

“Perfecting Believers Series”

(A Five-Part Teaching Series Challenging Believers to Be Complete in Every Way)

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West Angeles Church: “*Perfecting Believers*”

◆ DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES ◆

(Perfecting Believers for Service to Christ,
to One Another, and to the Global Community)

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“Preaching the Good News and Perfecting Believers IS the Business of the Church.”

Week Two – Topic: Is All the Way Too Far?

Personal Quote: “But, I don’t want to follow Jesus – ALL THE WAY.”

THREE KEY POINTS of the Lesson: 1. Excuses, 2. Out of Shape Believers, 3. Part Time Christian

I. EXCUSES ARE AFTER ALL, ONLY *EXCUSES*

Excuses – Key Scriptures

1. Luke 9:57 (NKJV)

Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.”

2. Luke 9:61 (NKJV)

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but **let me first** go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

3. Luke 9:59 (NKJV) Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, **let me first** go and bury my father.”

Excuse #1: “It’s Not _____ for Me.”

Luke 9:57 (NKJV) Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” **Jesus’ Response: Luke 9:58** And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.” (This excuse is not explicitly made but implied by Jesus’ response for others who might make a hasty statement of loyalty.)

People sometimes get caught up in the _____ and say things that really don’t _____ and wish they had not _____.

Sometimes in the heat of passion a man will say to a woman “_____.”
And the woman will actually _____.

Sidebar Message:

_____ is not the same as _____.

_____ for God IS sometimes _____.

James: 5:12 – Three Translations (*Watch what you say and what you commit yourself to!*)

James 5:12 (KJV) But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and *your* nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

James 5:12 (New Revised Standard Version) Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “Yes” be yes and your “No” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

James 5:12 (New Living Translation) But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned for it.

Excuse # 2: “I’ve Got No _____.”

Luke 9:61 (KJV) And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. **Jesus’ Response: Luke 9:62** But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Excuse # 3: “I’ve Got No _____.”

Luke 9:59 (NKJV) Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.

Jesus’ Response: Luke 9:60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

The real reason for mentioning the “burying of his father” was the _____.

Some Solutions to Assist You in NOT Making Excuses to the Problems in Your Life:

First: Don’t give excuses, just speak the _____.

❖ If you are late for work – don’t give excuses just say, “I’m sorry I was late for work.”

❖ Just say, “I just don’t want to follow Jesus all the way.”

Then: Learn how to make a _____ to things that matter most in your life.

Sidebar Message: What it REALLY means “to believe.”

The NT Greek word translated “believe, ” is the word **PISTEUŌ** which means:

So, therefore a believer is one who is fully _____.

If you are not fully committed you are not a _____.

A _____ is not a believer.

These are the same excuses we all use that keep us from perfecting our lives; these same excuses prevail in **every** endeavor of our lives.

Final Note:

1. Excuses _____ You.

2. Excuses _____ You. (You begin to strengthen _____ deficiencies in your life.)

3. Excuses _____ your _____.

II. OUT OF SHAPE BELIEVERS – NOT FIT FOR KINGDOM WORK

Out of Shape – Key Scriptures

Luke 9:62 (NKJV) “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Many of us cannot fully follow Jesus because we are out of _____.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

A **champion athlete** goes into _____ before a competition.

A **champion believer** goes into _____ in

order to win in his or her spiritual _____.

Some little nuggets of truth in this passage:

Did you know there's a _____ going on?

You have the challenge of **FOUR ENEMIES**:

1. S _____ 2. S _____ 3. S _____ 4. S _____

Which is YOUR chief enemy?

III. PART-TIME CHRISTIAN: AFRAID TO JUMP IN AND SERVE YOUR LORD 100%

Note: Jesus accepts _____ part-time believers or followers.

Part-Time Christian – Key Scriptures

Luke 5:4-6 (KJV) Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. [catch] ⁵ And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. ⁶ And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

Luke 5:9-11 (KJV) For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: ¹⁰ And so *was* also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. ¹¹ And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

What is stopping you from JUMPING in with BOTH FEET!

Launch Out, Jump In, Enjoy God, Enjoy Your Life.

Your “Perfecting My Life” Assignment:

Identify, Attack, Just Do It!

1. Identify the MAIN EXCUSE you use the most to hold you back from achieving God's Best for your life.

You can't go back to school because . . .

You can't move into a better neighborhood because . . .

You can't get a job (or a better job) because . . .

You can't FULLY FOLLOW Jesus Christ because . . .

Fill-in: You can't _____, You can't _____, You can't _____, etc., etc., etc.

Change from a “Can't Do” Life to a “Can Do” Life.

2. Attack the Excuse(s) Head-on. [Why do you make this excuse(s)?]

Change your life in the next seven days STARTING TOMORROW or even TONIGHT.

[Also, HARD TASK HERE – Listen to yourself talk this week and every time you catch yourself giving an excuse, apologize to yourself (and maybe the other person too) and just correct it by telling the truth. Or better yet, BEFORE you talk and give an excuse, THINK and just say nothing at all!]

3. Just Do It!

❖ When EXACTLY will you start?

❖ Who will hold you accountable to your aim?

❖ Get a friend, a coach, someone in your small group, someone in your class or prayer group to assist you in defeating the excuses that are crippling your life and your future.