Powerful – Do you have a powerful vision that will outlive you?

C. Discipline Management

- Alone Time – Do you have a quiet uninteruptable time alone for personal reflection?
- Stewardship – Are you a good steward of the resources God has given you?
- Work Ethics – Have you developed solid work ethics in moving towards your vision?
- Personal Development – Are you developing daily to become the person God has designed you to be?
- Servant Leadership – Does your vision serve others or is it only self-serving?



D. Continual Improvement

- Vision Review – Do you review your vision periodically to see where you are?
- Goals Review – Do you review your written goals to see are you on track?
- Self-Examination – Do you perform a daily self-examination of your internal and external life?
- Living Values – Do you have prioritized core values that you are committed to living daily?
- Corrective and Preventive Action – Are there actions in your life you need to correct or prevent?

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.” Vince Lombardi



