

MEN OF FAITH

A THREE-SESSION
C O N F E R E N C E
WITH **PAUL TRIPP**



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WELCOME TO MEN OF FAITH

Welcome to the Men of Faith conference with Dr. Paul David Tripp. We are so encouraged that you are investing the time to learn how the Bible defines true masculinity and what Jesus requires of the men who follow him. In these three sessions, you will discover surprising, challenging, and encouraging truths about your identity, responsibilities, and God.

HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS RESOURCE:



WATCH WITH OTHER MEN

We encourage you to study Men of Faith in a group context. You can use the Discussion Questions for personal devotions, but because of spiritual blindness, there will always be inaccuracies with how we see ourselves. The Word of God becomes more personal and intimate when we study and apply it within the body of Christ (Colossians 3:12-17). Even if this means just one additional person, you will get more out of this study by using it with another man who knows, loves you, and is willing to be honest with you.



USE THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We have provided a large number of Discussion Questions for each session. Please don't feel obligated to answer them all, or feel restricted to use these questions only. We offer them as a simple tool to stimulate conversation or to bring the discussion back to the teaching. Another option is to assign any unanswered Discussion Questions for their personal devotions or journaling in between group meetings.

Whenever possible, we recommend allocating at least 30 minutes for discussion and prayer, after watching the 30-minute teaching session. See Page 3 for the most commonly used formats for watching this conference with a group or in your church.



WATCH IT A SECOND TIME WITH YOUNGER MEN

After watching Men of Faith with your peers, we encourage you to watch it again with younger men. A "younger man" might be your son, a boy you are mentoring, or the kids in your youth group, Sunday School class, or sports team. Alternatively, if your younger man is too young to watch and understand a 30-minute conference session, use the questions only. (While there is no age restriction for the main Discussion Questions, our Conversation Starters for Younger Men assumes a pre-teen or younger.)

PICK THE FORMAT THAT'S BEST FOR YOUR GROUP:

There are multiple ways to watch Men of Faith. Below are some of our suggestions, based on the most commonly used formats we have seen work effectively in the past. Feel free to customize the resource however you want. Regardless of what you choose, we are so thankful for your participation and leadership!

1 THREE SCHEDULED SESSIONS

Schedule a three-part series to study Men of Faith, either weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. This format works best for a small group, a Bible study, or Men's ministry. In each session, watch the teaching (30 minutes), then break into small groups and use the Discussion Questions in the remaining time. We recommend at least 30 minutes for discussion and prayer. Some groups meet for 90 minutes and discuss both before and after the video.

Alternatively, if you are strictly limited to an hour and want to maximize discussion for the full time, each participant can watch the teaching lesson on their own in advance of the group meeting. Your Streaming License allows you to share the Viewing Page with each man in your group. However, some men may not watch the video session in advance and come unprepared for the conversation.

Time Required: *Three 60, 75, or 90-minute sessions.*

2 SIMULCAST THE FULL CONFERENCE, THEN DISCUSS

Watch the full conference in one sitting, as if you were in the room with Paul Tripp at the live recording. This video file is 2 hours and 20 minutes long and includes a 10-minute break in between Session 1 and 2 and Session 2 and 3. Then, after the conclusion of the full conference, break into small groups and use a few Discussion Questions from each session to stimulate conversation. Consider using this format for a half-day event, perhaps before or after a meal with all your men.

Time Required: *3-5 hours, depending on how long you allocate for discussion and if you incorporate a meal*

3 SIMULCAST THE FULL CONFERENCE, THEN 3 MEETINGS

Watch the conference in full (2 hours, 20 minutes), as if you were in the room with Paul Tripp at the live recording. Then separately, schedule three (3) meetings in groups as a follow up for men to use the Discussion Questions for application and accountability. This format could work for a Friday night or Saturday morning single viewing, followed by three follow up discussion times during a Sunday school hour or mid-week small group.

Time Required: *A single 2.5 or 3-hour session, then three follow-up meetings (30-60 minutes)*

4 ONE-DAY OR WEEKEND RETREAT

If you have a full day or weekend retreat available, you can consider Option 1 or 3, but compressed into a single day or weekend, rather than three-part series. Choose to watch and discuss the three sessions individually, spread throughout the day or weekend around your activities. Alternatively, watch the full conference at the beginning of your time, then set aside three separate times for discussion, spread throughout the day or weekend.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Thank you for facilitating a study on biblical masculinity! You have answered the call to live in the trenches of spiritual warfare, shepherding the body of Christ, and dealing with the full range of joys and hardships that are inevitable in the life of believers. May God bless you as you walk with men through the twisted roads, the hills and valleys, and the sunny days and stormy nights. It can be exhausting and at times discouraging, but nothing is more rewarding!

As a leader, your role is both similar and different to those participating in the study. If Christ is the head of his body, the church (Colossians 1:18), everyone else is just part of the body! Count yourself as a participant. At the same time, it's your role to facilitate the study and lead men to a closer understanding of their Savior. Here are some recommendations for running an effective group meeting:

- ❖ If possible, prepare by watching the video lessons in advance and reviewing the questions. Doing so allows you time to pray with specificity for the Lord's help before leading.
- ❖ Agree on a beginning and end time and honor it. Bring the conversation back to the topic when necessary.
- ❖ Without dominating the conversation, be the one to take charge of the meeting, ask questions, and encourage participation.
- ❖ Solicit multiple answers from different people and don't let the same person answer each time. It might be appropriate for some questions to ask every participant, but don't force anyone to respond if uncomfortable.
- ❖ Allow "wait time" for answers, giving the group time to think about a prompt. Rephrase the question when necessary, and avoid answering them all yourself.
- ❖ Affirm everyone's answers and allow "faulty" responses to remain uncorrected (with potential exceptions). Rejecting participation, or allowing others to do so, may result in an environment of timidity and a lack of transparency.
- ❖ Be honest and transparent, sharing your own experiences, particularly if that reveals weakness, failure, or sin. The group will most likely follow your lead.
- ❖ Continually remind participants that they don't have to fear confession; there is nothing that could be exposed about us that Jesus hasn't already covered. We have the confidence to admit to sin!



MEN OF FAITH ARE FEARLESS



KEY VERSES:

“Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!” (Psalm 112:1)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

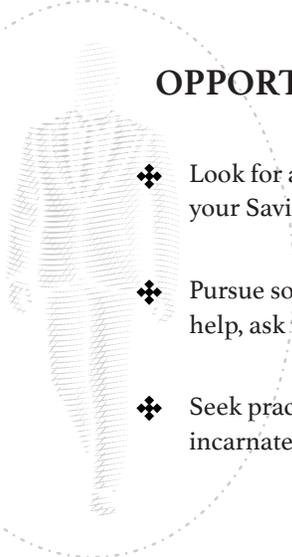
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does your culture define masculinity? Who are some examples of successful, strong, and powerful men?
2. What are you most afraid of happening to you in life? Why is this a more significant fear than all the rest, and what may it reveal about what rules your heart?
3. Is there evidence in your life that you are controlling? In what ways might this attempt to control your life be a response to your fears?
4. How do you respond to your wife or children when you're in a moment of fear? What ruled Abraham's heart and directed his tongue?
5. How do you act when you're afraid or facing the unknown? What allowed Abraham to be composed and collected?
6. Have you ever felt that God was playing a cruel trick on you? Or, when was the last time God asked you to do something that made no sense at the time?
7. Have you ever been paralyzed by fear like the Israelite army? When have you retreated from life in fear when God was calling to move forward in faith?
8. Who are the voices of influence in your life when you're facing fear or discouragement? What bad theology did the Israelite soldiers preach to one another when facing Goliath?
9. What bad news have you experienced recently in your personal life? How did you respond?
10. Are you near someone who has received bad news recently? How can you be a voice of gospel influence in their life?
11. Consider the list of character qualities in Psalm 112 - gracious, merciful, righteous, generous, and just. Which do you feel challenged by the most, and why?
12. How can Psalm 112 make you love your Savior more? How else did Jesus set the perfect example of true masculinity for us to follow?

ADDITIONAL READING

- Genesis 22
 - 1 Samuel 17
 - Psalm 27
 - Psalm 112
- Read these chapters of Scripture and look for a model of gospel masculinity, fearlessness in the face of danger, and how vertical fear of God allowed these biblical characters to overcome their horizontal fear. Journal about a specific aspect of these passages that resonate most with you and why.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AS A MAN OF FAITH

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- ❖ Look for a way to speak to your child or spouse as Abraham treated Isaac. How can you use your words to represent your Savior in the home?
 - ❖ Pursue someone who is struggling or who recently received terrible news. If you don't know what to say or how to help, ask the men in your group to share any counsel they may have from previous life experiences.
 - ❖ Seek practical ways to be merciful, generous, and just this week. How can you be an ambassador for Christ and incarnate his love in your community?

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR YOUNGER MEN:

1. What do you think it means to be a man? Do they need to be big and strong? Have a beard? Successful at sports? Make a lot of money? Funny? Good at video games?
2. Who are some men or older boys that you look up to, either in real life or in the movies? Why do you admire them? Do you want to be like them as you grow up?
3. What do these words mean to you - gracious, merciful, righteous, generous, and just? When you think of a man, do you think of any of these words?
4. How is Jesus gracious, merciful, righteous, generous, and just? Do you think Jesus is the ultimate man?
5. How can you be gracious, merciful, righteous, generous, and just this week? With your parents? Your siblings? Your friends at school or on your team?
6. What are you most afraid of happening to you in life?
7. How do you talk to other people when you are scared, annoyed, or stressed? What do the words you speak reveal about what is happening inside your heart?
8. How do you act when you are afraid, annoyed, or stressed? What do these actions reveal about what is happening inside your heart?
9. Have you ever felt that God is not a good God? Are there commands that God tells you to follow that don't make sense?
10. Who are the people you allow to influence your life, and what are they telling you?
11. What bad news have you heard recently? How did you respond?
12. Do you know anyone who has received bad news recently? How can you love and serve them when they are sad or suffering?

OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AS A YOUNG MAN OF FAITH

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- ❖ Speak to your parents, siblings, teachers, coaches, or friends with respect, patience, kindness, and love. How can you use your words to be a man like Jesus?
 - ❖ Find someone who is struggling or who recently received bad news. How can you love them? If you don't know what to say or how to help, ask your parents. Seek practical ways to be merciful, generous, and just this week. How can you be an ambassador for Christ and incarnate his love in your community?
 - ❖ How can you be merciful, generous, and just this week? How can you protect the weak and vulnerable people like a man, just like Jesus?



MEN OF FAITH ARE TENDER



KEY VERSES:

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” (1 Peter 3:8)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What have you achieved in your lifetime that you are proud of?
2. Are you confident in yourself? What are some of the gifts, skills, and abilities that you contribute that are valuable?
3. Review some of the achievements that you are proud of. How are those ultimately only the result of God’s timing, provision, and generosity? Are you taking credit for something that you could have never achieved without the Lord?
4. Review the gifts, skills, and abilities that you are confident in. How are those ultimately only the result of God’s creative design and hardwiring in you, sovereignty over your life, and the generosity of other people investing in you? Are you taking credit for what only the Creator could produce?
5. Who are some of the current cultural heroes who have achieved against all odds? Find some examples where a lack of humility is celebrated, and autonomy encouraged.
6. In what ways do you look down upon people who are less than you and have less than you? How does that impact the way you treat them, with words and actions?
7. How have you been humiliated or humbled in the past, in a healthy way? How did God use that to refine and redeem you?
8. What do you need to preach to yourself to stay humble this week? Start by reviewing all of the areas in your life where you need assistance.

9. How can you be a man of zealous justice this week? Where is God calling you to stand firm and right injustice in your world?
10. How can you be a man of generous mercy this week? Rather than condemning someone who has wronged you, have you be an ambassador of the mercy of God?
11. How have the tender words of other men encouraged you in the past? Have the harsh words of other men caused damage and scarring?
12. Do you need to confess your lack of tender words in your marriage, parenting, work, church, or neighborhood? How can you replace harsh words with tender words in those relationships this week?

ADDITIONAL READING

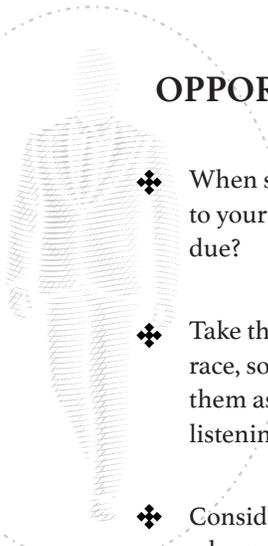
Matthew 23 - Seven Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees.

Find similarities between God's words to Israel in Micah 6:6-8 and Christ's words to the Scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23. How did these public "men of faith" neglect God's definition of masculinity? In reviewing their hypocrisy, humbly ask the Lord to reveal any contradictions between your public and private life of faith.

The Tender Mercy Ministry of Christ.

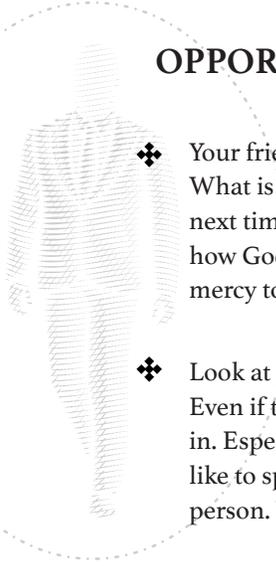
Search through the New Testament and find several examples of Jesus treating others with words and actions of mercy. How can you represent your Savior in the same tender-hearted way?

OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AS A MAN OF FAITH

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- ❖ When someone praises your accomplishments or celebrates your skills, use that as an opportunity to bring praise to your Creator. How can you boast in his sovereignty and creative design in your life, giving credit where credit is due?
 - ❖ Take the time to pursue a relationship with someone whom you would typically have a prejudice against, based on race, socioeconomic status, or life decisions. Will this be awkward and uncomfortable for you? How can you view them as an equal human being, in need of salvation, just like you? How can you grow in mercy and compassion by listening to and learning from someone who you would have previously viewed as less than you?
 - ❖ Consider some of the injustices that are happening in your world. Within your circle of influence, however small, where does justice need to be served and how can you get involved? What will this require you to sacrifice, and why might this sacrifice be a struggle? Ask the Lord to reveal any idolatry interfering with your involvement in pursuing justice, and make a practical plan to do something different this week to represent your Savior of justice.

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR YOUNGER MEN:

1. What have you done recently that you are proud of? Did you score or win your game? Did you pass a test or get good grades? What have you done that made you proud of yourself for doing a good job?
2. What are some of your talents? Are you smart, fast, strong, funny, or good at music? When people compliment you, what do they normally say? How does that make you feel?
3. Review something that you did well in or are proud of. Did someone or group of others help you to achieve it? If you think you accomplished it entirely on your own, ask someone to help you see how you might have received help, even if it's not obvious.
4. Do you like asking for help? Or do you prefer doing things on your own without any assistance? What is hard about asking other people for help? Why do you want to try it on your own, even if you know you can't do it?
5. Review your talents and skills. When you were born, did you choose to have these talents and skills, or are they natural gifts? Where did you get these natural talents from?
6. Think about this list: who your parents and grandparents are, what they do or did for work, your ethnicity, the country and neighborhood you live in, the year you were born, the size of your house, the language you speak, and the school you go to. How many of these decisions did you make entirely on your own? Who made these decisions for you?
7. Do you make fun of other kids who are different from you? Do you think less of other kids who are not as talented as you? Do you look down on other kids who don't have as much as you do? What makes you think you can or should do that?
8. Do you brag about things that you have or can do when you actually had very little to do with it? Are you taking personal credit for something in life that only God should take the credit for?
9. What does the word humility mean to you? What does a humble man look like? Who are some of the men that you see who brag a lot? Did Jesus brag about all the great things he did?
10. What does the word mercy mean to you? How was Jesus a merciful man when he lived on earth? When you make mistakes, do you ask Jesus for mercy?
11. When was the last time someone spoke kind, tender, loving words to you? How did that make you feel? When was the last time someone spoke harsh words to you? How did that make you feel?
12. When was the last time you spoke kind, tender, loving words to someone else? How did that make them feel? When was the last time someone spoke harsh words to someone else? How can you speak with tenderness and kindness to your friends, neighbors, or family members?



OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AS A YOUNG MAN OF FAITH

- ❖ Your friends, neighbors, siblings, and even parents will make mistakes and say and do things that hurt your feelings. What is your immediate response when someone wrongs you? What do you want to say and do in return? The next time someone sins against you, how can you respond with mercy? Think about all the mistakes you make and how God shows you mercy each time. The young man who knows he needs mercy from God will be quick to show mercy to others.
- ❖ Look at your group of friends. Is there someone who doesn't have friends that you can invite into your friend group? Even if they are different from you, come from a different type of family, and have different ideas, welcome them in. Especially if they are lonely, have compassion toward them. It may be awkward and uncomfortable, because we like to spend time with people who are like us, but be patient with them and challenge yourself to be open to a new person. What can you learn from people who are different from you and why is that a good thing?
- ❖ Take a stand for what God says is right and call out things that God says is wrong. Where do you see injustice happening in your world, and what can you do to put a stop to it? If you see someone being made fun of, instead of joining in, what can you do to stand up for what is right? Will doing the right thing be uncomfortable at times? Ask your parents if there are ways that you can get involved in justice as a family.



MEN OF FAITH ARE THANKFUL



KEY VERSES:

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.” (Psalm 9:1)

“But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17-18)

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

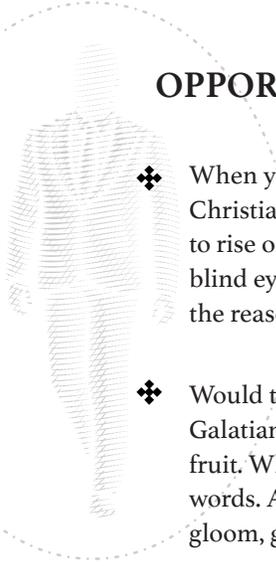
1. How would people who know you best describe you? What adjectives would your wife, children, neighbors, or co-workers use? (List words that both depict fruit of the Spirit - evidence of God's grace in your life! - as well as areas of weakness)
2. Are you living an ineffective and unfruitful life in any of these areas?
 - Marriage
 - Children
 - Sexuality
 - Finances
 - Relationships with co-workers, neighbors, or brothers at church?
3. How does remembering who you are in Christ and what you have been given in Christ keep you from becoming ineffective and unfruitful in these areas?
4. What steps have you taken in the past to supplement your faith? How did this result in an increase of God-honoring qualities? Do you need to replicate those steps again?

5. Review a spiritual period of time when you felt stagnant in your faith, or ineffective or unfruitful. Were you neglecting to supplement your faith?
6. What are you most thankful for in life? Write a list of both the physical blessings and spiritual blessings that have been lavished upon you by grace. Are you typically more thankful or aware of the physical blessings in your life than the spiritual?
7. Do you complain too much? What you have grumbled about recently? What does this reveal about your heart? How can you change your perspective so as not to complain as much?
8. Even though this passage from 2 Peter 1 is not referring to eternal life, how does the promise of heaven change the way you view your masculinity?
9. Are you discouraged at the conclusion of this study? Do you feel like you are a failure as a man of faith?
10. How is Jesus a friend to failed men of faith like you? (It's all of us!) Review the lyrics of the hymn line by line. Where do you take the most specific comfort?
11. Do you carry everything to God in prayer? How can you take steps to increase your prayer life?
12. What other hymns preach comforting, challenging, and encouraging truths to men of faith? How can these provide the soundtrack of your life in the coming days?

ADDITIONAL READING

- Galatians 5:16-25
 - Ephesians 5
 - Colossians 3
- Read these passages of Scripture and review the inventory of the unfruitful works of darkness and works of the flesh. Which of these are you struggling with most as you live as a man of faith? What deeper issues have allowed these sins to take root in your life?

Then, examine the opposite lists - the fruit of the Spirit and the fruit of light. In addition to being grateful, what other commands does the Apostle Paul give that will help you walk with wisdom and in step with the Spirit?



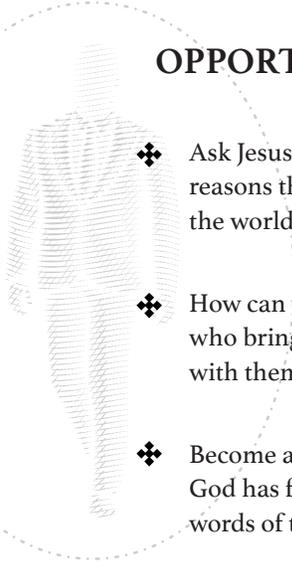
OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AS A MAN OF FAITH

- ❖ When you look at the world in its broken state, do you tend to be pessimistic about everything that is going on? Christians should groan as we wait eagerly for eternity (Romans 8:22-25), but God's common grace causes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5:45). Without turning a blind eye to sin, suffering, and injustice, how can your life be defined by joy and gratitude? Proactively look for all the reasons to celebrate God's common grace in your life.
- ❖ Would the people who live nearest to you characterize you as a complaining person or a thankful person? Review Galatians 5, Ephesians 5, and Colossians 3 again. Consider how joyful these men would be, as described by their fruit. When you walk into a room or engage in a conversation, look for ways to bring life and uplift others with your words. Ask the Holy Spirit for help, fighting against any natural tendency to drag others down with complaints, gloom, gossip, and negativity.
- ❖ In your relationships, remind others of all the reasons they have for joy, thankfulness, and celebration. Of course, mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15) and don't minimize any suffering. Live as a tour guide for hope, pointing out all the indications of God's presence, provision, grace, and gifts in their life.

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR YOUNGER MEN:

1. Write down or talk about a list of everything that you are thankful for in your life today. When you run out of things, keep searching. There is always more to be thankful for than we might see on the surface.
2. How many of the things on your list did you deserve to be given or achieve entirely on your own? How many of these are gifts of grace from God?
3. What did you complain about today or yesterday? Why did you complain? Did complaining create any progress or solve the problem?
4. When you complain, does that make you easy to live with or hard to live with? Do you like listening to other people complain? Do you like listening to other people stay positive and talk about the reasons they are happy?
5. Do you have a personal and fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ? What does that sentence mean to you? How do you show that you live by faith in your daily life?
6. If you don't have a personal and fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ, do you want to have one? What does Jesus require for you to have a personal and fruitful relationship with him?
7. Read the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. Pick one or two that you were able to live with this week. Praise God that you are honoring him with your life. How does that bring honor and joy to Jesus when you live like a fruitful and effective young man of faith?
8. Read the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. Pick one or two that you struggled with this week. Why was it a struggle? How can you pray to Jesus and ask for his forgiveness, and pray to the Holy Spirit and ask for his help?
9. Read the rotten fruit listed Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-4, and Colossians 3:5 and 8. Do you struggle with envy, greed, anger, hatred, bad language, or speaking badly about someone else? What is happening in your heart when you do these things?
10. How often do you sing songs of worship and praise? What does the Bible say about singing? How can singing produce thankfulness in your heart and replace complaining?
11. How often do you pray? What do you pray for? Is it possible that we can have selfish prayers? How can praying produce thankfulness in your heart and replace complaining?
12. What can you learn from older men of faith? Why is it good to spend time with and watch wiser and more mature Christian men? What can you learn from them?

OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE AS A YOUNG MAN OF FAITH

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- ❖ Ask Jesus to help you become a person who celebrates more than complains. Look around and search for all the reasons that you have to be thankful on a daily basis. How will living with a thankful heart change the way you see the world and treat other people?
 - ❖ How can you be a person who spreads joy among your friends, neighbors, and family? Determine to be a person who brings positivity into a room and into conversations. When people are sad, allow them to be sad and be sad with them, but look for ways to brighten their day by reminding them of all the good gifts that Jesus has provided.
 - ❖ Become a student of the Bible. Is the Word of God your favorite book to read? Commit to learning the message that God has for your life. In addition, memorize and recite the words of classic hymns or worship songs. How can these words of truth change you and the way you live every day?