

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN WORKER -- SUMMARY

Chapter Title	One-Sentence Summary	TO-DO / BECOME	DO NOT DO / BECOME
1. Diligent	True diligence flows from a deep sense of responsibility, spiritual urgency, and readiness to seize every opportunity for the Lord's work without delay. Laziness, procrastination, and passivity are marks of an unprofitable servant and must be dealt with through disciplined, Spirit-empowered transformation.	<p>Become inwardly diligent, cultivating a heart that is alert, responsible, and eager to seize every opportunity to serve the Lord.</p> <p>Develop a disciplined character, willing to labor faithfully even in small tasks and to press on without waiting for ideal circumstances.</p> <p>Maintain a sense of urgency and responsibility, recognizing the spiritual needs around you and acting with purposeful energy to meet them.</p>	<p>Don't be lazy or passive, waiting for work to come or avoiding responsibility under the guise of spirituality or busyness.</p> <p>Don't treat service as a burden or interruption, but welcome every chance to work as an opportunity to honor the Lord.</p> <p>Don't ignore or excuse habitual sloth, thinking it will resolve itself - - deal with it firmly and urgently, or risk becoming an unprofitable servant.</p>
2. Stable	Peter's life illustrates how fluctuating emotions and self-trust can deceive even those who genuinely love the Lord. Emotional instability and self-confidence can lead to unreliability and failure in ministry.	<p>Become emotionally stable and spiritually steadfast, so that your service is consistent and dependable, reflecting the unshakable foundation of Christ.</p> <p>Let God transform your character through deep repentance and surrender, allowing Him to reconstitute you as a reliable instrument for His work.</p>	<p>Don't rely on emotions or self-confidence – Good intentions and passionate feelings are not enough; they often deceive and lead to failure.</p> <p>Don't be impulsive or reactive – Avoid making decisions based on momentary excitement or fear, as this leads to instability in both character and ministry.</p>

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		Ground your ministry in revelation and obedience, not in fluctuating feelings or self-confidence, so that your authority and actions are aligned with God's purposes.	Don't ignore past failures – Instead of overlooking them, recognize them as God's means of exposing your need for transformation and deeper dependence on Him.
3. Lover of Men	A true servant of God must view every human being as a “fellow-man”, equally valued by God, and to abandon superiority, condescension, or selective compassion.	<p>Love all people as fellow human beings, not just fellow believers, seeing each person as precious to God and created in His image.</p> <p>Approach others with genuine humility, identifying with them as equals and not standing above them, regardless of their background or moral condition.</p> <p>Let love for people be the driving force of ministry, not mere duty, recognizing every soul's immense potential in God's redemptive plan.</p>	<p>Don't despise, look down on, or condescend to others, even the ignorant or immoral, as this contradicts Christ's example of becoming man to serve all.</p> <p>Don't limit your care or ministry only to select groups, like the intelligent, morally upright, or “chosen,” excluding the broader world God loves.</p> <p>Don't preach the gospel without a sincere love for the lost, as cold duty or self-interest makes one unfit to share Christ who gave His life for all.</p>
4. A Good Listener	A Christian worker must become a skilled and compassionate listener, not merely a good speaker; true listening involves discerning not only spoken words but also what is withheld and what lies beneath in a person's spirit.	<p>Become an attentive and discerning listener – Truly listen not only to what people say, but also to what they hold back and what their spirit expresses beneath their words.</p> <p>Cultivate a quiet and disciplined mind – Train yourself to focus, set aside personal preoccupations, and</p>	<p>Don't be subjective or prejudiced – Avoid jumping to conclusions based on your own assumptions or personal biases before hearing someone out.</p> <p>Don't be mentally scattered or self-absorbed – Resist the tendency to woolgather or dwell on your own</p>

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		<p>be mentally present when others are speaking.</p> <p>Develop Christlike sympathy – Enter into the feelings of others with genuine compassion, allowing God to deal with your own emotions so you can care for others effectively.</p>	<p>thoughts when you should be listening.</p> <p>Don't be emotionally self-indulgent – If your feelings are consumed by your own issues or attachments, you won't have the emotional capacity to serve others in love and clarity.</p>
<p>5. Restrained in Speech</p>	<p>Careless or excessive talking dissipates spiritual power and damages their ministry. Guarding the tongue is not merely about avoiding obvious sins like lying or gossip, but about cultivating a deep reverence for the sacred trust of words, especially when speaking for or about the Lord.</p>	<p>Become disciplined in speech – A Christian worker must bridle the tongue and develop the habit of speaking only what builds up and serves God's purposes (cf. Isa. 50:4).</p> <p>Treat confidences as sacred – When entrusted with personal or spiritual matters, the worker must regard them as holy trusts, not fodder for gossip or casual sharing.</p> <p>Cultivate self-control and simplicity in speech – Speak plainly and truthfully, saying “Yes” or “No” when needed, without resorting to diplomatic or manipulative language (cf. Matt. 5:37).</p>	<p>Don't be talkative or careless in speech – Unrestrained and idle talk leaks spiritual power and diminishes one's usefulness in ministry.</p> <p>Don't become a gossip or spread unverified stories – Relaying information influenced by personal bias or passing on what others have said betrays trust and spreads harm.</p> <p>Don't lie or manipulate through words – Even true statements used to create false impressions are deceptive and align the speaker with the enemy, not with God (cf. John 8:44).</p>

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6. Not Subjective	You must cultivate humility, objectivity, and dependence on the Holy Spirit; anchor your thoughts and actions in Scripture and remaining accountable to others.	<p>Be teachable and open to correction, recognizing that others may see what you cannot.</p> <p>Seek God’s will through prayer, Scripture, and godly counsel, not merely through inner feelings or personal reasoning.</p> <p>Cultivate spiritual sensitivity and humility, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your actions and judgments.</p>	<p>Don’t rely solely on your own thoughts, emotions, or experiences as the standard for truth or guidance.</p> <p>Don’t resist feedback or accountability, especially from trusted leaders or co-workers in the faith.</p> <p>Don’t assume your intentions or sincerity are enough, if your judgment is not submitted to God’s Word and spiritual discernment.</p>
7. One Who Disciplines His Body	Master your natural tendency for ease and comfort, and be always ready for action when called upon.	<p>Discipline your body so it obeys your spirit, not the other way around.</p> <p>Redeem the time by using every opportunity wisely for the Lord’s work.</p> <p>Be diligent and ready, always prepared to move when God calls.</p>	<p>Don’t give in to laziness or the desire for constant rest and comfort.</p> <p>Don’t allow your physical urges to dictate your spiritual priorities.</p> <p>Don’t delay obedience, thinking there will always be time later to serve—delayed readiness is disobedience.</p>
8. Having a Mind to Suffer	Be willing to endure hardships for the sake of your service; this kind of suffering refines character, strengthens faith, and increases spiritual effectiveness.	Arm yourself with the mindset to suffer for Christ, choosing the path of hardship willingly when it serves His purposes. (Be spiritually and mentally ready for suffering, not surprised by it.)	<p>Don’t avoid or resent suffering, or see it as a sign of failure or God’s disfavor. (It is often God’s tool to grow and equip you.)</p> <p>Don’t serve only when circumstances are favorable, or let</p>

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		<p>Commit to serve the Lord regardless of circumstances, trusting Him whether in comfort or affliction. (Let your obedience remain steady through good times and bad.)</p> <p>Rejoice in suffering as a participation in Christ's work, allowing it to deepen your character and spiritual authority. (See suffering as meaningful, not meaningless.)</p>	<p>affliction stop you from continuing your mission. (If your will to suffer is absent, you'll be easily shaken.)</p> <p>Don't fall into self-pity or fear, which makes you vulnerable to the enemy's attacks. (Fear opens the door to spiritual defeat.)</p>
<p>9. Faithful in Money Matters</p>	<p>Your ministry is not and should not be a means for personal gain, but a sacred trust to give, serve, and lead with integrity, contentment, and undivided devotion to Christ.</p>	<p>Be a joyful giver—not only financially, but in time, effort, and heart—trusting God to multiply what you offer for the good of others.</p> <p>Become a steward of integrity by handling all resources, decisions, and assignments with transparency, accountability, and spiritual dignity.</p> <p>Serve with undivided loyalty to God, allowing no financial or personal interest to influence your obedience to His will.</p>	<p>Don't use ministry as a means for personal advancement, recognition, or emotional compensation.</p> <p>Don't allow financial comfort, convenience, or personal preference to dictate where or how you serve.</p> <p>Don't compromise your message or calling to accommodate wealthy or influential audiences, or to preserve your own interests.</p>

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10. Loyal to the Truth	Always submit to God's Truth without compromise, regardless of personal cost, relationships, or circumstances.	<p>Be absolutely loyal to the Truth of God, letting it govern all decisions, relationships, and ministry actions.</p> <p>Become impartial and humble, allowing God's Word to judge you and those close to you without favoritism or emotional bias.</p> <p>Stand firmly on the unchangeable standard of Scripture, even when it contradicts your experiences, feelings, or understanding.</p>	<p>Don't compromise or adjust the Truth to protect personal interests, preserve relationships, or avoid conflict.</p> <p>Don't let emotional attachments or human opinions determine your stand on doctrinal or spiritual matters.</p> <p>Don't manipulate others or twist Scripture in the name of ministry success or peacekeeping among coworkers.</p>

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