

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION ONE OVERCOMER'S CHECKPOINT

Please review the checkpoints below to assess where you are. Be honest with yourself and God. Keep this with all checkpoint reviews for future reference. Down the road you may want to revisit this section and redo this assessment. You'll discover how much you've improved. Simply rate the following from 1-10 as to the degree of strength, 10 being maximum:

- \_\_\_\_ I understand that the Gospel isn't centered around the gift of salvation, rather, it's centered around Christ bringing His invisible, supernatural Kingdom into the earth which **includes** the gift of salvation.
- \_\_\_\_ I understand that salvation is a **result** of being a genuine recipient, believer and exhibitor of the invisible, supernatural Kingdom of God that Jesus brought into the earth.
- \_\_\_\_ I understand that the Great Commission was addressed to the five-fold ministry such as apostles are, and that the Greatest Commission of all is that *all Christians* are to grow in the attributes of Christ in order to spread the Kingdom of God by virtue of their example.
- \_\_\_\_ I appreciate the reality now that a true Christian is someone that literally loves the Lord with all their heart, mind, and soul... and that the key to growing in His attributes is by putting Him first.
- \_\_\_\_ I understand that the cares and lusts of this life, including things like "the American dream" trip up many Christians and that this chokes the Word of God in them, which means they are more committed to this life (with all its issues and splendors) than God.

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Now, we must live life on this earth which, let's face it, keeps us busy. But we are to love the Lord more than this life, more than this world and the things of this world; He truly must take priority in our hearts. This means that in our coming in and going out, whether we're working, on vacation, having dinner, showering, enjoying hobbies, and all else, **we are to be living for God through it all**. This means abiding in Christ's Kingdom policies and attributes and remaining submitted to Him in all that we do, forever mindful of our King and His ways. The following is a list of habits mature, devout Christians walk in. Of course, none of us are perfect in these, but we do want to assess where we are. Please determine on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being maximum perfection, where you are with the following:

**1) Despite being busy with life (work, family, the house, school, shopping, ministry, projects, etc.), I...**

- a) \_\_\_\_ talk to the Lord constantly, always seeking His approval or input
- b) \_\_\_\_ am continually mindful and reverent of His presence
- c) \_\_\_\_ always want to please and obey God in all I do
- d) \_\_\_\_ walk in humility, love, peace, joy, patience, self-control, kindness, faith, honesty and integrity, despite what's going on or what anyone else is doing
- e) \_\_\_\_ maintain a positive, grateful, and thankful heart no matter what
- f) \_\_\_\_ continually find myself giving God thanks and praise
- g) \_\_\_\_ continually choose to be selfless and helpful to others
- h) \_\_\_\_ am quick to repent if I get off track, disobey, or offend the Holy Spirit
- i) \_\_\_\_ am quick to obey Holy Spirit if He instructs me to do something
- j) \_\_\_\_ trust God with my life, my finances, my needs, my family, etc

**2) Though you love God, there are many aspects of this life that you're passionate about, many things that are quite important to you. Rate the following between 0 – 10 as to how passionate you are or how important they are to you. Now pay close attention to the things that you have extreme passion for – giving those a 10+++ . And be honest with yourself. This is for your good.**

- a) \_\_\_\_ Achieving career or ministry goals / destiny / success
- b) \_\_\_\_ Achieving social status / reputation
- c) \_\_\_\_ Making money / acquiring wealth

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- d) \_\_\_\_ Knowing, studying and truly understanding God's Word
- e) \_\_\_\_ Taking care of family (housekeeping/care/maintenance/providing)
- f) \_\_\_\_ Acquiring a mate / spouse
- g) \_\_\_\_ Having children
- h) \_\_\_\_ Overcoming addiction / sin / habits / flesh / self
- i) \_\_\_\_ Overcoming illness / defeat / poverty / oppression / depression
- j) \_\_\_\_ Blessing my family/kids with what they want
- k) \_\_\_\_ Measuring up to the Joneses
- l) \_\_\_\_ My hair, nails, looks, physique, looking great/hot/sexy
- m) \_\_\_\_ Feeding / Helping the poor, hungry / widows, orphans
- n) \_\_\_\_ Taking a vacation
- o) \_\_\_\_ Taking regular, extravagant vacations
- p) \_\_\_\_ Growing into the full likeness of Christ, in His power and authority
- q) \_\_\_\_ Representing and reflecting God's light & love to the world
- r) \_\_\_\_ A "fancy" car
- s) \_\_\_\_ Spending quality, personal time with the Father as much as possible
- t) \_\_\_\_ Spending quality, personal time with loved ones or friends.
- u) \_\_\_\_ Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or other chemicals and substances
- v) \_\_\_\_ Leisure time: hobbies, music, entertainment, social media, lounging
- w) \_\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_

**Now please honestly assess where your heart is. Most of these are okay to love. But if these get more devoted focus, passion and pursuit or feel more pressing than being close to God, then these thorns are idolatry and will choke out your affections for God. Be honest, if you had to choose which to chase, the item(s) you rated 10+++ , or God, which would you find yourself chasing? Again, it's okay to love the good things God made possible for this life. After all, He's the author of talent, skills, and even wealth. But as for letters b, k, l, o, r and u, these things, as you know, should not have high ratings, if any rating at all. So, please be honest with yourself as to how much the things of this life, be it good or bad, take precedence over your love and passion for God. Do some sincere soul searching and talk to God about this before you proceed with the devotional in Section One. It's important to know where you are before we pray about it, so that we can do so far more effectively.**

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**3) Finally, please circle all that apply:**

- A) I realize that I want Jesus to be first in my heart, but I am very tangled up with my thorns
- a) and it feels impossible to give them up
  - b) and I don't want to give them up
  - c) and I desperately want to give them up but I just need help!
- B) I realize that for as much as I love and want to obey Jesus, I am negligent and unfaithful because this world still sucks me in
- a) so, I'm hoping what I learn in this program will help me to overcome this
  - b) and I'm desperately eager to see this program through and overcome
  - c) but I'm honestly still not 100% resolved to press in with all I am
- C) I am fed up with not walking in the full authority of Christ; and I realize I must and want to fully surrender my life to Jesus once and for all for it all to change!
- a) Yes, totally
  - b) Not Quite
  - c) Not really, no
- D) I love Jesus and have actually grown up in some of His attributes. I'm no longer a babe in Christ. You might say I'm a teenager in the Lord. Because just like a teen, I know, at times, certain things tug at my heart strings and I'll drift off and go my own way! Because I'm still my own first priority and am overconfident in myself. But I'm ready to lay my whole self down and grow up once and for all.
- a) This is so true
  - b) Not Quite
  - c) Not really, no
- E) I know it takes laying this life and all its "thorns" down and loving God with all my heart to be a disciple, to overcome darkness, and to come into Christ's authority.
- a) But as much as I esteem this, I am still intimidated & feel I will never make it
  - b) But as much as I esteem this, I honestly don't care enough, I'm not resolved
  - c) And I'm nervous, but going to keep plugging away with all I am

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